



SEDGFIELD NEWS

April 2019



2019 winner, Michael Adcock with his son Freddie



The game unfolds

2019 Ball Game - match report

Shortly after the start of this year's Ball Game, the passengers on X12 to Durham found themselves becalmed at Sedgfield zebra crossing amid a sea of swirling, unpredictable humanity. To the uninitiated passengers, it appeared to be mayhem unfolding on the roads; to the locals it was just the latest enactment of our annual Shrove Tuesday Ball Game.

The game is ancient in its origins, a contest between local farmers and tradesmen. The game resembles a lawless free for all characterised by behaviour that might kindly be described as robust but in fact it's governed by rules, traditions and conventions which determine how the game is won. The game begins at 1pm on the village green just behind the bus shelter opposite The Corner House. Players and spectators alike gather tightly to 'Alley' the specially made leather ball. This involves the ball being passed three times through a metal ring set into the ground, before being released for the assembled throng to chase. This action is traditionally carried out by a chosen elder resident, the honour falling this year to Mr David Mortimer.

The 'Alleying' done and the ball thrown out of the huddle the game was on. Eager to catch or kick the ball, players surged through the centre of the village, weaving their way through and past the braver spectators whose chosen method of viewing was to get as close to the action as possible. Others, arguably of a more sensible disposition watched from the margins of the ruck or, better still, from the warmth and safety of the local pubs and cafés. By 1.30 the ball had disappeared into a local pub to reappear sporadically throughout the rest of the afternoon.

By 4.30pm the ball had been dipped in the beck and returned to the village green by the victor. This year's winner was Mike Adcock. Mike becomes the third member of his family to win the game following his father, John, in 1974 and his brother, Tom, in 2017. *Tony Magee*

Bank Service Point proposal

As previously reported, Sedgfield Development Trust has been trying, since the closure of the Barclays Bank branch in Sedgfield, to encourage the introduction of alternative banking facilities. We are pleased to confirm that we are now in detailed discussions with NEFirst Credit Union with the objective of establishing a Service Point in Sedgfield.

The main purpose of the Credit Union is to provide savings and loan facilities on a "not for profit" basis, and it is owned and run by its members. It has established a large number of Service Points in North East England.

We expect that the Sedgfield Service Point will be open once a week in an easily accessible community location. The principal activities will be to register members, to deposit cash in savings accounts, and support the completion of loan documentation.

There will be no facility to withdraw cash. Loans and withdrawals from funds will be issued to members by bank transfer. The location will be staffed by volunteers under the supervision of the Credit Union.

We would welcome your views and would be very grateful for any comments or questions that you may have. **Please contact Mike Ashwell on 07843 229357 or email treasurer@**

New free service at Sedgfield Library.



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MAY EDITION DEADLINE : Monday 15th April

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National Photonics Healthcare Centre



The official opening of The Centre for Process Innovation's (CPI) National Healthcare Photonics Centre (NHPC) took place at Netpark last month. Stakeholders and prospective development partners attended a detailed presentation on the centre's ambitions in the field of healthcare innovation. The centre's resources, will be available to client companies, allowing both firms to work alongside each other in the development process. The NHPC will have the means to manufacture small numbers of devices for testing purposes. The centre's overarching goal is to help companies bring their photonic enabled products from the laboratory bench to market as quickly and safely as possible.

CPI aims to help companies become successful in Britain and feels it has a particularly important role to play in helping the North East become a global hub both for photonics related technology and, in the long term, for healthcare in general. As well as speeding up the development cycle for new products and ensuring they satisfy the high level of regulatory requirements, the NHPC will offer partner companies strategic advice in overcoming the challenges of competing with large and well established firms to get a foothold in this difficult to enter but ever expanding market.



Dr Tom Harvey welcoming visitors to the launch of The National Healthcare Photonics Centre .

Science and Art do mix!

AMBITIOUS plans to create hundreds of new jobs at NETPark have taken a major step forward with the opening of a new 1km road. And a new piece of artwork features at the new entrance.

Dignitaries gathered at the North East Technology Park (NETPark) during National Science Week to mark the opening of the road, named Rosalind Franklin Way after the pioneering scientist who contributed towards the discovery of DNA.

The works will allow a further 26 acres of land to be developed and create additional space for research and development companies which need room to prototype and scale up to manufacture on site.

The launch of the new road was held next to the bold Synergy sculpture, (pictured), which consists of four 300kg spheres and one larger, 700kg central sphere. All five spheres are made of stainless steel, with a blue mirror finish, and colour changing LED lighting to provide a dramatic effect at night.

The sculpture was created by Newcastle's Full Blown by inflating and stretching stainless steel. Full Blown's director Kate McDonnell said: "Each sphere is positioned at a different height to provide a dynamic eye line view, so as you enter the site you get different views as you move round the sculpture.

