

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



Sedgefield NEWS

November 2009

Sedgefield Drama Festival



Members of Sedgefield Players Youth Section (SPYS) rehearsing their production of I Don't Like Mondays. Left to right - Janine Yaxley, Ciaran Jasper, Abbie Hearmon, Tim Jasper, Abbie Wren, Jessica Saddler, Robert McGuinness

The 34th Sedgefield Drama Festival of One Act Plays held recently in Sedgefield Parish Hall was a great success, with packed houses every night. Adjudicator Mike Kaiser, on his second visit to Sedgefield, was very impressed by the standard of the Festival, pointing out that only five points separated the top five groups. Overall winners were Statement Theatre Company of Scarborough, who also won Best Actor and Actress with "Homesick". Cresta Players, also from Scarborough, won the Mayor's Runner-up Award for "Hello Darkness, my Old Friend", by local writer Sue Wilding. 15 year old John Connor Halkyard won the individual youth award in the same production. The Peter Young Quach for Youth was awarded to the SPYS (Sedgefield Players Youth Section) for "I Don't Like Mondays", devised by the group and their director Thomas Guest. The SPYS also won the Ensemble Award, donated this year by Tim and Anne Jeanes. Thomas also carried off the adjudicator's award for his work with the SPYS and for a very moving portrayal of Brian, an autistic young man, in Sedgefield Players "I'm Loving Angels Instead". The Players' Walter Howell won the new award for Best Director, given by Colin and Dorothy Hewgill and Ann Holmes.

Best Supporting Actress was Annette Simpson of Cliffe Theatre and Best Supporting Actor was John Dadd of Saltburn 53 Drama Group. Saltburn also won Jayne's Award for Costume and the Ray Tate Award for Endeavour. The John Walker Memorial Award for Technical Presentation went to Richmond Amateur Dramatic Society for the very effective music and lighting in "Bouncers". The Audience Award was won by a group making its first appearance at Sedgefield Drama Festival, Youth Connection from Chester-le-Street, who also won Most Effective Set and the Cameo Award. The Best 30 Seconds Award was won by Tyler Thompson of Bishop Auckland Theatre Hooligans.

Festival chairman Norma Neal presented BATH member Lyndon Longhorne with a cheque for £175 towards his fund to buy a prosthetic arm. Festival patrons had contributed to a collection throughout the week. Lyndon hopes to swim in the 2012 Paralympics, despite losing both legs and part of an arm when he had meningitis as a baby. He took part in a lively group dance with other BATH members on the final night of the Festival.

2009 Sedgefield Youth Awards.

**Sedgefield Town Council,
Sedgefield Rotary Club,
Sedgefield Community
Association**

The 3 organisations listed above are delighted to Sponsor the 2009 Sedgefield Youth Awards. The Awards are there to reward and recognise the exceptional efforts of the young people of Sedgefield. We wish to highlight and promote the excellent work our young people and their leaders are doing. Now is the time for you to nominate a potential winner for their contribution during 2009.

We are looking for nominations in the following categories,

Sports Person of the year, either a boy/girl who has achieved excellence or overcome adversity in the field of sport.

Team of the year, we are not just looking for a sports team any group of young people may be nominated.

Youth leader of the year, without Youth Leaders many of our young people would not have achieved their success, is your leader our best?

Youth Citizen of the year, we are looking for someone who has against all odds achieved, or a young person in a carer role, or a young person who is simply the best.

Extra Mile Award, we are looking for that special person who literally goes that little bit further.

Youth Ambassador, from our entries we will select a young person to become Sedgefield Youth Ambassador for 2010.

Youth Award for Art, Theatre or Music, recognising our talented young musicians, artists or actors, this can either be an individual or a group.

All nominations must be submitted via Sedgefield Town Council offices or to the e-mail address below by the closing date of November 10th 2009. There will be a presentation evening in November. All the Sedgefield Winners and short listed will be entered into other regional Awards including the Rotary series. So let's get nominating and show the world how great our young people are. Last year our young people were amazing and some went on to win the SASY Awards. For further information and nomination forms contact John or Maxine Robinson on 01740 620042 or e-mail john@robinson644.freerve.co.uk

Living Well after Fifty 'Young At Heart Activity Club'

**Ferryhill Leisure Centre, every
Friday until December 2009.**

Are you over fifty, sixty or seventy even, but feel twenty, still young at heart and begrudge the kids having all the fun? Do you remember the sixties and your youth club days? Then why not grow old disgracefully and join us on Friday afternoon from 2pm until 4pm to have another go ! Sessions will include gentle aerobics, step, short tennis, archery, line dancing, salsa, dry curling and many others. Even if you're a couch potato we still want to see you - it's a social thing, come along and have a coffee and laugh at the others!, You never know you might find an activity you enjoy.

