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Sedgefield NEWS

October 2007

If at first you don't succeed ...

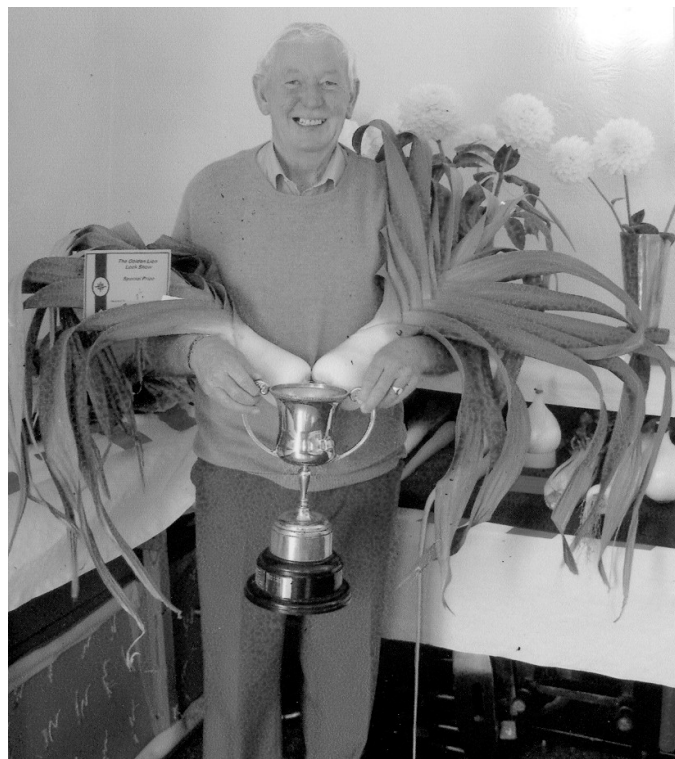
... take a leaf out of Peter Dawson's book and just keep trying. Peter tried and *tried* for no less than 36 years and he finally fulfilled his long-held ambition by producing the winning leeks at the Golden Lion Leek Show in September.

Very fine they look, too.

It obviously makes a chap very happy indeed, so if you fancy the challenge, why not enlist as a member of the

Leek Show club? You'll find the contacts at the Golden Lion or you can get in touch with Peter, who lives on East End, Sedgefield.

Many thanks to Ian Spring for both photo and storyline.



Below - meet the team, and on page 6, read our newest and youngest journalist, Ryan Towler

A message from the Residents' Forum

The Planning Application for the Holiday Park for caravans and chalets has been submitted.

Though there have been some difficulties with the submission, the Residents' Forum has been given a probable timescale by which comments or objections should be received. In early October the Forum volunteers will provide information to every household, about the basis for objections. It is very important that residents make their voices heard. Early information indicates that responses should reach the Borough Council no later than Oct 30th.

Please watch the village Notice Board for updates on the situation.



George celebrates his 60th for charity

George Wilkinson's 60th birthday was celebrated in style whilst raising over £1,500 for the local branch of Breast Cancer Care. His party was held in the Parish Hall and over 100 friends and family attended the celebrations. £770 was raised on the day, which was matched by Barclays Bank, thanks to Joyce Davison who used to work for the bank. George and his wife, Eileen, had asked for money in lieu of presents because two family friends had been diagnosed with cancer and are being treated by South Tees NHS Trust. The celebrations included a buffet, music and dancing before being entertained by 'The New Yorkers' cabaret band, of which George is a member. The picture shows George (second left) performing with Enid Gale, Dennis Gale, Rosemary Jones and Colin Scaife.



Bonny Bradbury Blooms Again

Bradbury maintained the standard it set in last year's Britain in Bloom competition, gaining SILVER in the small villages category. Our thanks must go to Cllr John Robinson and Phil Wilkes Garage who once again provided the funding and some sponsorship with the planting. Our thanks to all who helped during the year and got the village just right and presentable for the two judging days.

Dave Sayers



Charity Events

**Ellen Timney Foundation
CHARITY BALL
Friday 12th October
at Hardwick Hall Hotel**

Sparkling wine reception, chocolate fountain, superb 4 course meal, music from saxophonist Ray Dales, dancing to the John Wrightson Band. 'Millionaires' gaming tables, quality auction & tombola - just a sample of what's in store. Black tie optional, carriages 12.30 am. Special hotel rates available. Tickets from Sedgefield Town Council Offices 01740 621273. *The Ellen Timney Foundation supports under-privileged children and assists children in an escorted trip to Lourdes.*

Thanks for the loot!