Amazingly, the sculpture can be seen from space and as a satellite image it emulates the NETPark logo.



URGENT. Nominations must be submitted by the end of March Sedgefield Young Citizen of the Year 2018

Do you know a young person, aged under 21 (on 31st December 2018) who has made an exceptional contribution to Sedgefield?

They may have:

- Excelled at representing our community in sport or the arts and culture
- Been a great example to others in a club, society or at school
- Done an amazing good deed
- Cared for someone close
- Simply been a positive role model for young people in Sedgefield

If you know someone who fits these descriptions, or who deserves the award for other reasons, please consider nominating them for the first Sedgefield Young Citizen of the Year Award (plus prize), which will be presented by the Mayor of Sedgefield in the Parish Hall during the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday 7th May.

Email your nomination to natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk or post it through the town council office letterbox.

Please include in your nomination:

1. The full name, address (if you know it) and age of the young person
2. An explanation of why they deserve the award (no more than 200 words)
3. Your name and contact details

Sponsored by Sedgefield Town Council, Rotary Club of Sedgefield, Sedgefield Development Trust, Sedgefield Youth Club.

Local Agricultural Show hits its 166th Year

Whether you are a baker, crafter, artist, or gardener why not enter Sedgefield Show and showcase your talents! Or perhaps your children or grandchildren would like to enter a category - baking, home grown vegetables, photography, handwriting, craft, a miniature garden and many more. Even your dog can get involved in a companion dog show!

Schedules are available to download from www.sedgefieldshow.co.uk

The Sedgefield and District Agricultural Show takes place in the Robert Brown Show Field, West Park, and the Show Committee anticipates a record number of entries and attendees on Saturday 10th August 2019. The recently developed logo and branding will help to attract families from further afield. The Show promotes the talents of our local community as well as showcasing rural life, with exhibits of the best local produce, livestock and wares, and offers something for all the family to enjoy.

Ian Mason, Show Chairman, said, "After increasing success and interest in Sedgefield Show, we are excited for this year's event, bringing new attractions in the hope of increasing attendees from a record number last year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind support and commitment."

Visitors can enjoy a variety of activities including a full range of competitions and displays comprising agricultural classes for horses, ponies and donkeys, vintage tractors, horticulture and a "Crufts Qualifier" dog show. The cattle and sheep and goat classes make a return this year, along with heavy horses. The Show will also host a Period Costume Display on Horseback by Rebecca Rawlinson and her team. Several marquees will host craft stalls, horticultural displays, home produce and handicrafts. The popular food hall makes a return this year with a vast range of local and regional delicacies on offer.

In the horticulture marquee visitors can view prize vegetables, home and farm produce and outstanding floral arrangements, and in the craft tent, a vast array of baked goods and crafts, whilst a wide range of goods will be on offer in the shopping marquee.

Villages like Sedgefield have been dependant on these rural activities for such a long time, and the Show Committee would like to thank the many supporters whose commitment allows a unique event like Sedgefield Show to bring local people, industries and traditions together to showcase rural life.

Quiz-lovers raise cash for church conservation

The fund to help preserve Sedgefield's ancient parish church has been given a £400 boost thanks to a couple who enjoy setting puzzles and locals who love solving them.

Friends of St Edmund's Church say their Spring Quiz Night and pie and pea supper at Ceddesfeld Hall again proved 'a great success'. This year's winners were a team of friends who called themselves 'The News Team' - Chris & Rachel Stephenson, Chris & Julia Rowsby, Lesley & Colin Lowe and Jane & Jonah Jones.

Quizmasters Judy and Peter Evans were thanked by MC Alison Hodgson for producing questions on a wide range of subjects which included local knowledge, current events and picture posers. Members of the Friends are now busy helping to promote a concert of choral music by the highly-acclaimed Sage Gateshead Chamber Choir in St Edmund's Church at 7pm on **Saturday, March 30th** (if you see the April edition of the News early enough you may still get tickets.) 'The Call of the Heavens' programme will feature pieces by Bach, Rutter, Parry and Haydn.

Tickets cost £10 including refreshments, and are available on the door or by calling 01740 662302 (Brian Mutch) or 645854 (Anne Eyley)



Thank you

Thank you very much for putting the details of the Snowdrop Walk in the February edition of the Sedgefield news. It turned out to be a beautiful day and raised £1240.00 for Child Bereavement UK. Thank you for your help and we really like the new look of the newsletter.