The Department of Health recommends that whenever possible we all try to take 30 minutes of moderate exercise at least five times a week. As part of the **Living Well Campaign**, supported by **Sport England, Durham County Council & the 'Get Active Team' from County Durham Primary Care Trust** have put together a range of activities which we hope will appeal to any **over fifties 'teenagers'** who wish to be **re-cycled**.

Stewart Doyle from the PCT say's "we've tried to develop a varied programme, each session will have qualified instructors who are willing to help the over fifties have fun and join in new things. You don't have to be an expert, just come along and have a go. We want to provide a wide range of moderate exercise events so that most people can try something new."

We can also help you make new friends from our network of Walking the Way to Health groups which have grown so popular in many of our Towns and Villages in the Sedgefield Locality. This friendly initiative encourages people to come together to enjoy recreational walks in the countryside near their local communities as well as further a field. The walks usually take around two hours, but shorter walks are available for those who lack confidence or feel they may not be able to keep up with the regular walkers. Don't worry about giving it a try as we will look for ways to help you build up your fitness gradually. It also provides opportunities for days out to the coast and northeast countryside to enjoy with others.

Don't miss the Sedgefield Snow Party

**On Sedgefield Village Green
Saturday 28th November
from 4.30pm**

There will be an amazing amount of 'Snowball' activities. Snowmen will be marching around St. Edmunds Church and our village green. The Mayor of Sedgefield will be greeting everyone during the snow party, culminating in the official 'switch on' of the Christmas lights. A snowman will be popping out from his igloo to wish everyone a 'Happy Christmas'. Snowballs will be hurled into the crowd, catch one and claim a prize. Ferryhill Town Band will be playing Christmas snowman tunes. T.lights with draw tickets will be on sale for £1 from the Council Offices & local schools during November. Proceeds will support this annual event and the winning ticket holder will be awarded a prize and switch on our beautiful lights. St. Edmunds will be holding a short Carol Service where everyone will be warmly welcomed. Refreshments will be on sale from our various charitable groups - hot soup - mince pies. Fairground rides will be present for your entertainment and refreshments will be on sale.

Build a Snowman - Every child in the village of Sedgefield is invited to build and display a Snowman in your front garden or window, before 23rd November, when judges will be visiting and leaving their calling card between 23-26th November, so be sure your snowman is visible, prizes will be awarded for the best entries at the Snow Party on Saturday 28th November. Please fill in the entry form available from the Council Offices.

Christmas Shopping Trip to Heighley Gate & the Metro Centre, Wed 2nd December. Tickets £8 available from Town Council Offices.

Town Council Vacancies

Two vacancies have now been declared on the Town Council - full details are on the Town Council noticeboard in front of the Library or from the Council Offices.

More Letters

Anonymous letters

The Sedgefield News should seriously review its policy of publishing anonymous letters. In the October edition you published a letter of undeclared source, making several very serious allegations about the leadership and management of Sedgefield Community College. Some of these allegations appeared to be based on hearsay. The proper way to make a complaint of this nature is to the Headteacher in the first instance and then the Chair of Governors if the issue is not resolved satisfactorily. I am sure that the College would supply the correspondent with a copy of its Complaints Procedure if asked. Publishing an anonymous letter and then inviting everyone to respond is irresponsible.

Yours Faithfully
B. Simpson

Editor's comment

As mentioned last month, letter writers are always taken more seriously if they are prepared to stand by their opinions and have their names published. However, a parent with children at the school has worries about her children being picked on if the letter writer's name were to be published. I find that a good reason for anonymity!

Loss of a tree, and car parking

I have two concerns. Firstly, following the recent winds, I noticed a tree on Mordon village green lost a large branch. Due to this, someone has now chopped the whole tree down. As trees take years to grow and as the forestry commission usually like to see a felled tree replaced by at least one or two trees. I would like to know when we can expect to see the new tree/s. Or is it going to be like the bus shelter, gone for good.

Secondly, I understand the police want to stop illegal parking. However, recently, I went to Bells/Sainsburys. I parked at the side of the road - legally, however, a police woman came along, parked at the side of the store, parked with the passenger tyres on the footpath and also on the double yellow lines. The officer then went into the shop, purchased a sandwich and left. If the police wish to enforce the law, surely they should appear to abide by it themselves, the officer could so easily have parked in the police station car park and walked over the road.

A concerned Mordon resident.

