



Produced by volunteers for the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Fishburn
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Sedgefield NEWS

December 2014

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The Editor, 55 White House Drive, TS21 3BU. Deadline for January is 9th December

A very Merry Christmas to all our readers

An early Christmas treat! Energy Switch saves villagers £1000s

Those of you who joined the Sedgefield Energy Switch should all have received your own offers for the supply of electricity and gas for the coming year. Now we can tell you the bigger picture for people in our area.

- * 216 people successfully registered with the scheme in Sedgefield, Fishburn, Bradbury and Mordon, plus a few friends from further afield.
- * The potential average saving per household was over £200, and the biggest potential saving was more than £700!
- * Over 60% of the people who registered could save more than £150.
- * The total potential savings to residents in our area who registered with the scheme, if all participating customers accept their offer, is almost £48,000!

If you have taken part in this scheme and are happy with your results please tell your friends and family; we want people in Sedgefield to benefit as much as possible.

Future registration

For those people who did not register by 13th October, the next opportunity will start on the 2nd December and be open until the 2nd February 2015. The auction will take place on 3rd February. Offers based on the results of the next auction will be issued to those who register by 13th February. Offers and acceptance should be made by 16th March 2015.

Sedgefield Energy Switch is done as part of the 'Big Energy Switch', which, in Sedgefield, Fishburn, Bradbury and Mordon is organised for the community by the volunteers of Sedgefield Development Trust.



Local school in Top 200!

A big pat on the back to all at Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School, who were thrilled to hear that they have reached number 188 in the **Sunday Times Top 200 Primary Schools** nationwide; an outstanding achievement, not only for the school but for this community.

Christmas deliveries

1st Sedgefield Explorers offer to deliver your local Christmas cards again this year.

Fully address your Sedgefield cards and drop them off at Number Four or Tickety-Boo on High Street. The last date for drop-off is Saturday 20th December.

All donations given will be gratefully received and used to provide Scouting opportunities for our young people.

#WeAreTen

It's been an exciting few days on Twitter as NETPark celebrated its 10th anniversary, so I thought I'd share some recent tweets from **@netpark**, for readers who don't do Twitter but may still be interested in what goes on in those slightly mysterious buildings on our doorstep.

Editor @sedgefieldnews

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**NB. Early deadline for January news: Tuesday 9th December
email copy to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com or text 07572 502 904**

Twenty is plenty!

"Watch out and slow down" is the key message from Ron Hogg, Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner, who is in favour of introducing 20mph speed limits near schools. Road traffic accidents are the single largest cause of death for children and young people aged 5-25 and evidence is growing that 20mph pilots are showing marked reductions in deaths and casualties.

Improving road safety is one of the policing priorities Mr Hogg, pictured right, has tasked the Chief Constable to deliver. He is also working with partners to tackle other road issues, including speeding, dangerous driving and illegal and inconsiderate parking.



County Durham Plan Examination in Public

Update from Sedgefield Town Council

As many readers will be aware, the draft "County Durham Plan" sets out Durham County Council's proposals for new development across the county between now and 2030; this includes significant development within Sedgefield. Those of you who have followed the progress of The Sedgefield Plan (p4 this month) will know that it was initiated by the town council and, once approved, will sit alongside the County Durham Plan to set out a strategic framework for land use (and therefore planning) in Sedgefield.

Throughout the development of the County Durham Plan, the town council has sought the views of residents and presented them to the county council. The latest draft of the plan is currently being subjected to its Examination In Public (EIP) to determine if it has been prepared in accordance with the legal and procedural requirements set out in legislation, and if it is sound in terms of guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework. The examination is led by Harold Stephens, an inspector appointed by central government. The EIP has three stages and the first is drawing to a close. Alongside other groups and individuals from Sedgefield, the town council has played an active role in the process.

One of the key subjects covered during the first stage of the EIP has been allocations of housing on sites across the county. Representatives from Sedgefield Town Council have attended four EIP hearings and made contributions on behalf of the community. During the hearings, other representatives spoke on behalf of communities in many parts of the county, as did numerous representatives of developers and landowners. Some of the hearings were long, detailed and at times, heated.

Throughout all of this, representatives from Sedgefield delivered strong, rational and consistent messages. The town council's stance has always been very clear - that, based on community consultation, Sedgefield will accept no more than 300 new dwellings and that these should not all be located on one site.

The combination of written and verbal statements from the town council and Sedgefield Residents' Forum, written submissions from the steering group of The Sedgefield Plan, who also supplied the town council representatives with valuable information ahead of hearings, and contributions from individuals in the community, persuaded Harold Stephens to make a special, previously unplanned visit to Sedgefield to see potential housing development sites for himself. The town council liaised with Mr Stephens' team to organise the visit.

It is the view of the town council that Sedgefield has been very effectively represented during the first stage of the Examination In Public, and that the combined efforts of several groups and individuals have served the community very well. An interim EIP report is expected from Harold Stephens towards the end of January and, assuming that the process continues as scheduled, stage two will focus on specific areas and sites identified for development and stage three will examine the Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule.