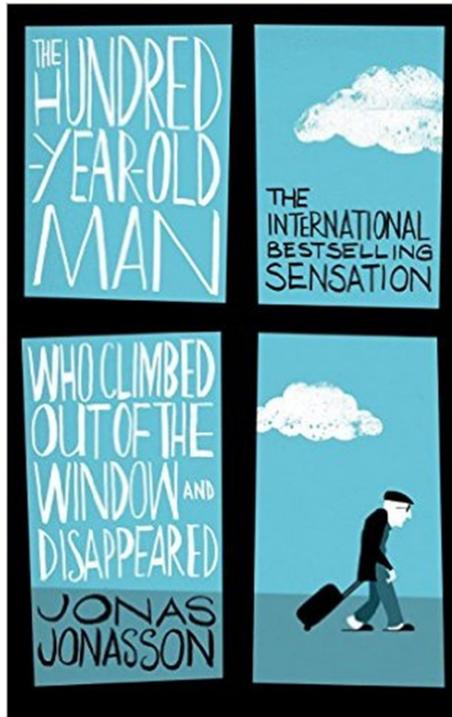
Julie Kilpatrick

Book Review by Tamzin Lafford**The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared, by Jonas Jonasson**

This book may have been written by a Swedish journalist turned novelist, but the humour resonates well with the British sense of the ridiculous. It's zany and madcap!

How many books do you know that combine a self-effacing 100-year-old explosives expert, an elephant, a suitcase inadvertently stolen, two murders but no dead bodies, Albert Einstein's dim, melancholic brother Herbert, a Russian gulag, cocktails on a beach in Bali and most of the major events in world politics in the twentieth century? To which said centenarian is purported to have contributed, thanks to an aversion to taking sides and a good-natured, uncalculating, trustful willingness to help anyone who asks him.

The old man escapes from his retirement home to avoid the birthday party imposed on him. The inept handling of the subsequent enquiry reminded me of Inspector Clouseau, as the senior citizen and a growing band of confederates swept up in the ingenuous conspiracy traverse Sweden, with the aforementioned elephant, largely unaware of the scale of their notoriety. I enjoyed the style of writing and some of the devices used, for example, the repetition of the description of the young man whose suitcase it is, and the phlegmatic reporting of sensational events. The book has pace all the way through, leaving the 100-year-old placid opportunist on the brink of another key role in world history. It might require a particular sense of humour to enjoy this book, but perhaps such a sense of humour is not so rare.



If you think you may want to join Kynren this year, please see below for open calls at the Kynren site.

- Saturday 27th April 10:30am
- Monday 20th May 5:30pm
- Thursday 13th June 5.30pm
- Tuesday 2nd July 5pm
- Monday 12th August 2pm
- Thursday 26th September 5pm

No reservation or registration is needed; just arrive on site 10 minutes before the session. Wear comfortable shoes outdoor clothing.

Approximate duration: 90 min. Parking available on site.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at volunteer@elevenarches.org

If you have an event at the planning stage, remember to book your space on this page and be sure of reaching your target audience. Email sedgefieldartsandevents@hotmail.com

Ceilidh**Saturday 27th April**

7pm in the Parish Hall,

Sedgefield

**Only £12 per ticket**including pie & peas
(or veggie option as required)

Bar available

Please come along for a night of dancing hosted by 1st Sedgefield Rangers to help raise money for four local girls who have been selected by Girl Guiding to travel to Sri Lanka, Canada and Bermuda!

Ticket from Marie - email

marie.walker1992@gmail.com

or from Jaiz Hairdressers

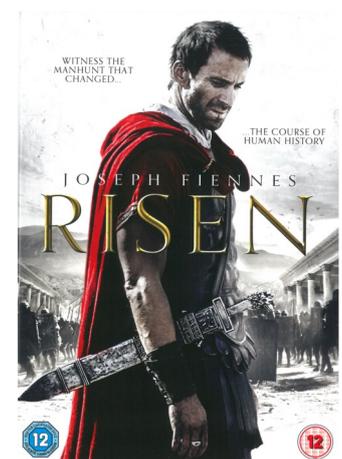
**SEDGEFIELD FARMERS MARKET
Sunday 7th April from 8.30am**

Local woodworker, Phil Dinsley is new in April, and 'Phil's custom woodworks' Facebook page is well worth a look.

"Extra Virgin Lovesome Rapeseed Oil" is grown & cold-pressed at Olly Lawson's farm in Brafferton. Meet him this month.

Sedgefield Churches Together are on our community stall, with hot cross buns, hot drinks, children's craft activities, information about the local churches, foodbank, and more. Ceddesfolk will kick off the 2019 music season, so do come out and have some fun while you shop!

DON'T FORGET TO GO GREEN WITH ONE OF OUR FAB NEW JUTE BAGS!

They saw him die, but where's the body?