Sedgefield Primary's PTFA would like to thank all the pupils, parents and staff who helped to collect unwanted jewellery. This was sent to a special-ist recycling company and it raised a magnificent £212.17 for our funds. Particular thanks to Richie and staff at the Post Office for patiently collecting items in ever-larger boxes! Heartfelt thanks too, to everyone in the community who showed such wonderful support. we were genuinely moved by your donations, many of which were obviously of personal and monetary value.

tommy's, the baby charity registered charity no 1060508

Would you like to help with a fund-raising Christmas Fayre (December 8th)
Both donations and volunteering are welcome.
Please contact Andrea on 01429 883 217 (northside@lineone.net) or
Laura on 01740 621 847 (laurafalco@yahoo.com)

Sedgefield Library visits *The Seven Stories*

Adventure was in the air when ten excited families set off from Sedgefield Library to spend the day at the centre for children's books - The Seven Stories, in Newcastle. Children, parents and grandparents were treated to a fun-filled day exploring the many exhibitions in the multi-story building. One special gallery showcased a selection of top Walker picture books including the acclaimed 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Here visitors could interact with the various exhibitions by, for example, climbing into a giant shoe from the book 'Shoe Baby' (left) or snuggling up in the big chair to hear 'Can't You Sleep, Little Bear' or even hiding inside a soft, cosy igloo. The experience began at the Library weeks before where performers Laura & Sarah engaged the children in a workshop based around one of the books included in the exhibition, the emotive tale of the 'Sea-Thing Child' by Russell Hoban. The children were treated to a follow-up workshop at the Seven Stories where they created their own special box to remind them of their favourite book. One Junior Reading Group member, Madeleine Coates aged 9, described the day as being exciting and fun, "I learned a lot, did art and craft, played games and explored the building. My day was fun and I am coming back soon!" The Junior Reading Group meets on Mondays in term time. Contact the Library for more details.

The Bookworm

Three tense thrillers set in the 16th Century

I can thoroughly recommend the Shardlake novels by CJ Sansom for readers of either gender. All three are whodunits set in Henry VIII's England.

Dissolution, the first, is set in a monastery. To avoid trouble, Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's axe man, has sent someone to persuade the monks to give in peaceably, but he has been murdered; so Shardlake, his replacement, also has to find the murderer. There is a cast of suspects - but who did kill the king's commissioner? There are three other deaths before we're finished, and the suspense is very well maintained to the end.

Dark Fire is even better - faster, more "in your face", and vividly set in London. Shardlake has two problems - to prove the innocence of a sixteen-year-old girl accused of murder whilst also trying to locate a 16th century flame-thrower for Cromwell, who is danger of losing influence with the King (and his life). On top of this, Shardlake himself is even more obviously vulnerable to a quick stab up a dark alley, making it a real page-turner, and there are several sub-plotlines to stoke up the interest yet further. No sex but you can almost experience the smells, the suspicion and fear of the times.

Sovereign, the third in the series, is set in York, and it too is strong meat, and concerns Henry's increasing unpopularity - and a rumour about his right to the throne. All three books are well researched, imaginatively thought through, and vividly written.

Share your thoughts on a favourite book with our other readers.

Send your copy to 58 Front Street, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ or email snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk.

Days In, Days Out: **DIDO** reports

We had a great afternoon at our September meeting, with 44 members turning up. Some very kindly helped with the refreshments along with our standing helpers, Linda Maddison, Barbara Nicholls, John Doyle and Mel Kenny, which was very welcome.

Mary Hodgson had invited Angela Bannister along, so members were asked if they would like to form their own 'Line Dancing Group'. It was agreed to start in January so if there are any older people out there who would like to join them, they will meet one hour before the DIDO meeting in January - date to be arranged.

Looking forward, on October 29th we are going Christmas Shopping to Boundary Mills - one of our Days Out.

Then December 3rd is the DIDO Christmas Party and all are welcome - guests too, though there will be a small charge for them.

More details later. Meanwhile, any donations for the raffle would be gratefully accepted.

Poppy wreaths for the Remembrance Day Service at St Edmunds

Would anyone wishing to purchase a wreath, at a cost of £25, please contact the Town Council at the Advice & Information Centre, Telephone 01740 621273

A feast for photography lovers

HARTLEPOOL CAMERA CLUB invites you to spend an evening with Andy Rouse at The Borough Hall, Hartlepool Headland, on Friday 2nd November starting at 7.30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet Andy Rouse, the multi-award winning, internationally recognized, wildlife photographer, and to appreciate his love of wildlife; it will be an exhilarating evening.

Andy's programme will include his whole Antarctic trip, and his brilliant books will be on sale too. Visit his website www.andyrouse.co.uk to get an idea of his work.

Tickets are £6 each and can be purchased from Willa & Eddie Laidler 45 Lawson Road, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, TS25 1AD. Phone 01429 296371 or email e.laidler1@ntlworld.com.

