

Produced by volunteers for the people of Sedgfield, Bradbury, Mordon & Fishburn
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Sedgfield NEWS

Text/call 07572 502 904 :
email sedgfieldnews@hotmail.com

October 2013

RESULT! At the Northumbria in Bloom presentation in Sunderland's Stadium of Light, **The Golden Lion** won Gold *and* Best Licensed Premises.

Sedgfield won Gold, Best Small Town in Northumbria *and* the Percy Boydell trophy for Best Overall Entrant. Blooming does not get better than this!

Further details and results from Britain in Bloom in the November edition.

One of the Country's highest achieving schools

Students and staff at Sedgfield Community College have double cause for celebration. Hot on the heels of announcing yet another set of outstanding GCSE results in August, the college has received notification from the Department for Education that it is now one of the Country's highest achieving schools. In his letter to Head teacher Dave Davies, the Minister of State for Schools, David Laws MP said;

"It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on your excellent performance in the new similar schools measure in the 2012 School Performance Tables. You are one of the 56 top performing secondary schools in England on this measure.

These tables compare schools with those with near identical intakes, as judged by their key stage 2 results. Your school stood out in two ways.

First, you were ranked number one in your table. Second, over 10 per cent more of your pupils achieved five good GCSEs including English and Maths than is typical of a school with your intake. This is a fantastic achievement that you should be very proud of.

I congratulate your staff, governors and pupils for their hard work and thank you for your leadership."

In a year when the college has attracted continual praise for its work, Mr Davies commented, "It is of course pleasing for college staff and students to receive such recognition for their excellent work, and to see how they compare so favourably with other schools locally and nationally. However, I know I speak for all of the staff when I say that in terms of what pleased them most this summer, it was not the letter from Mr Laws, but rather the results of our students in their GCSE examinations.

Mr Davies believes that the reputation of the college has now spread beyond the confines of the local community. "I have been quite staggered by the

demand for places at Sedgfield over the last twelve months. It seems that the successes we have enjoyed over recent years have suddenly been recognised by parents. At a time when birth rates have meant many schools are seeing a significant drop in student numbers the opposite is happening at Sedgfield with record numbers taking up places across all year groups." On hearing news of the letter sent to the college, Phil Wilson, MP for Sedgfield reflected, "I am delighted to see Sedgfield Community College has gone from strength to strength and I have no doubt this is a result of the excellent teaching staff, the Governing body and the hard work of the students. I am very proud of my old school and wish it every continued success in the future."

Big boost planned for Sedgfield Farmers' Market
Sedgfield Town Council, Sedgfield Development Trust and stall holders have agreed to work together to lift the fortunes of Sedgfield Farmers' Market, which suffered when six stall holders left en-block, having been poached by another market. Now, having taken advice from a successful local market organiser, we really believe that our market can prosper again. For the time being, the market will continue on the 1st Sunday of the month, improvements being introduced gradually. We hope to re-launch in March next year with some major changes. If you are interested in working with us as a market volunteer, please contact Roger Clubley of SDT on 620609, or Angela Simpson at the Town Council office on 620273.

Head teacher, Dave Davies, left, with Phil Wilson MP



Memories are made of this ...



Mary Jones & Jessie Walton are serenaded by Dale Meeks at Willowdene

And this ...

from Sylvia Coupland, a proud daughter - a response to last month's request for information about Annie Storey's photo,

My Mother saw your photograph and she has the same photograph, which was taken at the ammunition factory at Aycliffe. The lady dressed in black is Celia Falconer, the gent next to her Mr Waters and the gent next to him Mr Bewick. She recognised other faces but could not put names to them now. My Mother is 91, so recognising this photograph proves her memory is pretty good! She is Doreen Towse, who lives in Sedgefield now but was travelling from Close House when she worked in the munitions.

Ex Emmerdale star a big hit!

Dale Meeks, who is from Newcastle, played Simon Meredith in the ITV soap and also won the channel's Celebrity Stars in their Eyes competition. He delighted those attending Willowdene Care Home's garden fete with his popular set of Country & Western classics. Dale's performance was the highlight of a day which was organised to raise funds for residents' leisure activities, including day trips out, musical entertainment and arts & crafts. As well as live music, the event featured a magic show, barbeque, arts & crafts, jumble sale, face painting and raffle.

It was also a chance for people to socialise with residents. Angela Penman, Activities Co-ordinator, said "We wanted to bring people in to see what it is like in the care home and see all the activities we do. It has been a great day and everyone really enjoyed themselves."

Willowdene looks after those with personal and nursing needs and also has a dedicated dementia care unit.



Citizen of the Year

If you already have an idea who should be the recipient of the award for 2013, please hold on to that name for just a little while longer!

Sedgefield Development Trust, Sedgefield Town Council and the Rotary Club of Sedgefield, who are jointly responsible for the annual award, have agreed a change in the timetable, starting with this year's award.

Nomination forms for Sedgefield's Citizen of the Year 2013 will now be distributed with February's Sedgefield News. Entries will close at the end of March and the selection panel will choose a winner at the end of April.