Saturday 13th April 2019 - Sedgefield Parish Hall

Doors open 6.30 pm, screening starts 7.00 pm

Refreshments after the screening

Free entry - tickets from Tickety Boo, local churches or on the door

A Sedgefield Area Churches Together community event

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DIARY: April 2019

Submit your events to diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

- Mon 1st** **Methodist Wives and Friends.** Methodist Hall: 7.30pm. Flowers with Pauline.
Local History Society. Ceddesfeld Hall. 7.45pm. Annual General Meeting.
- Tue 2nd** **Sedgefield Tea Dance.** Sedgefield Parish Hall. All welcome. 1pm-3pm. £2.50, incl. refreshments. For information call Joyce 622601 or Ann 629070.
- Wed 3rd** **Sedgefield WI.** Sedgefield Parish Hall at 7.15pm. Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Sarah Natrass. Members' Competition, 'A Small Wooden Box'. Visitors Welcome (£3.50.)
- Thu 4th** **Sedgefield Show Meeting.** 8pm. Sedgefield Social Club. Grand National Draw.
- Fri 5th** **Veterans Coffee Morning.** Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-noon.
Sedgefield And District U3A. 2pm in the Parish Hall. Lee Brownson on "The Auckland Project so Far". Members free, visitors welcome; £3 at the door
- Sat 6th** **Drop in Surgeries.** Cllr J Robinson. Bradbury & Mordon Village Hall from 9 – 9.45am. Sedgefield Library 10-11am. Fishburn Community Centre, 11.15am-12 noon.
Sedgefield Bloom Dance. 7.30pm in The Parish Hall. Live music from duo 'Two True'. Tickets £10, including pie & peas supper, from the council offices.
- Sun 7th** **Sedgefield Farmers' Market.** On the village green from 8.30am.
New Generation Church (United Service) Bethany Centre, Village Close, Newton Aycliffe. 10.30am. (DL5 4UD)
- Tue 9th** **Ladies Club.** Ceddesfeld Hall, 8pm. "Gardening" by Marjorie Goodchild.
- Wed 10th** **Neighbourhood Watch Meeting.** 7pm. Social Club upstairs room.
Cyber Security Presentation by Cyber Crime Officer, Kate Cain. All welcome.
- Fri 12th** **Sedgefield Country Market.** Parish Hall 10am-11.30am. Home baked produce, Crafts, Jams, Cards, Plants, Refreshments. For info call 629441.
Sedgefield Blues Club. A night with Chris Big Wolf Band + Midnite Blue (see artist update at foot of next column). Doors open 7pm. Tickets £15. Visit www.sedgefieldblues.com for further info.
Live Music Night at Sedgefield Cricket Club: Locals Night (Folk Festival Fund Raiser) 7.30pm. Performers - Pipe Dream, Broadband, Old Age Travellers, Trevor Bond, Trish McLean, Ray Thom, Auld Vagabonds and John Wrightson Band. Admission £10. Call 621347 for further details.
- Sun 14th** **New Generation Church.** 10.30am at The Parish Hall, Sedgefield.
- Tue 16th** **Sedgefield Tea Dance.** At Sedgefield Parish Hall. All welcome. 1-3pm. £2.50, incl. refreshments. For information call Joyce 622601 or Ann 629070.
Willowdene Care Home. Afternoon tea 3pm. For info tel: Angela on 771310
Sedgefield, Ferryhill & District Flower Club. Open Night: 7.30pm in Sedgefield Parish Hall. Demonstration "Watch with Mother" by Heather Curry. All Welcome. Tickets: Members £5. Non Members £8.
- Thu 18th** **Sedgefield Memory Café.** 10.30am– 12pm @ Sedgefield Fire Station.
For Dementia Clients and Their Carers Only.
- Fri 19th** **Good Friday Procession.** 10am from St Edmund's Church to St John Fisher's then The Methodist Church. Music From New Generation Church creative team. Hot Cross buns and drinks to follow. Everyone welcome.
- Sun 21st** **New Generation Church (Easter United Service)** at Bethany Centre, Village Close, Newton Aycliffe. 10.30am. (DL54UD)
- Tue 23rd** **Bradbury and Mordon Ladies Circle.** 7.30pm in Mordon & Bradbury Village Hall. A talk by Felix Davies on "Pilgrimages".
Ladies Club. Ceddesfeld Hall, 8pm. Bingo.
- Sun 28th** **New Generation Church.** 10.30am. The Parish Hall, Sedgefield.
- Mon 29th** **Wives and Friends.** Methodist Hall. 7.30pm. George Hetherington – Music.

Sedgefield Library

Tel: 03000 269521 Opening Hours:

- Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm
 - Thursdays: 10am - 6pm
 - Fridays: 1pm - 7pm
 - Saturdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm
- Thursdays 10.30 - 12.30:** Basic computing, tailored to your needs.
Thursdays 2pm: 'Boogie Beat' Pre-school session. Booking reqd.
Craft Group: 1.30pm 2nd & 4th Fri.
Book Circle: 2pm 3rd Friday.
New: Borrow Box service.
New members welcome

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at Sedgefield Community College
New Dance Generation - Monday U9s 5-5.45pm. Over 9s 5.45-6.30pm
Clubercise: Tues 6pm
Zumba: Tues 6.30pm & **Thurs** 7pm
Blade Taekwondo: Sat 10.30am
Call **01740 617882** for all enquiries.