Parish Hall

I wonder how many people, like me, intend to write to the Sedgefield News and somehow never get round to it - or, find that the deadline has already passed before they get their thoughts together? I was interested in the Editor's comment in the October issue that letter writers are taken more seriously when they have their names published. I do think that the fact that we can write anonymously does mean that people dare express their opinions without the feeling that, for example with the letter about college behaviour in the last issue, their children might suffer in some way as a result. This should not happen of course, but I would be a little anxious. However, I would particularly like to thank Gloria Wills for giving her opinion about the Parish Hall refurbishment in the September issue. I thought she expressed very eloquently what a lot of us think but no-one quite likes to say. I was expecting lots of letters in response, and was surprised to find not one in the October issue - but then, I didn't get around to it either! (I'm a member of the Lyric Singers, and we have decided to have our Christmas Concert in St Edmund's Church instead of the Parish Hall, because the refurbished hall is so uncomfortable for us to sing in - the lighting is a disaster, and the acoustics are very poor! I wonder how the Sedgefield Players find it?) I do hope there will be more opinions expressed on this topic!

Judith Edgoose

The refurbishment of the Parish Hall has created many ongoing problems for the Lyric Singers. We attended all the meetings prior to the alterations and stated our needs. Unfortunately, although it caters for many groups the acoustics and lighting do not suit our requirements. We have spoken personally to people involved from the Town Council and they are aware of our concerns. However, as the aim of the refurbishment was to encourage more groups to use the facilities and this has apparently been achieved it can be regarded as a success. We did indeed have to buy new staging, at a cost of £1600, because our original purpose built staging could no longer be stored in the Parish Hall. However, as the Drama Group would use the new staging they contributed £300 towards this. The Town Council, which also benefited because they

could use it, decided to give us a grant of £200. The reason for asking for help to buy the staging was that the objects of our society, apart from the study and performance of music and encouragement of local musical talent, is to donate money to charities. For this we rely on the money raised at our two main concerts in the village as this is the only time we charge for our performance. To enable us to do this we would like to ensure that the people who have supported us over the years continue to enjoy our performances and also those of SLYC and Lirica.

Elaine Bryant

Sedgefield in Victorian Times

For quite a while I have been researching the above topic with a view to the publication of a booklet in the next couple of years. While information is fairly plentiful, what I would really like is photographs of Sedgefield and its people. Obviously, the Local History Society and other archives have a good selection but the majority of these are from the twentieth century. I would be delighted if any one could lend me photographs of Sedgefield for the relevant time i.e. 1840s to 1901; these could be just views of Sedgefield and the surrounding area or perhaps photos of members of your family. I promise you that they would be looked after carefully and returned as soon as possible. Please contact me if you can help.

Alison Hodgson 620912

Recycle your ink cartridges!

Please don't throw away your used printer ink cartridges - Sedgefield Primary School PTFA is recycling them to raise funds for the School. Please drop cartridges in to school or call Alison on 628150 and we will arrange to collect them. Thank you.

Alison Nelson

Citizen of the Year 2009

The closing date of November 6th is fast approaching. We are looking for nominations of people who have made an exceptional contribution to Sedgefield.

Its not too late. If you have lost the nomination form from last month's Sedgefield News you can pick one up from the Town Council Offices. Please return completed forms to the Town Council Offices or to Sedgefield Development Trust at No 58, Front Street.

Community SAFETY



Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch

The first meeting of the evening was the AGM where the C/man's report was issued to and accepted by members present alongside the Treasure's accounts & report for the preceding year. There were no new nominees for Office & the Executive; as existing holders were willing to continue in post this was approved for another year.

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 13th October 2009

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting, 11/08/2009: were accepted and approved as a true record.

2. Matters Arising: 2.1 Alcohol Ban in Public Places: - Res. Forum Chair gave details of activities elsewhere in the country where such measures already exist and also where some are being extended; also of new Government legislation that will make it easier to introduce bans. Content detail from the Res. Forum letter already sent to the village's Pub Watch was provided to members; this will be reviewed at the next N/H/Watch Exec. Meeting and then at the next Panel meeting.

3a) & 3b) Treasurer & Secretary: - gave their reports, there were no outstanding issues.

4. Representative Reports:

a) Community Force: Tim Spearey circulated a report covering the period **24/8 - 1/10/09** there were **8 Anti Social Behaviour, 3 Fly Tipping & 1 Vehicle related events detailed.**

A member questioned the lack of Police / Community attention to an un-roadworthy vehicle in Hawthorn road; Keith & Tim are to follow this up. A member reported excessive dog fouling on the path from the Doctor's Surgery leading to The Lane. Another member reported similarly the path from Elm Ave. to the Cemetery was a "dog's toilet". A report of school children returning to school drinking & smoking was also made. Tim was requested to follow these issues up.

b) Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Neil Langthorne has now taken over his new civilian role as Liaison Officer. Neil gave members an overview of his aspirations & the targets he has set for enhancing and building on existing Watch schemes. Improvements to communications are high on Neil's list and with the new "Voice Connect" system now being introduced, he hopes by the end of this year we will start to see real improvements.