Cheques should be payable to Hartlepool Camera Club. Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope.

Community SAFETY

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch & Crimewatch Panel: relevant details from meeting held on August 14th Matters Arising:



Correspondence between the secretary and the Borough Council relating to Community Warden allocation of time in the Village was read out with members confirming that the details in the secretary's letters were accurate and represented their views quite correctly. Members again complained that dog fouling has not reduced; it still is a significant problem as is littering and fly tipping in the village.

One member formally recorded disagreement with the statement from our Community Warden regarding drugs and stated there is a real and ongoing drug problem in the village. Several members confirmed this view and gave examples of evidence corroborating this, for the benefit of PC. Todd.

Representative Reports:

Community Force: Tim was on annual leave but had issued the C/man with relevant log data. This demonstrated that there is still an ongoing problem with anti social activities in the Eden Drive and Winterton Park areas. C/man Ken Saiger stated he is continually getting phone calls and messages from intermediaries for people experiencing genuine bother but who will not ring either Community Force or the Police.

The C/man asked members to try to get people who are not willing to ring Police / Comm'y Force in person, to ring him & provide details so that he can report issues and leave that person out of it; as he feels it is so important to get the **correct** picture to the authorities.

Village Constable: Keith circulated copies of the Reported Crime in Sedgefield Village for the period between **12th June & 14th August** this indicated there were **25 crimes** recorded, consisting of **4 Burglaries, 13 Damage** (inc. 6 car related) & **8 Thefts** (1 involving a person assaulted). Keith then went through each crime in some considerable detail answering questions from the floor as he progressed.

Members were very interested to learn about the (local) vandals who will be brought to book in the near future.

There were complaints about youths behaviour in Elm Ave. coming from the school area (a regular haunt) dropping litter & beer cans, being generally rowdy and a nuisance (generating fear in elderly) on their way to create further damage in the village.

Members raised the worsening issue of glass in the street due to pubs' customers. This has got worse presumably due to the knock-on effect of the national smoking ban and the fact that **pubs are not policing their "no - glass outside" promise.**

Further discussions between members and Keith highlighted yet again the unrecorded (no contact from residents) but known problems, that continue in the village. In responding to a question from a member Keith confirmed that the majority of youths present in the village on a weekend actually live **outside** the village.

Despite members' reports and complaints to the Police, Keith informed members that in actual fact Sedgefield is still a very low crime village and one of the safest places to live in the area (and the country).

A.O.B.

Car Parking: A member stimulated a discussion about parking in the village; there was no one at all happy with the present situation which just keeps getting worse. This issue is another day to day example of why the residents of Sedgefield feel it is simply not worthwhile contacting the Police to try to sort problems out, as nothing seems to be done. Amongst issues raised were cars obstructing paths to elderly, mothers with push chairs and less able using motorised buggies.

Next meeting, Tuesday 9th October, 7 pm in the Parish Hall, inc. A.G.M.
Details of Phone Scam (provided by Durham Trading Standards office): - Message from Age Concern/Police crime Prevention Officer. If you receive a phone call on your mobile from any person, saying that he or she is a company engineer, or saying that they're checking your mobile line, and you have to press #90 or #09 they can access your "SIM" card and make calls at your expense.

For advice/assistance, call CPO Neil Langthorne on 01325 742714 or Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Sarah Norman, 01325 742755

You will find other telephone numbers in the right hand column ...

PC Todd's report

Firstly I would like to report that a local youth has been arrested for the damage to windows at the Doctors' Surgery, as reported last month in Sedgefield News.

He and his friends are some of the same young people, along with others from outside the village, who I and other officers see roaming the streets of Sedgefield every Friday night.

They are all decent young people. However, on a weekend something inside them changes and for some, the 'drink culture' within our society takes over. Take last weekend: a 15 year old male from Trimdon had to be taken home and deposited with his parents; he was too drunk for his own safety.

Evidence of the weekend's activities can be seen in most of the 'gathering' places, including the lych gate and church grounds, where along with the empty bottles and cans, damage is being done to walls and gravestones.

What I say to those who indulge in these activities is that we will continue to target persons with alcohol and to prosecute any adults found to be supplying the drink. Other recently reported crimes include theft of a BMW and two motorbikes from the Eden Drive area; damage to cars in Boynston Grove and Beaumont Court, where golf clubs were taken from the vehicle; a full beer barrel was taken from Rectory Row and subsequently recovered from the church yard; plants in pots went missing from West End and a hanging basket from Station Road; finally, milk has been disappearing from doorsteps in The Meadows and White House Drive.

Until next time

Keith

Pub Watch

At the recent meeting in the Hope Inn, no incidents requiring further action were reported.