April @Sedgefield Social Club

Sat 6th: John Conlon.
Sat: 13th: Sarah Mathews.
Mon 15th: Country Night, Billy Davis.
Sat 20th: John Brown.
Sat 27th: Kevin Royale.

April Sessions - Sew Easy

Mon 1, 8 & 15th: 6.30 - 9pm.
Wed 10, 17 & 24th: 10.30am to 1pm
Venue: Parish Hall Boardroom.

Ceddesfeld Acoustic Group

First Friday & last Wednesday of every month. All acoustic instruments are welcome.

St John Fisher Catholic Church Weekly Mass Times

Weds & Fri mornings, 9.45am.
Sunday Mass 10.45am. Children's Liturgy runs during this mass in term time only.
Adoration Thursday evening 7pm.
Legion of Mary meeting every Friday morning after Mass.
To contact The Parish Office, email parishsecretary1961@btconnect.com

Sedgefield Blues Club

Sadly, Frankie Miller's Full House cannot now make the 12th April. The 'Big Wolf Band' will be standing in for them. To receive a refund contact the club. Alternatively, your ticket is still valid.

Never be afraid to ask the question!

We will always try to find the best way to promote or publicise your event

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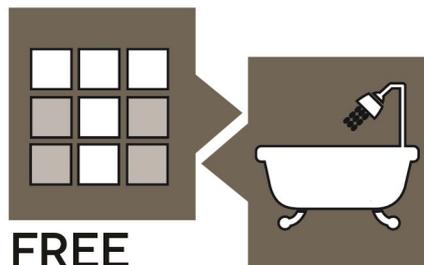
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Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Working Together to Keep Crime Down

Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch has been meeting with Durham Police to find and introduce ways of working together to keep crime down. Importantly, we commit to supporting each other to maximise results. We have actioned the following:

NHW meeting dates are now set for the rest of the year to coincide with Sedgefield Police shift patterns.

NHW Vice Chair Ian Milne (an ex-Police Officer) is to be our key link with the Sedgefield beat team of PC John Lamb and PCSO Amy Jorgeson.

NHW Committee Secretary: A new volunteer who is an ex-Special Constable.

NHW website: coming soon.

A Cyber Security Presentation has been arranged on 10th April at 7pm in the Social Club with Police Cyber Crime Officer Katie Cain. (All welcome and entry is free).

Working together of course also includes you, the members of the Community, so please report incidents quickly to the Police. All information is treated in the strictest of confidence. **Dial 101 (or emergency 999) or Crimestoppers helpline 0800 555 111**



Left to Right: Ian Milne and David Hughes with PC John Lamb and PCSO Amy Jorgeson.

Anti Social Behaviour

NHW and Police are continuing to address this, your major concern from the survey feedback. Recently NHW produced hard copies of a Police Notice on this subject and posted them on notice boards around the village. The Statement, by PCSO Lisa Hall, can also be read on the 'In The Know' website. In short, the statement reiterates the measures the police are determined to take to tackle this issue. Measures will include the use of Dispersal Orders, Community Protection Orders to debar specified individuals from the centre of Sedgefield at stated times and parents issued with warnings. Also, children found with alcohol will be removed to a safe place to be collected by parents following an interview with the Police Sergeant or Inspector. Parents need to understand that a referral to social services **will always** be made where children are found in possession of alcohol. The Police are especially keen to emphasise parents' responsibility for

Are Our Kids Safe Online?

If you feel you need some help to understand how to help keep your children safe online you could do worse that attend the above mentioned Cyber Security Presentation on April 10th. We all know that the internet is a fantastic resource for learning, communication and entertainment. However, it is largely unregulated and unfortunately the media of choice for people with bad intentions who don't care who they are harming. Adults are generally more aware of potential online issues where our children's natural urge to reach out and trust makes them less prepared to handle some of the negative and potentially damaging situations they may meet on the internet.

'Switched on' parents are better equipped to protect their children online, not only by learning how to use parental control features on devices and specialist software but also by engaging with them from an early age about these issues and maintaining that conversation as they grow up in their digital world. A guide on these issues is available at www.getsafeonline.org/safeguarding-children.

Click on the 'Switched On Parent' button for easy to follow and implement advice written by experts... and better still it's free.

Remember, crime isn't as common as you think but... don't be a victim. Lock up, stay safe and sleep well.

criminal acts committed by those under 18 years old. For example, a recent incident involved damage to several cars on Stockton Rd. Police have evidence and are following up lines of enquiry.