The presentation of the award will take place at the Annual Town Meeting on 6th May 2014.

This year's Folk Festival the best ever!

The eighth annual Sedgefield Folk Festival held over the first weekend in September was again a huge success and judged by many to be the best one ever. Three sell-out concerts in the Parish Hall, one in Ceddesfeld Hall, various music workshops and singarounds all received massive acclaim from the hundreds of people who attended from all over the north-east and other parts of the country. The Northern Echo's Folk columnist, Jez Lowe, commented in his recent column that the 'Festival is now firmly established as a major event on the UK's folk calendar'.

As one of the organisers of the festival, I would like to thank everyone for the magnificent support given. Work has already started on next year's festival and artists booked so far include Benny Gallagher (from Gallagher and Lyle), Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies and Kieran Goss from Ireland. It is also hoped to add extra events to make the festival even bigger and better.
Joan Edmundson

Rob's trip to Africa

In October of 2011, I was given the opportunity to travel on a World Challenge Expedition to Botswana and Zambia in June/July of this year. In order to take part, I needed to raise almost £4000, which at the time seemed a bit of a challenge! However, I managed - in no small part due to the generosity of many people and organisations in Sedgefield.

I received generous donations from Scouts and Explorers, Sedgefield Players, Rotary, Inner Wheel, and Ladies' Escape, as well as many kind individuals. Thanks must also go to Sedgefield Methodist Church who allowed me to host several coffee mornings, and to all the people of Sedgefield who bought raffle tickets, sponsored me for zip-wiring from the Tyne Bridge and donated many bags of clothes for me to recycle.

Our group of 18, including 15 students from Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, two members of staff and our World Challenge Leader, set off at the end of June. Our first few days were spent in the capital of Botswana, Gaborone, before travelling deep into the Kalahari Desert to spend a week with the bushmen.

Throughout the week, we learnt a great deal about how the bushmen live, including hunting and crafting. After that, we travelled to the Okavango Delta where we canoed through hippopotamus-infested waters!

Following a game and river safari, we travelled to Zambia, visiting the Victoria Falls before starting our project work. We stayed in a small village called Mwandi and were able to experience many of the village's customs and traditions, including a 4 hour church service! Over two weeks, we constructed two mud huts for two families who care for orphan children. I can safely say it was very hard work but extremely satisfying! It was an amazing month and I will remember the experience for the rest of my life.

Thank you again to everyone who helped to make this trip possible for me. Needless to say I have hundreds (if not thousands) of photos and would be happy to come and talk to any groups about my trip of a lifetime.

Rob McGuinness



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Looking for a function room to hire for that special occasion? **Look no further!** The Club is ideal for hosting any special occasion, including weddings. **Hire prices start at £60.**

To book and view internal photographs, visit our website and click on Venue Hire or contact Bar Manager, Steve Grady on

07572 428383 or 01740 621531
www.pitchero.com/clubs/sedgefieldcricketclub

Sedgefield In Bloom

The Wykes Close wildflower meadow has been much admired, but the time has now come to take action, so that, with a bit of luck and good weather, it blooms as beautifully again next year.

The fading flowers have now been trimmed and left to lie for a week or two, so that the seeds go back in to the ground. Forgive us if it looks a bit messy for a short while. It will be worth it in the long run! On the other hand, the herb garden at Malton Terrace is flourishing, so if your cooking needs a bit of parsley, sage, rosemary or thyme (or tarragon, marjoram, fennel or good old mint) please feel free to snip!

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Sedgefield News is a bit short of space so why not consider an online ad on

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Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel



Nights Drawing In: now is the time to get those light timers out again and set them to keep your property looking occupied even with curtains drawn.

Flask in the Fridge: Please remember to update your data sheet inside the flask, following any change to either your medication or to your health. It is vital that if the Emergency Services are called and refer to the information that it is accurate & up to date, it is for your benefit only. A simple method is to put your most recent prescription in the flask, as long as it shows all current medication.

Fraud: A number of people in Sedgefield are receiving calls from an *International* source (*International* appears on the phone if you have caller ID) who pretend to represent or be associated with Microsoft. They do not. Microsoft does not cold call. Putting it plainly these people are simply trying to con you out of some money through various tricks and they can be very plausible.

Don't be fooled, they are only in it for your money! Ignore them, don't answer questions, hang up, which is what they will do if you ask for their telephone number, company name and address etc. They will happily give you "their" name but that is just another piece of fiction too.

If you do have problems with your pc, use someone local to resolve the problem; much safer and provides peace of mind. Remember never let someone you don't know and trust have access to your pc - especially remotely.

Next meeting **Tuesday 8th October**, Fletcher room, Parish Hall. This meeting will be coupled with our AGM and as ever all are welcome.

Sedgefield Residents' Forum September meeting

Both our County Councillors and a representative from 'livin' housing attended, as well as some Town Councillors. It was really useful to have information from them all and for them to be able to answer comments and questions.