Telephone Numbers

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

Local Police: 0845 6060365 - to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information to the Police
(it may be prudent to keep a note of details of any conversation & to obtain an incident number).

Jottings from **Sedgefield Residents' Forum**

A special meeting in August addressed responding to issues such as the Licensing for Hardwick Park, the Local Development Framework (LDF) (possible future house building) and the proposed Holiday Park on Brakes Farm. Thanks must go to the people who, at short notice, went out and collected names on the petitions. Each petition gathered over 700 signatures. The LDF petition was submitted to Sedgefield Borough Council (SBC) Forward Planning Dept. and the licensing petition was presented to the Licensing Committee meeting, despite some difficulties in that SBC licensing department said they had not received correspondence from the Forum – we have since submitted evidence showing that they were certainly in receipt of the correspondence.

It had been agreed at earlier meetings that formal complaint be a made to SBC and DCC regarding information and consultation processes and the notice given to both this community and our elected representatives. One interesting response made by a DCC officer with regard to the community concern of large scale music events being planned for Hardwick Park was that residents' concerns "verge on the hysterical and (such events) are in no way even remotely being considered by DCC". We have of course pointed out that community concerns are valid and he should choose his words more carefully when referring to community concerns.

The meeting on Sept 10th saw much discussion on issues like the proposed Holiday Park and McCarthy and Stone development but until applications are actually submitted little progress can be made. However, it was agreed that a working group should be formed to prepare for the Holiday Park application. If anyone is interested in joining this group please contact the Forum (all help is much appreciated). There is already a group established to monitor the McCarthy and Stone proposal.

All those attending the meeting expressed great concern that no Town Councillors were present to give information and updates on issues raised and the question was asked "why do we have elected representatives if they are not engaging with the people?" It was agreed by all that a letter go to the Town Council expressing these concerns.

The minutes of the meeting will be available in the Library, from the Town Council Offices or by email if you give your contact details to Jane at the Town Council Office.

The next meeting is on Oct 22nd when there will be a speaker from the NHS Trust where there will be opportunity to give your views on the changes to the local health services – don't miss this opportunity! The Forum AGM will be on November 26th. (it is then proposed to change meetings to the 1st Monday in each month instead of the 4th so there will be a meeting on December 3rd). If other meetings are required in between to address urgent issues these will be emailed or shown on the village notice board along with any news updates.

One final point – with regard to noise disturbance from Hardwick Hall Hotel etc. it was agreed at the meeting that we publish the times when music should end at all local licensed premises so that residents have the relevant information should they wish to make complaint. We have tried to get this information from SBC but are told they cannot just provide it as it needs collating by SBC staff and we have to apply for it under the Freedom of Information Act. We will of course do this and give the details in the next newsletter - should it really be so difficult?

Post Script: we have just learnt today (Sept 11th) that the application for the Holiday Park on Brakes Farm was received in the middle of last week. The Forum working group on this application is currently arranging to meet.

With reference to noise from Hardwick Hall, we are informed that the large marquee should not be there and the small marquee should have been removed 2 weeks ago. We must urge SBC to enforce regulations.

An honoured guest

Mrs Betty Amlin, pictured below, received a 'Certificate of Appreciation' from His Excellency the High Commissioner for Canada, when she and her husband Jim and son Edsel were guests of honour at Canada House in Trafalgar Square.

The certificate honours the work she has done over the years on behalf of the Royal Canadian Air Force and Veterans. The Reception was held in the presence of many representatives of the Armed Forces as well as diplomats from many countries.



... and more about Sedgefield's medics

Mrs Amlin sent these three snippets to add to our ongoing history of Sedgefield's GPs.

Betty's father, Frank Jemmeson, taught Dr Bosan (is this the correct spelling?) to drive and she remembers going out with them once, which was quite an event in those days!

Connor Lodge was probably built by Morgan & Roper, the name coming from family names **Conrad** and **Nora**.

Dr. Harbinson Senior had a pony and trap and bought his hay from Betty's grandfather, Frank Dryden, who was a haycutter. When he came to order the hay he would often be invited to stay for lunch (Grandma Dryden had a small bake-shop). On being asked to stay, the answer would always be "Indeed I would love to stay, Mrs Dryden".

Betty adds "Sedgefield was very fortunate to have such a lovely family of Doctors, from Dr Harbinson Snr to John, Robert & Ray - they were all very well respected".

Do you have a contribution to make? Keep it coming - these pages are *yours*!