Letter from PC Lamb

Hello Everybody.

The newly appointed officials of Sedgefield NHW have made some sterling progress and are keen to enlist the public to provide as many pairs of eyes as possible.

Despite the work done last summer on the anti-social behaviour problem there is still a minority of youths who appear intent on causing damage to property and distress to residents. Parents can play a big part in moderating the behaviour of some of these youths by pointing out a few home truths such as:

The landlord of a pub has every right to demand that a person leaves their premises. If you are underage and trying to get served in a pub, you must leave when you are asked to go.

Refusal to leave can legally be met with removal by force, if required. Anyone photographing a young person in the act of threatening behaviour, criminal damage etc is doing nothing wrong. A young person who shouts and swears in response, however, is committing a criminal offence. Last year we took action against a number of youths whose life choices have been affected as a result. Ring leaders who instigate this sort of behaviour want to impress their friends and to seem brave on the streets but once in custody are mostly tearful and ask, "Will this affect me in the future?" The answer of course is, "Yes, it will!"

Local Police. Call 101 to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information. Always keep notes and ask for an incident number.

Crime Prevention Officer Rona Stocks.

rona.stocks@durham.pnn.police.uk

Police Community Cohesion Officer

Faye Callan. 101 Extension 742317.

Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk

Confidential email address.

John.lamb@durham.pnn.police.uk

Any information we receive will be developed and acted upon.

The articles appearing on this page are abridged versions of fuller documents provided by David Hughes, Chairman of Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch and PC Lamb, Sedgefield Beat Officer. The original versions can be read online at www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk.

Steve's Nature Diary for April

As I write this, it is absolutely pouring down, not good for getting out and about but ideal conditions for amphibians! People often ask me what is the best thing you can do for wildlife in your garden and the answer is a pond, whether it is small or large it provides so much to your garden for wildlife.

For this year's **Wild About Gardens** challenge, The Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) are calling on people to put in a pond. From mini container ponds to larger sunken ponds, it's *THE* garden feature that can make the biggest difference to wildlife.

With much of the UK's native flora and fauna under threat, often down to habitat loss, **Wild About Gardens** sees the two charities join forces to raise awareness of the importance of gardens in supporting wildlife and offer advice on how to make them more wildlife-friendly.

The UK has lost ponds, rivers and streams at a rapid rate and only a small amount of our natural ponds and wetlands remain. Many of these are in poor condition and 13% of UK freshwater and wetland species are threatened with extinction. The loss of these important places – to development, drainage and intensive farming – is linked to a huge decline in wildlife, including frogs and toads, water voles and insects. Adding a pond is one of the best ways you can help wildlife and enjoy the benefits of seeing water plants, birds and bees close to home. Digging a pond is great for hedgehogs to have somewhere to drink and for frogs, newts and other amphibians to feed and breed. All ponds, large, small, dug or container, are good news for bats, damselflies, dragonflies, and other insects. **I only have a small garden, so my pond is a sunken washing up bowl. It is well used by frogs and has been visited by dragonflies.**

The **Wild About Gardens** team are providing pond-tastic inspiration to get you started: enjoy the fabulous "Big or Small, Ponds for All" booklet – a step-by-step guide to creating the perfect pond. Download the booklet from www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk and get digging.



All change at the Hardwick Arms

You may have noticed that the Hardwick Arms Hotel has closed, but it is only temporary whilst the renovations that are evident on the outside are completed on the inside.

The Management Team would like to thank everyone who has supported the business since they acquired it in May 2018. This has helped shape the future of the business, considering the social, cultural and ethical business nature for Sedgfield. The renovation will make no change to the Grade II listed property's historic charm, and they hope to open by the end of May.

The Hotel: the 11 bedrooms will be redecorated and the facilities upgraded

The Bar and Café: these will be accessed from the left of the coach arch. The bar will be a music, sports and social networking area. The summer café will be available for brunch and afternoon tea.

The Herd and Herb Restaurant: will be accessed from the right of the arch. This area will be refurbished, including new toilets and baby changing facilities. The restaurant will use seasonal local fare, with a classic European style of meat, fish, vegetarian and gluten free options.

The Lounge: a bright modern lounge space will be created for relaxing and chatting. Another chapter begins in the life of this historic coaching inn.



Your Letters

Durham Road chicanes

Your February issue included a letter criticising the traffic calming measures on Durham Road. These chicanes had a significant positive impact on road noise outside our house when they were introduced, by reducing the number of drivers accelerating along Durham Road in excess of the speed limit. I do not believe that a few frustrated drivers, some of whom resort to aggressive driving to get through the chicanes, provides a sound basis for advocating their removal, unless there is something more effective to put in their place.

In the absence of any better ideas to calm the traffic and control excess speed, I would prefer that they remain as they are.