Neil also confirmed the need to refresh / renew our Street signs as well as house window notices, as these are our most visible means of showing Neighbourhood Watch exists in an area.

c) Crime Prevention Officer: Keith Lownds is our new Officer in post and introduced himself to members, 24yrs in the Force experienced as a foot patrol officer, traffic officer and most recently as a local Neighbourhood beat officer in the Sedgefield area. Keith is looking forward to his new role in reducing crime across his patch. Keith assured members that it his intention to continue his predecessor's support for our group and the village of Sedgefield. Keith informed members of the re launch of operation DARC as in past years and reminded them of the needs of security and use of lights over the winter period.

d) Police Report: Keith circulated details of recorded crime between **7th Sept. & 13th Oct.** There were **6 recorded crimes, 1 car stolen, 1 car damage, 4 property damage.**

There were **195 calls from the village** to the police in this period. Keith then provided more details and answered questions from members. During the period of **August to 6th Sept.** there were **125 calls from the village** to the Police and Keith gave a simple breakdown of these which included - nuisance, suspicious persons, domestic, violence against the person; & there were **4 recorded crimes - 1 assault** (1 male arrested), **2 car related, 1 theft of property.** These last details had already been provided at the PACT held at the Residents Forum on 7th Sept.

5 A.O.B. There was none relevant to N/H/Watch business. Meeting closed & PACT opened, this will be detailed by PC Keith Todd in his separate report. Next N/H/Watch Meeting: - Tuesday 8th of December 2009

Once Again - Relevant Telephone Numbers (*Remember if you don't contact them, the Police/Community Force will not know a problem exists*)

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

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

For advice & assistance

Crime Prevention Officer Keith Lounds 01325 742714

Community Liaison Officer Neil Langthorne 01325 742755

PC Todd reports

I would like to remind the youth of the village that if you throw stones at windows they are likely to smash. The consequences of their actions not only cause a risk of danger to others or themselves but also cause inconvenience to the owner and burden them with an unnecessary expense!

Recently, three windows were smashed in a greenhouse in The Garth and the BT Exchange became a target with 5 windows smashed. Other crimes reported include damage caused to a garden table and plant pots in The Lane and in Stockton Road a vehicle had its paintwork deliberately scratched.

P.A.C.T. meeting

A recent meeting was held during the Neighbourhood Watch meeting. Broken glass outside pubs and clubs remained a high concern of residents. This remains a priority for this month. This will again be mentioned to licensees at the next Pub Watch meeting. Another area of concern is the parking issue in the bus bay outside Theakston's shop. As stated in last month's issue, this bus bay has had a change to its parking restrictions. A fixed penalty ticket can now be issued to anyone parking within its area. This would mean a £30 fine. Even if you just pop into the shop for 30 seconds. We are still receiving complaints regarding parking in the bus bay and have given a number of verbal warnings to motorists. The Police and PCSOs will be monitoring the area as a P.A.C.T. priority this month. **Don't get caught out!**

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Hope Inn. Members were informed of an incident outside the Hope Inn involving a customer. His behaviour was unacceptable to all members present. This male has received a 3 month ban. Any incidents of Violence, Damage or Drugs will not be tolerated inside or directly outside member premises. Until next time, Keith



Jottings from the October meeting

Firstly congratulations to the organisations who have been winning awards and recognition for our village i.e. our GP Practice being recognised as a quality practice, the village winning an award in the Northumbria in bloom and being put forward for Britain in Bloom next year (our village gardener and his assistant do a fantastic job) and our Fire Station crew who have again won the DCC annual 'extradition completion'. We have some fantastic organisations in our village, too many to mention, we should all recognise their successes.

The Forum October meeting updated on several issues, i.e. we are still seeking information on footpath repairs scheduled for the village, the Forum continue to press for designated alcohol restriction areas to help deal with anti-social behaviour, broken glass and litter (we are not seeking to totally ban drinking outside of the pubs as has been stated by some people, we recognise that such a 'cafe culture' is beneficial to the village if managed properly).

You may remember some months ago, at the time of Local Government reorganisation, that there was an amount of circa £48k still available to be spent to benefit the village as a result of the 106 agreement on Cunningham Court, we are asking for information on what has happened to that money.

Concern and surprise was expressed at the meeting that 'Wind Prospect', hope to submit a planning application for the Foxton Lane Wind Farm by the end of the year for consideration in early 2010. It was only a month or so ago that they were given permission to erect the wind measuring tower (against many objections) and our understanding was that no application would be made until the wind measurement had been in place for some time.

There was much discussion about the recent Public Inquiry regarding Low Hardwick Farm. The Inquiry was initially scheduled for 2 days but as a result of Theakston Estates (the caravan park) objection the Inquiry was extended to 6 days. It is quite amazing how the planning officers opinions of what constitutes change of landscape character and appearance and impact on wildlife has completely changed since they supported the caravan park application on Brakes Farm and now object to the track at Low Hardwick Farm.

We should soon have all the answers from DCC to residents questions on the granting of permission for the caravan park, remember our MP was not able to seek answers for us and it is certainly taking DCC some time to formulate their thoughts.