County Councillors agreed to take up some issues with DCC (the cost of the so called 'agricultural entrance' and who made donations of goods for the entrance). It also appears that DCC are saying 'the access can only be used for 28 days of the year and is only used regularly by Sedgefield Show and has been upgraded as a matter of safety.' As far as we have been informed it is nothing to do with Sedgefield Show, who have accessed the area for decades for the show to take place and did not request a new entrance.

Another issue with DCC is how the County deal with interest on monies they hold for community use. The County currently retains the interest, which sometimes can be quite a lot of money. The Forum submitted a question to the full DCC, in the hope of getting the views of a number of Councillors, the question asked if Councillors thought the current retention of interest to be fair. The reply came from one designated Councillor who referred specifically to s106 money and he stated that the current situation was fair. We then wrote, independently, to 11 different Councillors asking for their view, but not one has replied. Our local County Councillors indicated that since a response came from DCC other Councillors, they will not comment (a bit sad if individual Cllrs cannot give their opinion) but local Councillors thought there had been some 'confusion' and have agreed to take our point back to DCC. Our issue is that if DCC hold money for an identified community or project then any interest earned on that money while DCC hold it should be attributed to the community or project. Obviously there will have to be some minimum level set or it will not be cost effective and it would also be appropriate for DCC to charge a small administration fee. We feel strongly that there should be some clear policy for this across the County.

Information was also given in response to a Forum enquiry that it will be another 5 years before any caravans can be placed on the 300+ caravan site which has permission on land adjoining Hardwick Country Park; tree planting and growth has to be at a certain level before caravans can be sited.

DCC have updated their County Durham Plan (future development in the County); it seems despite communities across the County saying the proposed number of new houses in their area is too high DCC are actually increasing the numbers! Public consultation on the Plan is from October 14th to December 6th so make sure you make your views on our village issues are heard and try to get along to any organised public meetings in the village.

Once again congratulations to local schools, in particular the Community College for the excellent exam results this year and Hardwick Primary for a great launch of their new image.

Next meeting: 7pm, November 4th, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. All welcome.

PC Todd

Once again unattended vehicles are becoming the target of choice of our nocturnal visitors. The easy answer is to lock your vehicle inside a garage but even this isn't fool proof. The only answer is to remove valuables from your vehicle or at least hide them. Recently, youths were disturbed removing the padlocks from garage doors in Eden drive. In East End a vehicle had its window smashed to remove a conveniently placed handbag from the front passenger seat. Easier still was the removal of a ladies handbag from an insecure vehicle in Hawthorne road. Number plates were removed from a vehicle in Winterton Ave and a Catalytic convertor cut from a vehicle in Beacon Ave and in East End a vehicle had a window smashed.

Other reported crimes: shed forced open in Wallington Drive - lawnmower and pressure washer taken. In Milbourne Court a mountain bike was removed from a garden and a visitor to the Hardwick Country Park had her handbag stolen whilst enjoying the scenery. Please take time to secure your property.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Social Club. No incidents were reported that required further action.

PACT meeting

Issues discussed included Anti-Social behaviour and an Alcohol free zone or Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs). Reports of ASB in Sedgefield have reduced; notable exception, the Winterton Estate Play Park area where youths have damaged the fence around the play equipment. 5 youths have been arrested. DPPO is the last resort after other options in the police/council armoury have been tried, to persuade drunken/rowdy inconsiderate drinkers to behave. I am not convinced that the time has come for this. Speeding vehicles are still a menace despite efforts to slow traffic using the Speed matrix device, especially in Durham Rd. The priority selected by the N'hood police team this month is to expand the use of the device to all areas of the village. Please consider other road users and drive to the 30mph limit.

Until next time, Keith

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News to any part of Lilac Grove,

Maple Grove, Beech Oval,

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Hawthorn Rd, please call

Judith Edgoose on 620244. Thank you.

Investing In Children

Sedgefield Primary School is delighted to announce their reaccreditation for Investing in Children membership. Investing in Children celebrates examples of imaginative and inclusive practice with children and young people. Organisations applying for the award must demonstrate dialogue with young people which leads to change. However, children have to provide the evidence and endorse the membership report, because it is a children's award. Helen Mulhearn, the Investing in Children Assessor, really enjoyed spending time with various groups of children from the school, including Buddies, Mini-Buds, School Council members, School Nutrition Action Group (SNAG) members, the 'Bike It Crew', as well as a randomly selected group of children. She noted that there had been lots of changes and the school had been extensively refurbished since her last visit. Her report outlines all of the children's responsibilities, the way they are consulted on things that matter to them, how they are supported and cared for and the extensive range of extra-curricular activities that are on offer. Helen concluded, "As always, the children in Sedgefield Primary are very confident; they have a say and make a positive contribution to the life of their school. All of the children I met had something to say and spoke very freely about how they feel and what difference they make; they are very proud of their school".

A delighted Mrs Cox, Headteacher, added "(The children's) enthusiasm and pride in our school comes through very strongly in the report, which echoes the findings of our most recent Ofsted inspection, where their behaviour and attitude was described as exemplary."