SPORTS UPDATE

with chrisjlines@aol.com

At 6.19 am on Saturday 18th August, my young son (aged four) and I climbed aboard the 'Lord's Express' and set off to London for the biggest day in the history of Durham County Cricket Club. Facing the Durham Dynamos in the final of the Friends Provident Trophy were Hampshire and cricket megastars like Shane Warne and Kevin Pieterston. Since joining the ranks of first class cricket in 1992, Durham CCC had not won any silverware but had made steady progress in recent years. This season has been a revelation and now the one day team had its first chance to bag a trophy. There were plenty of people who predicted that Durham might freeze on the big stage and be overwhelmed by the experienced Hants outfit. On our train, the atmosphere was upbeat, but there was a touch of nervousness around. We needn't have worried. At all.

For a start, the final was like a home game for the Dynamos, thanks to the fantastic support that made its way to Lord's from the North East. And then the game began. Durham were put into bat and the tempo was set by Phil 'The Colonel' Mustard, who bludgeoned a boundary off the final ball of the first over. The team didn't look back, amassing a massive 312 in their 50 overs, the highest ever (domestic) total in that form of the game at Lord's. When Ottis Gibson then took wickets from the first two balls of the Hampshire innings, the Durham fans were in delirium, only enhanced when Kevin Pieterston fell cheaply a few overs later.

Unfortunately, the rain prevented the match being concluded on the Saturday and many of us missed the finale the following afternoon. However, as we travelled north on the train that night, we were confident that Durham had done enough to make the conclusion a virtual formality. They didn't let us down and the Friends Provident Trophy was duly (and very deservedly) won. As I type this, the team is still in the running for two other major trophies and Phil Mustard has become the latest of a growing list of local lads to be called up to the national side. Halcyon days.

Youth Football

I'm delighted to say that Sedgefield has a budding young sports reporter. Ryan Towler, aged 11, sent me the following news:

Sedgefield Youth FC Under 12 is a recently formed team, set up with help from parents, grandparents and with local contributions. We would like to thank the following for their valued support: Sedgefield Town Council, Koolka\$h, and Maxine & John Robinson. The club is hoping to attract more sponsorship, so we can buy items such as trophies and medals – all help will be very welcome. Our home pitch is at Sedgefield Community College, where most of our team have just started Year 7, and we hope that people will come along to our matches and encourage the team (see fixtures below and photo front page).

We are coached by Shaun Parkin, Michael Waller and Mark Waller, who all give up their Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings for us. Our manager is Ian Parkin who can be contacted on 01740 620033 for further information and with offers of sponsorship or other support. Thank you to everyone for their help so far in getting the team up and running.

Thanks to Ryan and good luck to everyone at the club – we look forward to receiving further updates.

Stop press: the team has already tasted success, as runners up in a recent three day tournament in Ferryhill and in winning the Betty Shephard Trophy (though I'm not quite sure what that trophy is – explanation to follow).

Youth Football Fixtures:

30 Sep (H) v Eaglescliffe Elimentis
14 Oct (A) v Bedale JFC
21 Oct (H) v Grangetown YCC
28 Oct (A) v Ferryhill Town
11 Nov (H) v 21st Allstars (b)
18 Nov (A) v Great Ayton JFC
25 Nov (H) v South Park Rangers (b)
09 Dec (A) v Beechwood Youth
20 Jan (A) v Aycliffe Youth
27 Jan (H) v Great Ayton JFC
10 Feb (A) v Eaglescliffe Elimentis
17 Feb (H) v Ferryhill Town
24 Feb (A) v Grangetown YCC
02 Mar (A) v South Park Rangers (b)
16 Mar (A) v 21st Allstars (b)
30 Mar (H) v Beechwood Youth

Kick-off times - 10.30 to 11.00am

Squash

Coaches from Sedgefield Squash Club have recently visited all seven primary schools in and around Sedgefield. The coaches have spent one day in every school, working with children aged 7-11 to practice racket skills and introduce them to squash shots using a portable rebound wall and large "mini-squash" balls.

The majority of financial support for the visits came from a Sedgefield Borough Koolka\$h grant, which backs projects involving children and young people. Some funding also came from the club's junior section. The club has a record of supporting young coaches. Two university students, Emma Larcombe and Emma Rowsby, have led the sessions after an initial introduction at Fishburn involving two senior coaches from England Squash. Sedgefield School Sports Partnership (based at the Community College) has co-ordinated the primary school visits. In the village, Sedgefield Squash Club runs mini-squash sessions at the club on Saturday mornings, and is always keen to see anyone interested in taking up the sport.

Rugby Union

Sedgefield District RUFC is now fully up and running and competing in the Teesside Friendly League this season. The club could not have asked for a better start to the season. The team's first opponents were Wensleydale RUFC and Sedgefield ran out comprehensive winners.