The next meeting is on November 2nd, 7.00pm in the Fletcher Room, and will incorporate a brief AGM. As usual minutes of the previous meeting will be in the Library and Town Council office at least one week before the next meeting and you can sign up to receive information by email by contacting jane@sedgefield.net.

Round Table

October for the Round Table usually means our major fundraising event of the year, the Autumn Fayre. The eagle-eyed among you will have noticed a lack of leaflets through letterboxes or doorstep collections and the complete absence of the Fayre itself. The event did not take place this year for organizational reasons. However we did manage to raise close to £1000 from sponsorship for Chairman Carl's Windermere swim, all of which will be given to the Oncology Unit at the RVI. In the absence of the Autumn Fayre we will need to consider alternative fund-raising events in order to fund local charities and good causes. This month we are also donating money to the Sedgefield Hospital League of Friends. On the social side October has seen our annual badminton competition and, as ever, Sedgefield Table's annual trip to Hartlepool Round Table's beer festival.

Lynn Lodge

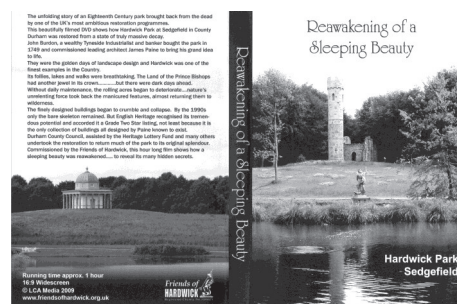
After twenty years of service as a lunchtime supervisor at Sedgefield Community College, Lynn Lodge hung up her apron for the last time on 8th October. Lynn's retirement was marked by a presentation from Headteacher Dave Davies and Deputy Headteacher John Tomlinson, who on behalf of generations of students, thanked Lynn for her long and committed service. See picture left.

Re-awakening of a Sleeping Beauty

The Friends of Hardwick have just released a new DVD which is available for sale in time for Christmas! It tells the unfolding story of an 18th Century park, brought back from the dead by one of the UK's most ambitious restoration programmes. This beautifully filmed DVD shows how Hardwick Park in Sedgefield was restored from a state of truly massive decay. John Burdon, a wealthy Tyneside industrialist and banker bought the park in 1749 and commissioned leading architect James Paine to bring his grand idea to life. They were the golden days of landscape design and Hardwick was one of the finest examples in the Country. Its follies, lakes and walks were breathtaking. The Land of the Prince Bishops had another jewel in its crown... but there were dark days ahead. Without daily maintenance, the rolling acres began to deteriorate... nature's unrelenting force took back the manicured features, almost returning them to wilderness. The finely designed buildings began to crumble and collapse. By the 1990s, only the bare skeleton remained. But English Heritage recognised its tremendous potential and accorded it a Grade Two Star listing, not least because it is the only collection of buildings all designed by James Paine known to exist.

Durham County Council, assisted by the Heritage Lottery Fund and many others, undertook the restoration to return much of the Park to its original splendour. Commissioned by the Friends of Hardwick, this hour long film shows how a Sleeping Beauty was re-awakened... to reveal its many hidden secrets.

To buy the DVD telephone **John Fitzpatrick on 621431.**



SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

There's a lot to get through this month and limited space, so I'll get cracking!

Sedgefield Cricket Club – Junior Section 2009

The cricket club is celebrating another successful season in the North Section of the North Yorkshire Area Cricket Council. The club fields teams at the U11, U13 and U15 age levels. The U11s, playing eight a side pairs cricket, finished second bottom in the league. This is the foundation stage of the junior section where maximum involvement is the key objective. The Gemara Cup sees the U11s field their strongest team, and led by captain Luke Henderson, they reached the semi final stages of the competition, losing to the eventual winners, Stockton.

The U13s finished sixth in a very competitive league with four wins and five losses. Despite injuries to key players, skipper James Bell led his team to the semi final stages of the Lowery Cup, beating Darlington and Stockton on the way. The superb batting of Jack Yetman and Luke Henderson and the bowling of wrist spinner James Bell, Adam Vaslet and Kieron Tappin were key to several cup victories.

The U15s had a successful league campaign, finishing fourth and recording five wins and just three losses. The improvement in batting is the most pleasing aspect for the U15s who recorded three undefeated half centuries (Mathias Reichel 53 not out, Adam Randall 52 not out, and Kieron McAdam 50 not out) in the final match of the season against Yarm.