Dastardly deeds!

The crime scene was behind the Police Office, where local hero Keef (not to be confused with Keifer) outlined the evidence. A sweetshop window had been broken and sweets stolen. A brick lay on the ground. Keef had single-handedly apprehended a tiny suspect, who turned out to have a red hand. Armed with overwhelming evidence, Keef concluded that the thief had been caught red-handed but was unable to explain why the brick lay outside the broken window, not inside. Furthermore, it seems unlikely that the tiny suspect could lift the heavy brick without serious injury. Then Keef attempted to bribe us with sweets to vote for his entry! Our complaint is now in the hands of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Meanwhile, a very serious crime lay undetected; a Wolf-on-Grandma incident on the corner of Rectory Row & Cross St, where the wild creature had broken into Grandma's house, gobbled her up, donned her clothes and lay in wait for her unsuspecting granddaughter, Little Red Riding Hood (Simply Red to her friends). But she wasn't Simple. The small girl smiled, an eyelid flickered. She whipped a pistol from her knickers, aimed it at the creature's head and BANG, BANG, BANG, she shot him dead! Even Keef would agree it was Justifiable Homicide! **Yes, the Scarecrow Festival was great fun – why don't YOU take part next year?** Ray Manning

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School admissions

If your child will be 4yrs old between 1st September 2013 & 31st August 2014, they are due to start school in September 2014. Sedgefield is fortunate to have two Ofsted-graded 'Good' Primary Schools and soon, parents of children due to start school next year will visit and make their choice.

At Sedgefield Primary we are very proud of our school and pupils' achievement. We would like to invite all interested parents to visit us at 5.30pm on Thursday 10th October or at 9.30am on Friday 11th October. If you are unable to make either of these dates, please contact us and we will arrange a mutually convenient appointment.

Some of our older children will greet and show visitors around. Reception staff and the Head Teacher will then welcome parents and explain our ethos, aims and objectives, answer questions and discuss any problems you may foresee. In the meantime, please contact the school to register your interest and to request a copy of our school brochure.

Further information about starting school – the DCC Primary Schools Admissions Brochure - and the required application form can be accessed at

durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

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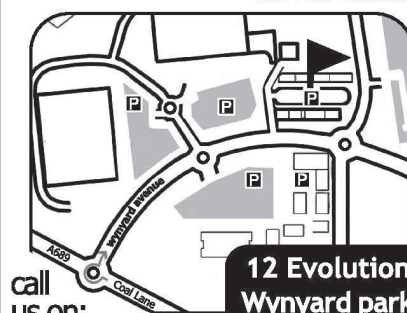
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October Events Diary

Please note - each date is listed once only, followed by all events for that date.
Entries are free to non-commercial organisations

New Generation Church. Every Sunday in October. 11am in the Parish Hall.

Tuesday 1st

Sedgefield Garden Club. 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. 'Sedgefield in Bloom' by Howard Smith, chairman of the volunteers. All welcome

Wednesday 2nd

Sedgefield WI. Parish Hall, 7.15pm. 'The Work of the House of Lords' by Baroness Harris of Richmond. Members' competition: a souvenir of London. Visitors always welcome (fee £3.50 includes refreshments)

Friday 4th

Sedgefield and District U3A. 2pm, Parish Hall. 'Iran- Its people and its culture' by Mark Allen. Visitors Welcome. For details, call Ray Manning - 629276

Saturday 5th

Bring & Buy. Come along and support Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Parish Hall from 11 am-3p. Lots of stalls, refreshments, tombola. Breakthrough.org.uk

Sunday 6th

Farmers' Market
from 9.30am on the Village Green

Monday 7th

Local History Society. Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm. 'Robin Daniels: Saxons, Vikings and Normans in the Tees Valley'

Tuesday 8th

Neighbourhood Watch AGM followed by normal Panel Meeting then PACT priorities. 7pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. ALL Welcome

Ladies' Club. Jubilee Sailing Trust. Talk & slides by Ian Lavery. Ceddesfeld Hall (also October 22nd. Pickfords - a talk & slides by George Nairn)

Friday 11th

Country Market. Parish Hall 9.30-11am. Coffee, cakes, cards, gifts, plants

Live Music Night. Sedgefield Cricket Club at 7.45pm. *(Please note this event is a week earlier than normal)*. Main guest, Richard Adams Band. Also featuring John Weighell, John Wrightson Band and one other guest. £10, including buffet. Tel 621347

Saturday 12th

Flu Vaccination Clinic. 9 - 11am at Sedgefield & Fishburn

Tuesday 15th

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club. 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall. 'Coast to Coast.' Northumberland & Durham demonstrator Audrey Foster.

Friday 18th

Macmillan Coffee Morning. Parish Hall 9.30 -11.30am for delicious cakes & scones and a chance to meet up with friends.