A barnstorming first half saw Sedgefield scoring 34 points without reply. Injury forced off forwards Ian Grieve and Paul Wilkinson, resulting in the pack being less dominant in the second half. However, a final score of 41-12 was an outstanding return. Tries were scored by Hugh Carter (2), James Forster, Neil Dodsworth and Neil Hetherington. John Lee converted one and man of the match Andrew Gray's kicking was exceptional for the rest. Hmm – maybe they should swap places with the current England team! The club is grateful for substantial sponsorship from Xcav8 Limited of Blaydon and Phileas Fogg of Consett, which has enabled them to buy full new strips and training equipment. A full list of fixtures can be found on www.sedgefieldrugby.co.uk along with match reports and the latest news from Sedgefield District RUFC. The club is also an RFU official partner in their GOPLAY World cup campaign to get players back into rugby. Find out more on www.rfu.com/goplayrugby. Despite a great start, the club is still keen to attract more players and supporters. For further information contact info@sedgefieldrugby.co.uk.

Sedgefield Harriers

The change of the season to autumn sees a return to winter type training for runners and Sedgefield Harriers are no exception. There is a well established calendar of races through autumn and winter through to spring, including traditional English cross country races, fell races – which have a different feel from summer fell running – and road and trail races which include events such as the scenic Gibside Trail race in November and The Loftus Poultry Run just before Christmas.

For those who don't race, autumn and winter is a time when it is just nice to have the excuse to get out of the house for some fresh air and sociable exercise. On 30th September the club is well represented in the Great North Run with a number of runners taking part. A number of juniors are also taking part in the Junior Great North Run on 29th September.

Four Sedgefield Harriers made the long trip to North Devon to compete in the Torrington Back In Five race on 9th September. The Harriers acquitted themselves well, Gary Hetherington finished 3rd in 28:47 while Anne Hydon was 3rd lady in 38:23. The runners had an excellent time and were made very welcome by Torrington AAC. Members of Torrington AAC have made Sedgefield their base when competing in the Great North Run in the past. It is hoped that there will be further future visits in either direction to compete in local races. Sedgefield Harriers welcome all new members at whatever time of year. Members meet at the Community College on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday each week and details about the club and its activities can be found at www.sedgefieldharriers.com.

New members needed at the Sedgefield Community College **CARPET BOWLS CLUB**

The club meets on Wednesdays from 6.30 to 8 pm. Come along and give it a try. For more information call **01740 623198**

Sedgefield Racecourse Countryside Raceday

**Jump Racing on
Tuesday 2nd October**

First Race 2.30pm
Last Race 5 pm

25 happy years of Twinning

This October Sedgefield celebrates 25 years of partnership with the town of Hamminkeln in Germany, and on the evening of September 9th we welcomed a busload of our friends from Germany to help us mark this significant anniversary. What a week we had! We started on Monday by visiting Hartlepool Historic Quay, where in addition to exploring the Trincomalee and witnessing cannon and musket fire, we were treated to an excellent lunch. In the evening we had a "Welcome Dinner" at Ceddesfeld Hall and were entertained most ably by Lirica.

On Tuesday we spent the whole day at Alnwick Gardens - the weather was fantastic - then in the evening we had a casual get-together with a buffet supper, again in Ceddesfeld Hall. We were entertained by Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir who impressed the Mayor of Hamminkeln so much that he promised them an ice-cream party at his expense. (*Sandy confirms that SLYC enjoyed this scrumptious treat at rehearsal the following Friday!*)

Wednesday was a free day with host families, which was much appreciated, and in the evening we had an ecumenical service in St Edmund's Church, with readings and prayers in English and in German. The Rev. Martin King, who has long enjoyed participating in the Twinning, preached a sermon in German and English - quite an achievement.

On Thursday we visited Woodhorn Mining Museum and our German friends appreciated the insight into life in mining villages and the problems posed by the closing of the mines. On our way home we stopped at St Mary's Island and managed to get on to the island before the tide came in... and off it... just!

Friday was "at home". In the morning we had an excellent tour of Hardwick Park when all the new developments were explained to us, followed by lunch at Hardwick Hall. In the afternoon we showed our guests round the Sedgefield Heritage Trail (somehow this managed to include two pub visits!)

Saturday was again free with hosts, and in the evening we enjoyed a delicious farewell dinner before listening to the Northumberland Pipers, after which we attempted to teach the Germans a few Geordie songs. On Sunday afternoon the group departed amid many promises to keep in touch and to meet again next year in Hamminkeln. We would love to have some new members and maybe next year is the time to join us and travel to Hamminkeln to experience a completely new sort of holiday - you will probably need another holiday to recover from it, but you will never forget it and the friendships forged can last a lifetime. Watch this space for details.

Below - the whole group just before departure.