Duncan Woods, Sedgfield

Horses at Winterton

I live in the Winterton area of Sedgfield where we walk our two dogs and we make sure that any waste is deposited in the bins provided. So, is this about others dog owners not doing the same? No, generally everyone is very respectful of the space and the community. What really, really irritates me are the owners of horses who see fit to ride them through the estate, often on the footpaths, and allow the horses to defecate without even attempting to clear up the considerable mess they leave in their wake. The argument will no doubt be that there isn't a law against it and that there aren't the health issues associated with horses that there are with dogs. Their waste may be considered 'organic' but it is still seriously unpleasant to encounter on a pavement outside your home. Please don't think I am anti horses, I'm not; they are lovely animals but, given the countryside available on the doorstep, is it really necessary to ride a horse through a housing estate? Just have some consideration for the residents please.

Name and address supplied

Spring is well on its way and the annual Egg Hunt (under 12's) takes place on Easter Monday 22nd April, with Easter eggs hidden in the grounds, prizes for different age groups and an Easter bonnet and decorated egg competition. It begins at 1.45 pm in the main hall with the selection of the Mediaeval Fayre May Queen and her attendants, by raffle ticket draw. The free egg hunt, sponsored by SCA and the Mediaeval Fayre Committee, begins at 2 pm. The bar will also be open.

Another fund raiser for Mediaeval Fayre is St George's Dinner on Saturday 27th April. It starts with a drinks reception at 7 pm, followed by a meal of steak pie, vegetables and sweets, cheese board and coffee or tea and mints to finish. Entertainment is by the very popular Lirica. At a very reasonable price of just £20, tickets are going fast. To book a place please contact Pat on 01740 620607 or John on 01740 620042.

Preparations for Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre (Saturday 18th May) are well underway. We're looking forward to starting the day with the children's walking parade which this year is based on 'The Greatest Showman'. The circus skills theme goes through much of the day with free workshops and activities taking place on the lawns and on the green.

Popular attractions, fun fair rides, craft stalls, community stalls and a range of activities which include mediaeval displays, Living History, Tug of War, Birds of Prey and face painting on the green and in the grounds of Ceddesfeld are there for everyone to enjoy. The fayre is a longstanding community event which draws people to the town and provides an opportunity for a great family day out. There are refreshments and the bar at Ceddesfeld Hall is open all day. It's also a busy day for the local pubs and businesses, several of which sponsor the event. Many local groups

do get involved but any further support from volunteers who can offer help selling raffle tickets, manning stalls and with preparation in the run up to the day is much needed. Please do get in touch or add your name to the rota lists in the foyer at Ceddesfeld. Just one hour of your time makes a big difference.

The 'Proclamation' and collections timetable will be in next month's edition so please be ready with any toys, books, tins & groceries, bric-a-brac and raffle/tombola prizes, when volunteers come knocking. Collectors will be easily recognisable wearing yellow SCA waistcoats. All volunteers will have an opportunity to take part in a free prize draw. We're looking forward to a great day! For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, call Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 01740 620607, Sarah on 01740 622185. Visit us on Facebook or www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk

Sedgefield Development Trust Projects

Working for the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Fishburn

SEDFIELD ENERGY SWITCH: Still gathering momentum

FEBRUARY REGISTRATIONS INCREASED BY 65% ON SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR!

We still believe that participation gives residents the best chance of minimising energy costs, which are widely known to have risen by over 30% during the past two years. An example from those who have been a part of Sedgefield Energy Switch since October 2014, shows an average user would have paid £927 for that year. Significant savings would have made in the following years and they now would expect to pay £962, an increase of less than 4%. You can join by registering in April. If you are already a part of the scheme and your current contract ends before the end of July, you need to register in this next period in to continue to be part of the scheme.

REGISTRATION METHODS. 1. Online at www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk. Open ENERGY SWITCH, click on 'REGISTER NOW' then 'SIGN UP TODAY' & fill out your details.

2. Through the post, or for help with registration, please call **07980 134 594**.

Registration commits you to nothing and you will NOT receive pestering phone calls.

Registration OPENS on 2nd April, CLOSES on 20th May 2019. The Auction is on 21st May. Offer Letters issued from 3rd June. Final Acceptance date, 2nd July 2019.

HOMEWORK HELP

More young people are coming forward for Homework Help, which is great! We'd love to be able to help even more, so we need more volunteers. If you would like to help, particularly with English or maths (regularly or as occasional cover) or want to find out more about it, please do get in touch.

Email homeworkhelpsedgefield@gmail.com or find us on [sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk) or on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/homeworkhelpsedgefield>. All volunteers are DBS checked. Many thanks!

We also have a new contact willing to talk to anyone interested in a career in finance. Contact the e-mail address above and we'll arrange a discussion.