Saturday 19th

Tastes of October. Dinner in Ceddesfeld Hall, 7pm. A good friendly night out with the SCA all for £16. For tickets call 620607 or 620206

Cricket Club Quiz Night. Starts 8pm. Quizmaster: John Bryant

Monday 21st

Meditation Group at St Edmund's church. 7 - 7.30pm. All welcome.

Sedgefield Family History Group *(a branch of CFHS)*. Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm. 'A Fair Kind of Life' by Valerie Moody. Visitors always welcome. For more information tel. 620367 or check the website www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk

Friday 25th

Sedgefield in Bloom Halloween Coffee Morning.
Parish Hall 10 - 11.30am. Refreshments, stalls, raffle, tombola

Mayor's Annual Charity Quiz. Ceddesfeld Hall. Details from Council office.

Regular meetings

NEW ENTRY: Sedgefield Mags

Sedgefield branch of Newcastle United Supporters' Club meets 1st Monday of the month in the Nag's Head at 8 pm. A chance to meet fellow supporters to discuss NUFC in a friendly atmosphere with quiz & competitions most months. Club also runs reasonably priced coach to all Newcastle home games. For details call Paul Armes on 07966029434

Editor's note: *Space very limited. After 1st entry, groups will be restricted to 3 lines*

NECP Concertina Workshop

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 1pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Contact 01642 588197

Eddies@4

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

Winterton Wayfarers

Walking Group - Weekly Sunday walks, from 5 - 10 miles. Contact 620034 or 620434

Bridge Club

Meets every Sunday & Tuesday at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners welcome. For more information call Jen - 01740 620434

Sedgefield Playgroup

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

Fishburn Art Group

Youth & Community Centre, Butterwick Rd
9.30am -12 noon, Mondays

Community College Bowls

Mondays, 6 - 8pm. Carpet Bowls/ Short Mat. Individual coaching. No age limit. Call 623198

Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

Ceddesfeld Hall. Tues & Thurs mornings
8.30-12 Beginners welcome. Call 622532

Sedgefield Pop In Club

for the elderly & disabled at Ceddesfeld Hall
Tues 9.30-12; Wed 10-12.30, Thurs 1- 3.30

Craft Club

Swinhoe Rm, Ceddesfeld Hall, 2nd & 4th
Tues 7.30-10pm. Call 620656. All welcome

CAB Advice Sessions

Sedgefield Advice & Information Centre
Fortnightly Wednesdays 10am-1pm

Sing for Health

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 1pm in the
Methodist Church Hall

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers

Weds 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall (Mon1st week of month) Beginners welcome, call 621292

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

Wednesdays 7.15pm, Nag's Head
New members welcome.

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members
welcome. Contact Carl on 07775644598

Computers for everyday life

Sedgefield library in assoc with Age UK
Drop in learning Thursdays 10:30am-12:15pm

Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group

Small, friendly group:10-12 noon, Thursdays

Café@St Catherine's

Friendly chat & Fishburn gossip! Fridays
9.30am-12noon: Tea/coffee/ toast & chat

Lyrics Choirs

Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall. SLYC 6pm
Adults 7.30pm New members welcome.

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Friday 1pm - 7pm

Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm

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October events

Craft Club

Thursdays 10th & 24th, 10am - 12noon

'Granny is a pirate'

Thursday 10th Oct, 2pm. Free under 6's
Craft workshop, 15 places available.

For over 50s & carers, Sedgefield Library in association with Age UK...

'Keep well keep warm'

Thursday 17th 10:30am - 12:30pm

Also PAT safety testing for small electrical appliances like kettles

'Hand Massage for relaxation'

Thursday 17th 10:30am - 12:30pm

November/December...

'Stay safe online'

10:30am - 12:30pm on Thursdays 14th, 28th November & 12th December.

Great advice on web security & safe online shopping. Places limited, so book early and don't miss out!

More November events

Sedgefield in Bloom

Friday 15th November 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. 'Remember When' - a great duo performing dance music from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Tickets £8 (from council office) to include pie & pea supper. Bring your own drinks.

Community College Concert

Tuesday 12th November 6.30 - 9pm

Tickets £2 / £1 concessions, from College reception or Tickety Boo.

Sedgefield Mags

20th Anniversary Talk In.

Saturday 16th November

7.30 pm at Sedgefield Cricket Club.

A talk in with John Anderson (ex Newcastle player & current Radio Newcastle pundit) followed by a question and answer session.

The evening also includes a comedian plus pie, peas & chips and a bar. Tickets £15 from Paul Armes on 07966029434.

Sedgefield Show AGM.

Thursday 21st November



Floral delight

At Durham Cathedral Flower Festival, held alongside the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition, Kate Adie stands before a display by Mrs Kathleen Edmenson & Mrs Norma Downs, of Ferryhill & Sedgefield District Flower Club. The Club welcomes visitors and new members at its meetings on the 3rd Tuesday each month at 7.15pm in Sedgefield Parish Hall.

Taste & See

Our cookery group (Right) for 9-11yrs meets in the Methodist Church Hall on Mondays and has lots of fun learning to cook. We love new challenges, so we held a coffee morning to raise funds for Cancer Research. All baking and organising was the children's work and we raised £171.65.