October Events Diary

A FREE service to
non-commercial organisations

Sedgefield Mags

The next meeting is on
Monday 1st October
at 8pm in the Nags Head

Local History Society

Monday 1st October
at 7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
Martin Roberts on

Historic Churches of Old County Durham; a personal choice
All welcome

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 2nd October
Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30pm
Horticultural Trade Shows
by Mr Dinning

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 3rd September
7:15pm in the Parish Hall
"Boudoir Dolls"
Jean Walker
Members' competition –
a Hand-Dressed Doll
Visitors welcome (fee £1.50)

CeddesFolk Traditional Acoustic Session

at Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm on
Wednesday 3rd October
Join our line up of fiddles, whistles,
squeezeboxes, guitars, ukuleles ...

Mobile Movies

A film for all the family
Friday 5th October
in the Parish Hall
Entry £1.50 all ages
No need to book
Under 8's need accompanying adult
Refreshments on sale

Sedgefield Lyric Singers

with special guest, Eddie Gratton
Songs Old & New
Saturday 6th October
at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall
Tickets £5/£4 from Selections
or call 620625

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturdays 6th & 27th October
Doors open 7pm - Eyes down 7.45
Cash Prizes. Bar open.

Neighbourhood Watch & Crimewatch Panel & AGM

Tuesday 9th October
at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Sedgefield Civic Trust

Thursday 11th October
at 7 pm in the Parish Hall
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 14th October
on the Village Green

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)
Monday 15th October
Ceddesfeld Hall at 7:45pm
"Not a Drum was Heard"
Norman Welch
Visitors welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 16th October
at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall
A demonstration by
Kathleen Edmundson
All welcome

2nd World War

Re-enactment Weekend
Sedgefield Village Veterans
20th & 21st October
in Ceddesfeld Hall & Grounds,
the Parish Hall & the village green

Trafalgar Dinner

Saturday 20th October
Excellent meal with reflections on
18th century life, times & warfare
Advance booking essential.
Tel 620042 - All proceeds to SCA

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Live Music Night
Saturday 20th October at 8 pm
Main Guest: Blue Diamond. Also
featuring Alan Murray & Hannah,
John Wrightson Band and other
guests £8 incl. buffet: call 621347
*N.B. The Cricket Club is available for
hire for private parties, free of charge*

Residents' Forum

Monday 22nd October
Fletcher Room, Parish Hall 7pm

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 25th October
in the Parish Hall at 7.45 pm
Details from Steve Ashton, 620559

Mayor's Quiz

Friday 26th October
at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
Tickets £4 inc. pie & peas

Art Exhibition

in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall
Saturday 27th October
£1 per painting submitted

Organisations Fair

Saturday 27th October
Parish Hall. Tables £5 local / £25
outside groups. No political or
single issue groups

Days In Days Out (DIDO)

Monday 29th October
Christmas shopping visit to
Boundary Mills

Sedgefield Mother & Toddler Group@ Methodist Church

Meets on Mondays from
1.15 - 2.45 pm for tea or coffee
and a chat whilst your children play

October at the Library

Tickle Time

Songs & stories for babies - 18 months
Mondays 1st, 15th & 29th
2.15 - 3pm

Rhyme Time

Stories, songs & rhymes for under 5s
Wednesdays 3rd, 17th & 31st
10 - 11am

Toy Library, Stay & Play

Wednesdays 10th & 24th
10-11am

Book Circle

Wednesday 17th at 2pm
Holiday crafts and activities
Please contact Library (620103)

101 Gigs in October

05 Sedgefield Racecourse
06 Estonians M Party Grangetown
07 The Vic, Saltburn
10 The Quaker, Darlington
12 The Ox & Plough, Washington
13 The Princess Alice, M'brough
19 The Daisy Hill, Sacriston
20 Washington FC, Washington
21 The Normanby, Normanby
25 The Swan, Billingham
27 The Office, South Shields
28 The Frigate, Marske

Coming up ...

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 6th November
Michael Myers: Scents & Sensibility
- unusual scents in the garden

Family History Group

Monday ? November

Sedgefield Show A.G.M.

Thursday 22nd November
in the Nags Head at 8 pm

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Next session 1st December

Town Council Trip to Leeds

Wednesday 5th December,
Tickets £8 from the Town
Council Office

Your Letters

Residents Crusade

I read with interest articles in the Northern Echo – 'Residents Crusade to save the Parish Hall' – and in the Advertiser. It seems it has really been a crusade that we have been fighting for seven years.

Many of us in the community have vast experience of the Community and Voluntary Sector, in particular funding streams from people like Big Lottery, Northern Rock Foundation and others. We have offered our voluntary time and expertise to try to help the Town Council to support their own Policy C6, "To maintain the existing Parish Hall as a well used Community Facility", and to achieve their goal to refurbish and revitalise our Parish Hall. Clearly this has failed.