The following junior players represented county age group teams: Luke Henderson – Durham Cricket Board U11 Captain; Harry Yetman – Cleveland Schools U11; Charlie Pearson – Durham Cricket Board U12; Jack Yetman – Cleveland Schools U13; Ben Young – Durham Cricket Board U15;

The following boys represented the NYACC league team: James Bell – U13; Ben Young – U15; Tom Young – U15. The club also fields an U17 team in the North Yorkshire South Durham League North Section. A very young side recorded two victories against Seaton Carew and Wolviston under the captaincy of Chris Henderson. The junior section celebrated the 2009 season on the 23rd October when the following awards were presented by Durham CCC batsman Kyle Coetzer: U11 Best Batsman - L Henderson; U11 Best Bowler - B Langthorne; U11 All Rounder - H Yetman; U11 Most Improved Player - M Brunskill; U11 Best Fielder - A Foakes; U11 Manager's Players - C Whitelock and P Reynard. U13 Best

Batsman - L Henderson; U13 Best Bowler - J Bell; U13 All Rounder - J Yetman; U13 Most Improved Player - J Marshall; U13 Best Fielder - J Elliot; U13 Manager's Player - A Vaslet; U15 Best Batsman - T Young; U15 Best Bowler - K McAdam; U15 All Rounder - B Young; U15 Most Improved Player - L Dixon; U15 Best Fielder - A Lawson; U15 Manager's Player - M Reichel; U17 Best Batsman - C Henderson; U17 Best Bowler - B McDermott.

Sedgefield Cricket Club

The seniors' presentation night took place at the club on 10th October.

Although the teams were unsuccessful in winning league competitions there were some excellent individual performances of merit. First Team: Bowling Award – Martin Lower; Batting Award – Roger Briddock; Players' player – Jonathon Clarke. Second Team: Bowling Award – Ben Chowns-Smith; Batting Award – Richard Heslop; Players' player – Richard Heslop. Third Team: Bowling Award – Pratish Thakkar; Batting Award – Martin Van Zyl; Players' player – Adam Harris.

Juniors given special consideration who have made the step up to senior cricket and performed well included, Tom & Ben Young, Kieron McAdam, James Bell, Jack Yetman, Chris Reynard and Andrew Lawson. Special thanks were offered, recognising contributions to the club over the past year and included David Icton for his help in developing the new extension and Margaret Horn for her efforts on match days. The club committee wishes to offer thanks to all supporters who continue to follow the teams throughout the summer, including 'wags' and mothers who provided teas each Saturday. All members of Sedgefield Cricket Club are invited to this year's AGM at 7pm on 2nd November.

Sedgefield Harriers

Sedgefield Harriers held their annual awards events recently. At the junior event sister and brother Gemma and Rory Varley received the votes of the coaches for juniors of the year. In presenting the award, club head coach Scott Hydon said that the coaches had been unable to decide between them and decided to make the joint presentation for their dedication and commitment to training and competing over the previous twelve months.

Boys track performance went to North East boys U15 400m champion Scott Kippen for his performance in the national schools 400m at Don Valley Stadium, Sheffield. Girls track performance went to Ellie Gaines for her U11 600m performance in the Anne Marie Redshaw meeting at

Shildon. Girls field performance went to Kelly Dobson for her long jump at Shildon. Boys field performance went to George Pilkington for events at the same meeting. Girls cross country performance went to Gemma Varley for her run in the North East cross country championships and boys cross country performance was awarded to Jonathan Baines for gaining his Durham Schools cross country vest. Most improved awards were made to Megan Devine (over 11 girls), Zoe Carr (under 11 girls), Lee Arms (11+ boys) and Ryan Telford (under 11 boys). Awards were presented by Deputy Mayor John Robinson. Seventy Five Harriers Juniors received their UK Athletics Shine Awards.

At the senior club dinner Jo James was voted club member of the year for her work on Clubmark and for club social events and Ean Parsons was awarded club runner of the year. The very important prize for supporter of the year was awarded to Susan Wallace.

Thirteen Sedgefield Harriers took part in this year's Great North Run with Dave Greatorex being quickest in 1:27:53. There were three others who claimed to be Harriers (tut tut!) and many more runners from Sedgefield all of whom performed admirably on a very warm day. The Harriers have benefited from a number of Great North Runners wishing to carry on their running by joining the club.

Youth Football

Tim and Anne Jeans were pleased to present the Sedgefield Youth football team with their new addition to kit funded by money raised by the mayor's charity. The picture was taken outside their home in Sedgefield. Having spent a full year fund raising, they were delighted to see that money donated had been used to provide Sedgefield Youth FC's with winter rain coats.

Sunday League Football

It has been a reasonable start to the season for St. Edmund's. With 10 games played in all, the team has won six, lost three and drawn one. The defeats have all been close - a 2-1 defeat against last year's league champions Kelloe, a controversial 4-2 loss against Ferryhill and a 3-0 defeat against Hetton Lyons, following individual mistakes. Two excellent 5-0 wins against Sacriston C.C. and Houghton Glendale, and a 2-2 draw with Brandon, have restored the balance in the league. With four cup wins as well, the lads know there's everything to play for. Updates from the other Sunday League teams to follow in future months.