Hardwick Hall Hotel

Friday 18th October

70's Disco: Arrive 7pm for

Buffet at 7.30pm. £11.95 per person

Saturday 19th October

Decades Disco: Arrive 7pm for

Buffet at 7.30pm. £11.95 per person

Friday 25th October

80's Night: Arrive 7pm for

Buffet at 7.30pm. £11.95 per person

Tuesday 5th November

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Sedgefield Drama Festival

Sedgefield Players swept the board at their recent festival, scooping nine awards with three plays. John Hannon and Norma Neal won Best Actor and Actress for the winning production Salad Day by Deirdre Kinahan, a moving portrayal of two elderly people ending their days in an Irish nursing home. Sedgefield Players Youth Section carried off the youth award, ensemble award and Best Director for Thomas Guest who also wrote their play 'Brutal', a thought-provoking indictment of childhood bullying. Thomas also won the Adjudicator's Award for his tireless work through the week, stage managing for other groups, as well as appearing for Sedgefield Players and a Newcastle group, Lost the Plot. Individual youth awards went to Ciaran Jasper, the inadequate mother in the SPYS 'Brutal' and to Jessica Sadler for a compelling performance as a murderer in Sedgefield Players 'The Long Road', which also won the award for technical presentation. Richmond Amateur Dramatic Society came in second place with the period comedy 'Box and Cox', which also won the audience award, Jayne's award for costume and Best Supporting Actress for Jackie McLeod as conniving landlady Mrs Bouncer. David Lynch of Cliffe Theatre was Best Supporting Actor in 'A Respectable Funeral', which also took the Best 30 Seconds award for a delightful comedy moment when all three sisters remembered their late mother 'wherever she is.' Graham Foster of Matchbox Theatre, Durham received the Cameo Award for his portrayal of grumpy farmer Merriman in 'Seasons in the Sun. Statement Drama Company of Scarborough won Best Set for 'The Sacrifice', evoking the interior and garden of an American house. The Outlookers, a group of disabled actors, won the Ray Tate Award for Endeavour with 'A Brief Encounter with the Radio', based on the 1940s film. Adjudicator Russell Whiteley, a frequent visitor to Sedgefield, was impressed by the scope and variety of the festival, the very high standard of performance and the friendly, supportive spirit he had seen all week from groups and audiences alike. The annual festival always takes place during the second week in September. Worth making a date in your diary now.

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Sports UPDATE

Sports Editor **CHRIS LINES**
Email **chrisjlines@aol.com**

At the start of the 2013 domestic cricket season, several leading pundits confidently stated that Durham County Cricket Club would struggle in the County Championship, a few of them predicting relegation. Fast forward to early afternoon, Thursday 19th September and a square cut to the boundary by Mark Stoneman ensured that relegation was avoided by completing a cunning plan that involved winning the title. The team was almost entirely composed of players who have come through the Durham academy, most of them North East natives. Meanwhile, the under 17s won their equivalent of the championship, so the future looks bright too.

All this represents an outstanding success story, and one that a lot of other sports clubs could learn from. The team has been led brilliantly by Paul Collingwood on the pitch and off it by head coach Geoff Cook, who has been there since DCCC was awarded first class status at the start of the 1990s. The season could have been overshadowed by tragedy, as Cook suffered a heart attack in June, but he survived and recovered well enough to be at the ground when the title was secured. Closer to home, as Sedgefield Cricket Club's season draws to a close, we'll round up their teams' fortunes next month.

Squash

It is set to be another big year for Sedgefield Squash Club. Plans for a 3rd court are well underway, with significant funding in place and a planning application lodged. On the playing front, all teams will look to consolidate on last season's success, with 1st, 2nd and 4th teams all having achieved promotion. The 3rd & 4th teams are playing in the same division this season, so there promises to be plenty of banter within the club with the first 'derby match' scheduled for 15th October. The ladies' 1st team will be battling hard at the top of division 1, while the ladies' 2nd team is expected to put in a strong performance in division 2, after their inaugural season last year.

Over the summer break, a series of coaching sessions were held for intermediate and advanced players. Those brave enough to attend were put through their paces (and subject to occasional torture!) by coaches Stephen Rowsby, Chris Gillespie and Peter Redshaw. A team squash blitz held on a Saturday afternoon in August was won by Stephen Rowsby, George Peden, Gordon Peden, Dan Toas and Adrian Neasham.

The traditional curtain raiser to the season, the Team Handicap Competition, was contested by a record 40 members. After two and a half weeks of matches and occasional emergency readjusting of handicaps by the committee, the competition was won by Team Gillespie (Chris Gillespie, Oliver Walls, Simon Hill, Darren Young, Lewis Neasham, Neil Kime, Neil Scott and Sharon O'Donnell) who just pipped runners-up, Team Rowsby, having drawn level on points over the competition but winning the match between those two teams.