To date, since 1999, they have set up and dissolved at least three partnership groups; they increased the precept to cover the anticipated loan costs which was not taken up, (see Town Council Annual Report 2005); they have spent our precept on a planning application for a community building and associated costs to the tune of £30,859 net, upon which very few were consulted apart from a small group, some of whom, together with some Town Council Members, had conflicting interests, being Trustees of the building involved. No declaration was minuted. Public pressure forced a u-turn on that application. They have employed someone at more expense to seek funding, which we know even within the community & voluntary sector is very difficult to obtain; as a Local Government Body even harder; they could have used the Development Trust or any other Local Charity to apply for funding in partnership but chose not to.

They spent more taxpayers money on a referendum in July 2006 which promised a solution to the problem. They said Option 1 would cost approximately £80,000 and set a time scale of approximately 6-12 months and residents supported this. It is now over one year on and we hear work may commence in the New Year – 2008, subject to funding. We are now informed that they will be launching a fundraising campaign, so it seems we do not have a start date for work to begin, or evidence of where the funding is coming from, and no mention of the cost of a 2nd acoustic survey or a solution to the noise problem.

They have to date delivered on nothing; in fact we are worse off because we have lost valuable opportunities with Big Lottery and similar funders, and we now have further dilapidation within the Parish Hall itself. The building is bordering on being 'not fit for purpose'. Clearly the roof is in need of repair and this has been known about for some time. The water now leaks through two floors. The whole building is in need of massive structural repair, not forgetting the noise problem which was known about in 2000. The estimated costs so far of £175,000, quoted in the article, are in my opinion a mere tip of the iceberg. Incidentally, how did they come up with the figure of £80,000?

The community is passionate about its Parish Hall and uses it as much as possible but this has now become an insult to the people of Sedgefield. I am sure most people would agree that this asset has become a liability to us both in financial terms and in loss of a public amenity. It needs urgent investment which will not happen while the building is in the hands of Local Government. The latest Government Initiative through the Big Lottery, 'Community Assets' is a scheme for genuine assets which are vested in Local Government to be transferred to the Community; grants would be available to bring the property up to standard. I believe our Town Council should be doing just that. To see a building which benefited from Community Ownership visit Ferryhill and Dean Bank Literary Institute; the building speaks for itself.

Gloria Wills.

These are purely my own views and not those of any other organisation.

Sedgefield Development Trust is a member of the Development Trusts Association



Apologies for the delay in publishing this letter. This was no fault of the author. Ed.

Re: controversy on Durham Rd

I have no relationship, financial or otherwise, with McCarthy & Stone but I have visited clients in their flats in my everyday business. I feel the 'North Sedgefield Resident' (July 07) demands a response from someone less blinkered and self-interested. I'll answer the points in the order they were presented:

"flats, undoubtedly small" The trend towards increased population densities is well established. To provide small, easily maintained flats is precisely the purpose.

Those who buy can usually afford larger accommodation but are making a free choice.

"3 storeys...no lift" The flats are designed for the 'active old'. Buyers are required to be of sound health and as they don't have to manage large gardens or do maintenance, the chance of an accident is reduced.

"not a warden in any sense" Most people in McCarthy & Stone flats would run a mile at the suggestion that they need a warden. Retired people know what they want.

"10 parking spaces...picture the chaos" I like a vivid imagination! I agree, parking should be considered, but if the builder released from case history the likely take up of spaces, a proper opinion could be formed.

"a steep drive onto the inside curve of a busy road" Did the previous owner injure and maim, or generally bring the traffic to a halt. Emotive language about young families merely covers the thinness of this point.

"noise pollution" The hot air generated by the original writer is of more concern!

"congestion" A likely maximum of 26 vehicles owned by a part of the community hardly renowned as high mileage, speeding road hogs. Perhaps we should look to those, mostly unnecessary, short hop journeys we all take.

"Did McCarthy & Stone do their homework?"

Arrogant or naive? Builders do not build unless they have a realistic prospect of profitable sale. The company has grown on the back of successful development, not by buying expensive plots of land on hunches.

"without thought for the neighbours" Ah. Could NIMBYism be the crux of the matter?

"without thought for Sedgefield" Retired people are life blood to our community. They have time & inclination to contribute. Demand for large properties is in decline. The target market is healthy, active individuals who will not place an undue burden on community resources. I for one would welcome such a development.

Duncan Maw

DEADLINE for November - October 15th

Contact us at 58 Front Street, Sedgefield, phone 01740 629011 or email snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk.

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Sedgefield News is printed by Ceddes Print & Design Tel: 01740 621793