As ever, send any sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com.

November Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

Café@St Catherine's

Fishburn -Drop in for friendly chat and latest gossip, each Friday morning, 9.30 till 12 noon. Tea, coffee, toast & good conversation
All are welcome

November @ the Library

Toy Library

Wednesdays 4th & 18th, 10-11am

Tickle Time

Monday 9th & 23rd, 2.15-3pm

Rhyme Time

Wednesdays 11th & 25th, 10-11am

Musical Martinis

a cocktail of musical favourites sung by Eileen Glenton
Wed 18th November

FREE please contact the library to book your seat.

EDDIE'S @ 4

Sunday 1st November

4pm service for 2-6 year olds in the Welcome Room at St Edmund's

Residents' Forum

and Police PACT meeting

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Monday 2nd November - 7 pm

Everyone is welcome

Local History Society

Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm

Monday 2nd November

Oliver Burton

"The Stained Glass Windows of Durham Cathedral"

All welcome

Sedgefield Methodist

Wives & Friends

Monday 2nd November

Jewellery Party

Monday 16th November

Barbershop Quartet

Both 7.30 in Methodist Hall

Monday November 30th

Theatre trip - Sound of Music

New members always welcome

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30 pm

Tuesday 3rd November

Gary, from Finchdale College

Winter Hanging Baskets

All welcome

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 4th November

7.15pm Parish Hall

Chris Lloyd of the

Northern Echo

Members' competition - a doiley made from a page of the

Northern Echo

Visitors always welcome (fee £2)

Firework Display

Grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall, 7pm

Wednesday 4th November

Tickets in advance:

adults £2 children £1

Tickets on the door:

adults £3 children £1.50

The CeddesFolk Session

Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm

Wednesday 4th November

All acoustic players welcome

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Saturday 7th November - 8pm

presented by Ray Lower.

Farmers' Market

on the Village Green

Sunday 8th November

The Sedgefield Players

present

"An evening of Wilding"

Two one act plays by award winning local playwright Sue Wilding

Friday 13th & Saturday 14th November 2009 at 7.30 pm

In Sedgefield Parish Hall

Tickets £6 (£5 concessions) available from Abbracciare and members of The Players

Tel: 620 091)

Ladies Club

Ceddesfeld Hall, at 8.00pm

Tuesday 10th November

"Cancer Information & Support Services" talk by Elizabeth Cook.

Tuesday 24th November

"Jewellery", Marion Greenwell

Armistice Service

11th November

St Luke's Chapel, Winterton

10.45am

All Welcome

101 gig

The Black Lion, 8pm start

Thursday 15th November

Special Guest - Laura Wilkinson

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 16th November

"Not all nuts are from Brazil"

Norman Welch

Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm

Visitors are always welcome. For more information please ring 620367

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 17th November

Open meeting

Parish Hall at 7.30pm

"Salute the Happy Morn"

Jean Hayton, National demonstrator
Everyone is welcome

Sing for Health & Fun

1 - 2pm on

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

Methodist Church Hall, North End

Contact Joan Seymour on 620256

Beginners Ukulele Workshop

Friday 20th November at 8pm

Ring Lol for details on 621729

Live Music Night

8pm at Sedgefield Cricket Club

Saturday 21st November

Main Guest : Prelude

Also featuring : Lace Wing, Steve Vipond, Rebecca Findlay and John Wrightson Band.

Admission £9 inc buffet.

Tel: 621347

Sedgefield Village Veterans Group

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Thursday 26th November

Monthly meeting at 7pm

followed at 7.30pm by

"Was this War"

Basil Watson's account of the

atrocities at Orodour sur Glane

Non members are welcome.

Pie & Peas are available for £2.50

Please order by 18th November

from Tim Spearey on 623654,

David Hillerby 621343 or email

marc.veterans@btinternet.com

Sedgefield Show AGM

Thursday 26th November

8pm Nags Head

All welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 26th November

7.45 in the Parish Hall

Subject to be arranged

For details call Steve on 620559

All Welcome

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Saturday 28th November - 8pm

presented by Peter Dixon.

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

www.sedgefieldroundtable.org.uk

Coming up in December

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 5th December

Eyes down at 7.30pm

Neighbourhood Watch

Panel Meeting

Tuesday 8th December

7pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

College behaviour - responses

I write in response to the letter "College behaviour - opinion" published in the October issue of the Sedgefield News.

Firstly, I am disappointed that a letter with no factual basis would be printed without first providing the college the opportunity to respond. I am sure that parents of students attending the college will have been justifiably concerned by the inaccurate and misleading comments when printed in isolation with no response from the college. I would ask that in future the editor takes account of the possible anxiety caused to parents before printing such a letter without comment from the college. Further, I would hope that this letter is printed in full in order that the views of the college are adequately represented.'