NEWS DELIVERERS NEEDED URGENTLY

News of a long-standing volunteer moving away means that volunteer(s) are needed to deliver a total of 60 copies to Caden Court, Naylor Rd, Lisle Gardens and Swyfte Close. If you can help, please contact Judith Edgoose. Call **07899 984 464** or email mail@toddschousefarm.co.uk

WOODLAND & WILDLIFE

420 more trees were planted on a sunny day in March.



SEDFIELD NEWS

If you would like to join the team that produces Sedgefield News, we are looking for voluntary help with some of the practicalities of getting the news to print. This might mean sorting the diary, organising proofreading, making arrangements with the printer and possibly helping with advertising.

The primary requirement for anyone on the team is good English, but good IT and admin skills are key to this project. Mainly though, you need a willingness to work with the team, to try to understand how we work and fill in the gaps which lack of time tends to create.

Please also contact us if your interest is in the detailed production of a publication, using Microsoft Publisher.

Email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com or call/text the news phone, 07572 502 904.

Sport in Sedgfield

Email club reports to Chris Lines: chrisjlines@aol.com

Youth teams - please call Tony Magee on 07837 114 271 if you would like him to report on your club or matches

It's been another busy month in the world of Sedgfield sport, so without any further ado...

Youth Football

In the January edition of Sedgfield News, it was reported that Sedgfield Youth FC U9s were again flying high in the Russell Foster Youth League (RFYL). They continued to fly and after a run of eight consecutive victories at the end of the season, the team finished top of the winter league, claiming their fourth promotion, and third title, in a row. Congratulations to all of the boys, parents and coaches involved.

The spring league competition has just started and the team is going to be competing in the RFYL every Saturday. When they reach U10 level, they will also be competing in the Teesside Junior Football Alliance every Sunday. I will keep you updated with the youngsters' progress.



Squash

Sedgfield Squash Club is heading towards the season finale, with the Club Championships set to be decided across senior and junior categories. All of the semi-finals and finals will be held over four evenings from Tuesday 23rd to Friday 26th April, and spectators are welcome.

All this comes after the senior teams' county league seasons draw to a close. Final placings will be confirmed next month, when it's hoped that, after an unusually high number of injuries affected the club's ability to field the strongest line-ups, the teams will have managed to hang on to their respective divisional statuses.

As ever, membership enquiries should go to Sue Smith at curlietailz@aol.com.

Cricket

Sedgfield Cricket Club will once again offer the EBC's All Stars Cricket coaching scheme this year, beginning on Friday 24th May and running for eight weekly sessions from 5.15 - 6.00pm. It might still seem a little way off, but registration is live now.

All Stars is open to girls and boys aged five to eight. Every child receives an impressive kit bag, including a cricket bat and personalised shirt. Last year, over 60 children took part in All Stars at Sedgfield, and with sessions being at the end of the working week, the clubhouse bar always proved to be very popular with the parents! Numbers are already looking extremely promising for 2019, with some children returning for their third year, but there is still time to register. This should be done via the ECB website at www.allstarscricket.co.uk.

For Sedgfield CC, the new season will begin, unusually, over Easter weekend. The 1st XI will start their campaign away to Great Ayton, with the opening senior home fixture seeing the 3rd XI take on take on Darlington RA. Membership enquiries can be emailed to sccmemberships@outlook.com. For details of fixtures and other news, 'like' the club's Facebook page or follow @Sedgfield_CC on Twitter.

parkrun

The phenomenal success that is Sedgfield parkrun has recently celebrated its seventh birthday. Since its launch, 8,123 different people have completed 61,289 parkruns in Hardwick Park (an average of 168 people at each of the 364 events) and covered a distance of 306,445km. Sedgfield parkrun is free for all participants and organised entirely by volunteers. The seventh birthday celebrations involved a mass singalong and the presentation of two awards: Sedgfield parkrunner of the Year went to Michael Scott, while Olly King was named Volunteer of the Year.

Anyone who would like to run, jog or walk a 5km route around Hardwick Park can register at www.parkrun.org.uk/register.

Athletics

The annual Neptune Relays event will be held in Hardwick Park on the evening of Wednesday 24th April. Hosted by Sedgfield Harriers, these four-leg relay races have become well established on the region's grass roots athletics calendar and regularly attract teams from throughout the North East.

Each runner will complete a 1.7 mile loop of the park, starting and finishing in the temple field. The Neptune Relays is a very inclusive event, and while there is always some very competitive running at the front of every race, each one is suitable and welcoming to all ages and abilities (and great for spectators too).

Entry is on the day, with registration opening at 4:00pm in the visitors' centre, and racing starting at 6:45pm. The traditional prizes of fruit will be awarded on the night. For more information email ean2005@hotmail.co.uk or call Ean Parsons on 07771 828 568.

That's all for this month. Email sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com