Junior Squash

With competitions to come all round the country, at the Wycliffe Open in Gloucestershire (first of the season), Oliver Walls reached the final of the boys under 15s. In a tough final, Oliver lost 3-1. Then three Sedgefield juniors participated in the first England Squash Silver Tournament of the season at Queen's Club in Halifax. All three put in sterling performances. In the Under 19s, Rob Pearce recorded a win over the 16th ranked player in England to finish an excellent sixth. George Peden, in his very first Silver competition, finished a creditable 10th. In the Under 15s, Oliver Walls reached his second final in as many weeks, losing to the number two ranked player in England Curtis Malik. This was Oliver's best ever performance to date in a Silver Tournament. The Durham and Cleveland County Closed competition is next, with a large contingent from Sedgefield expected to participate. Robert Pearce and Oliver Walls will defend their county titles - look out for a report on progress next month.

Saturday morning coaching has resumed and the club is happy to welcome boys and girls between 7 & 16 who want to give the sport a try. If you would like to know more about squash in Sedgefield please contact Chris Rowsby on 621125.

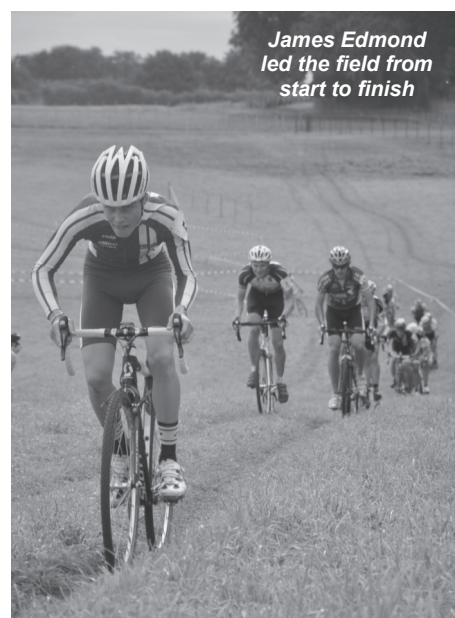
Athletics

In September, the month Sedgefield Harriers celebrated its 8th birthday, the Harriers also saw planning permission granted for its proposed track and field events facilities at Sedgefield Community College. The fundraising has now started in earnest. Along with the £40,000 awarded to the project from the community funds granted to Sedgefield on the back of the supermarket development, a Ball organised at the Racecourse by club member Helen Godfrey raised over £3,000, while the club's young athletes have been raising money at the Mini and Junior Great North Runs. A raft of other initiatives are in the pipeline, many of them being co-ordinated by the new Friends of Sedgefield Harriers charitable organisation (email friendsofsedgefieldharriers@gmail.com if you want to find out more or get involved). So far, enough money has been raised to build about 36 metres of track, so there's a long way to go, but Harriers are definitely up and running. Talking of tracks, in September, club chair Ean Parsons secured a silver medal at 10,000m in the North East track championships at Jarrow. Ean, determined to run a track 10,000m, had trained hard for the event and ran exceptionally well to secure his second place in the veterans race on the very day the club he founded celebrated its birthday.

Cyclo Cross

An excellent introduction to cycle racing, cyclo cross is held off road on open parkland, with only a reliable mountain bike and helmet needed to get involved. The first event of the 2013 North East Cyclo Cross League was held on Saturday 21st September in Sedgefield's East Park. Entrants of all ages and abilities took part during the day, organised by Sedgefield resident Ian Dunn, who rides for Ferryhill Wheelers.

A Wheeler took the honours in the main senior race, James Edmond leading the field from start to finish. Clive Upton of Hambleton Road Club was second and Ian Robson of MTS Cyclesport was third. The leading woman was Nina Snook, followed by Kendra White. In the junior races, the U16 event was won by Angus Brown, the U14 event by Ben Brown and the U12 event by Arran Brown.



Junior Athletics

The junior Sedgefield Harriers enjoyed a fantastic culmination to their 2013 season, with 85 children from Year 3 upwards competing against other clubs. Many of the children competed in the Quadkids format of run, jump, throw - an increasingly popular concept for younger athletes. Sedgefield again retained the County Durham Athletics

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Great North Run

As ever, Sedgefield was very well represented during the Great North Run weekend, on the Saturday during the mini and junior events (see above) and of course, on the Sunday when the world's biggest half marathon saw runners make their way from Newcastle to South Shields. Looking at the results, I counted almost 100 runners from the TS21 postcode and while some of those weren't from Sedgefield itself, it's a very impressive number. Inevitably, there were plenty of Sedgefield Harriers in the field, but also many other Sedgefield residents who took up the challenge, either to raise money for a good cause or simply to be part of such an iconic event. Leading the way home for Sedgefield was James Askew, a Durham City Harrier who featured in the elite race. He was only a few minutes behind the winner, finishing in a hugely impressive 37th place. Other very notable performances were by Abie and Sam Hearmon. Both young athletes were competing in their first Great North Runs and both completed the course in under 1hr 40mins. Abie's time of 1:32 put her in the top 100 of all women finishers, which is an outstanding performance and bodes well for the future. There were many more excellent runs by Sedgefield athletes of all ages and levels of experience – congratulations to everyone who completed the Great North Run, whether for the first or 31st time. A special mention should go to John Tomlinson, who is one of the select number of people who has completed every single Great North Run. There are officially fewer than 200 runners who can make this claim, though the real number is probably significantly lower.