The writer insists that he / she is "reliably informed" that there are "areas where students sensitive to bullying should avoid" calling them no go areas and goes on to name the college canteen and toilets as examples. It would be naive of anyone to think that bullying does not take place in any school on occasions and Sedgefield Community College is no different, however we have in place an anti-bullying policy and clear procedures for students to report bullying and I am of the opinion that we address this issue well. As to the suggestion that the college canteen and toilets are hot spots for this type of activity this is simply untrue, in fact this term we have adjusted our lunch time routines to provide healthier food options, more activities for students and increased levels of supervision and as a result we have figures which suggest more students are using the college canteen. In addition we now have staff assigned to manage the toilets during lunch breaks to ensure that they are well maintained and that particularly younger students can feel more confident using the facilities at busy times.

The suggestion that we insist that students "sit in exclusion in form rooms" during lunch time is also completely inaccurate. Since returning from the summer break we have begun to introduce year zones around the school to provide students with somewhere to go should they wish, these include IT suites, games rooms and rooms where students can go simply to chat with friends if they wish. These were not introduced as a reaction to alleged bullying rather simply to provide students with choice as to how they spend their lunch breaks, within a safe supervised setting.

The author of the letter goes on to claim computer screens have been cracked and keyboards smeared with chewing gum, this again is untrue, along with the statement that a toilet

Your Letters

seat had been ripped out and thrown from a window! Each of these statements suggest wide scale disruption which is far from reality. I am deeply disappointed that parents have been given such a misleading impression of a school which contrary to the claims made in the letter has made significant progress in ensuring that students can enjoy their education in a calm and safe environment.

Finally, I would like to reassure parents that whilst I am well aware that student behaviour can be improved, the college described in the Sedgefield News bears no resemblance to reality. Further myself, governors and the college staff are committed to driving the necessary improvement to ensure that students are provided with the continually improving conditions that will allow them to succeed.

Dave Davies, Headteacher

In response to your correspondent's letter regarding College Behaviour (Sedgefield News, October 2009), I suggest that he/she gets his/her facts right before making such inflammatory accusations.

Point One: By the time she left her headship, Ms Ackland had lost control of the students' behaviour, leaving any discipline to the harassed and overstretched teachers. Since starting his post, the new Head Teacher, Mr Davies, has banned students from the village at lunch time. The establishments in Sedgefield need to support him in this, and stop thinking about their profits. Research has shown that childrens' behaviour is directly affected by diet, a poor diet will adversely affect their behaviour. Point Two: Does your correspondent have a bullied child at the school? If this is the case, it needs much more than a letter to Sedgefield News.

Point Three: Due to the stupid, selfish, mindless act of one individual, the school library was banned to all of the college's students last term. It is sad that everyone has to suffer because one individual has not been taught right from wrong. Discipline does not start with the school. We parents are responsible for our children and this includes their behaviour.

Although I accept that the editor may be right about putting names to letters, I wish to remain anonymous to prevent embarrassment to my children!

Name and address supplied.

I feel compelled to write in response to the letter printed in the October issue of Sedgefield News. As a parent of a happy and stimulated student at Sedgefield Community College, who has been provided with guidance and many opportunities during his first 2

years, I must object to the very negative view of the writer, and know that I am not alone in this opinion. I feel that it is important to applaud Lynn Ackland's time as Head, but also to appreciate the ongoing improvements at the school, during what has no doubt been a busy change over period.

I hope that the writer appreciates the newly improving situation re. "groups of Youths" in the village, I personally have seen a marked improvement over the past few months. And also ongoing improvements re. the school uniform and entry to the college building over the lunch period. And as my son is a school librarian I can reassure the writer that the library was not closed due to vandalism at the end of the Summer Term.

Finally I would like to add how nice it was to read the letter on page 3 of the same issue introducing Mr. Davies. It is always wonderful to hear from someone with a positive view of our present students and with inspiring ideas for the future. Good luck to him and all the staff at the College. Come on Sedgefield, let's get behind Our School and be proud of Our Children.

Gill Fletcher, Station Road.

I'm writing in regards to a letter someone had sent in to Sedgefield News, complaining about Sedgefield Community College. In fact, it is nowhere near as bad as this person states; I know, for I attend there. Since Mr Davies has joined, there has been many new rules come around, which have helped to make the school a stricter, friendlier place. For a start, he has really been strict about uniform and people going down the village, and many areas are out of bounds at lunch time now, to help reduce vandalism.

I'm glad to say bullies do not plague the canteen and toilets, for if they were to, there would be no-where for the school to go. Nor do we pose many 'health and safety' hazards; we're a school, not a prison site. I don't disagree with what you think, I would just like the view of Sedgefield Community College students to be heard, so we don't get labelled with such a bad name.

A pupil, age 14

More letters on page 3

Deadline 15th November

For December edition please send copy to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com or to 58 Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 2AQ: tel 01740 629011.

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