Junior Athletics continued ...

Network Quadkids Shield and added to that 55 medals in the Quadkids Young Athletes League and 10 Quadkids trophies across the Gateshead Sunday League and the Hexham Quadkids meet.

September also saw the annual Harriers English Athletics Awards Night, again based on a Quadkids format, organised by Marie Walker with around a hundred juniors taking part. There was another excellent turnout for this highly popular event.

Harriers history was made by a trio of U13 girls, who became the first athletes to compete in a pentathlon for Sedgefield. Emma Scarborough took third place in the North East Pentathlon championships at Monkton, while Erin Peters and Sedgefield Community College student Aimee Barlow, made their pentathlon debuts.

September 16th saw a wonderful night at the North East Grand Prix Trophy Presentation night at Gateshead Stadium in which the junior Harriers dominated proceedings with nine trophy winners across the U13/U15/U17 - more than any other club. The winners were presented with their awards by Team GB Sprinter Richard Kilty, who recently competed in the World Championships in Moscow.

That's all for now. As ever, please send any sports news to **chrisjlines@aol.com**

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Your Letters

East Park controversy

Mr Hunter's letter last month prompted the following replies - the first from Dr Stephen Howell, the County Council's Head of Service for Culture & Sport.

Although I can appreciate the view expressed by Mr Hunter, the County Council must move with the times. The original access points to East Park were probably satisfactory when the area was an arable field and there was little traffic on the roads. However, times do change and East Park now requires many different aspects of management to ensure it is protected and develops as an important and accessible part of the local landscape. The main vehicle access opposite the Hotel was extremely hazardous and the use of Station Road as a regular route would be considerably less than convenient to local residents.

The new access from the roundabout to the historic park was the subject of extensive consultation and all conditions of the planning permission will be implemented. Even before the access was fully completed, it proved a benefit to local residents as it was made available to Sedgefield Show for their larger vehicles. This allowed additional parking that would otherwise have caused much more disruption in the village on show day. We obviously have a responsibility to provide a safe access and make sure it is entirely fit for purpose for all possible future use of East Park.

As with every aspect of work at Hardwick, reducing budgets for the management of the Park make it particularly important to minimise costs as much as possible. To this end, several aspects of the work on the new access have been carried out by volunteers. This has greatly reduced the overall cost to the Authority and provided the opportunity for valuable skill training to volunteers.

The new access represents the safest possible route into the Park for all vehicles. It is an improvement that, I am certain, is entirely necessary for the future upkeep of the Park and its enjoyment by visitors and local residents.

Reader, Alan Patterson had been in touch with MP Phil Wilson, who forwarded a reply he had from the Head of Planning & Assets at DCC. The gist of the reply was that approval was given on the basis of road safety issues, and ...

There were no objections from members of the public. The area was to be used for parking in association with the music event at Hardwick Hall. This did not need planning permission as it constitutes permitted development. The site could be used for events and parking for up to 28 days per year.

Another reader, Roy Smeeton writes ...

In support of Mr Hunter's letter last month the claim that the roundabout access to the East Park is to give an improved access for agricultural machinery seems to be a deliberate misrepresentation. The entrance to the Middle Field opposite Hardwick Hotel has now been closed to vehicles after 40 years or more of accident free operation.

On the subject of the above mentioned Music Event, Mr Smeeton continues ...

The noise levels at the north east corner of the Middle Field from the "Event" may be of interest: the Engineering Tool Box suggests the levels >50 dBA are annoying within a living area and moderately annoying outside. On Friday 13th the background noise from the road was ca 40-45 dBA with occasional spikes to ca 45 dBA when a heavy goods vehicle passed along the A177. At 7 pm the noise level fell to ca 38 dBA. On Saturday at noon the level was 47 dBA with the characteristic "thump, thump" of amplified music - sound level meters do not register very low notes. Between 12.30 and 14.00 the levels rose to 57-60 dBA. At 2 pm two men equipped with sound level meters were noticed at the same point and remarkably the noise level promptly diminished to <48 dBA. Promptly at 8.45 pm the noise level increased to 60 dBA prompting the question "Has the supervision gone home?" From 9pm until the finale the noise level in my double-glazed living room was regularly ca 57 dBA.

Sedgefield Show entry price

As much as I enjoyed the Sedgefield show and want to encourage local activities, alas I feel I must raise a concern at the price of the entrance fee to the Sedgefield show this year at £6.00. This is a local show to encourage local people and to draw in as many visitors as possible. I feel the entrance fee was extortionate compared to other local activities. The committee must reassess the prices or it will lose local support.

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