The town council will participate in both of these stages, continuing to work with other community groups and individuals, and will keep residents updated on progress in future editions of Sedgefield News and the Sedgefield Extra.

New Year's Eve fireworks

Last year, Sedgefield Town Council took the decision to cancel the New Year's Eve fireworks. This was done in the context of the increasing pressure on the council budget and was one of a series of measures that also saw the council cancel the Mayor's wine & cheese event. Early this year, a petition was handed in to the council asking for the display to be reinstated and the potential for that has been investigated. The council set up a working group to review the management of all events involving fireworks and it became clear that some changes needed to be made from a health and safety and insurance perspective. These are mandatory, not optional. Consequently, the cost of putting on even a very short display on New Year's Eve would be many times greater than in previous years, and other health and safety requirements would make the event extremely problematic. In these circumstances, the council will not be reinstating the event this year. The feasibility of holding a display next year will be discussed during the Community Development and Engagement Committee meeting on 19th January 2015, which will start in the council offices at 7pm.

Ceddesfeld Hall Home of Sedgefield Community Association (SCA)



The residents of Sedgefield are very fortunate to live in a place which offers such rich and varied community involvement. Ceddesfeld Hall is a place, very much at the heart of the community and since its formation in 1972, the SCA, (a group of enthusiastic and hard working local volunteers) have provided the opportunity for local groups, residents, families and visitors to enjoy and benefit from taking part in community life, whether it be through being part of one of the many small interest groups which meet regularly at Ceddesfeld, calling in for a drink at the bar (which sells real ale), hosting a special occasion at the Hall or taking part in bigger events such as the Medieval Fair, Beer Festival or Easter Egg Hunt! As with any organisation, the SCA is keen to attract new members, groups and volunteers so it can continue to improve and serve the community in a way that supports and reflects local interests and pastimes. Ceddesfeld Hall is open for business and we are currently promoting the many and varied activities through local advertising (look out for a special events leaflet), and updating our website. Regular articles in Sedgefield News will also keep you informed, so please keep your eyes open for future events in the months to come. Christmas 'Carols on the Green', starting at 6 pm on Friday 19th December, followed by Traditional Yuletide Mulled Wine, at Ceddesfeld Hall. There is much on offer and we're keen for more people to get involved in any way they can.

**For more information, contact
Wendy, 01740 620206, Pat, 620607
or visit www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk.**

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Get to grips with the new Defibrillator

The Sedgefield Village Games and North East Ambulance Service defibrillator training has been going well and there will be more sessions in December. We have provisionally organised a session for young people at the community college early in the month, and an evening session for the public will be held at Sedgefield Surgery on Tuesday 16th from 6.30-8pm. This, hopefully, will be convenient for more people.

Like the others, it will be a free drop-in event, but we are keen to have an idea of potential numbers, so if people are interested, we'd encourage them to contact the surgery on 620300 and confirm a place, or contact me for more information on 07971 868329 or chrisjlines@aol.com.



North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

As you will be aware, the Trust recently announced that the Board had made a decision to pause development work on the new hospital at Wynyard until after the general election next year. The Trust wants to talk to the public about the new hospital and the benefits it will bring, but they also know that people have concerns about transport and other issues.

They know that it is important to get people's views so they are encouraging people to come along to one of a series of open meetings where the public will have an opportunity to hear from the Trust and have their say about the future of health services provided by them. Your opportunity here in the Sedgefield area is at 11am on Monday 1st December in the Parish Hall.

Sedgefield in Bloom Hat-trick

As reported briefly in last month's edition, Sedgefield in Bloom won gold once again at the Britain in Bloom awards, held in Bristol in October. This proud hat-trick of national golds follows regional awards of Gold and Best Small Town in Northumbria in Bloom. Teams who do well in their local region are invited to step up to the national competition. It is most unusual to be invited three times in a row, and to win gold each time is almost unheard of.

The team was delighted to receive a letter of congratulations from Eileen Burn, Chairman of Northumbria in Bloom. After describing the 'huge wave of pride' following the announcement of Gold for Sedgefield in Britain in Bloom, she continued, "What a great achievement, and all the more to be admired because of your sustained national campaign over the past three years. You really are all heroes! I hope some well-earned rests are now being taken. The Trustees want to congratulate everyone involved in Sedgefield in Bloom, and all the additional volunteers throughout the town, on your wonderful and well-deserved award. We would also like to thank the members of Sedgefield in Bloom for continuing to be great ambassadors for Northumbria in Bloom through the national competition. I have enjoyed my judging and mentoring visits so much over the past two years. You are always so hospitable and infectious enthusiasm and I have appreciated very much what I have learned from you as a group. The benchmark is set high!"

In addition, the recent County Durham Environment Partnership Awards recognised the outstanding achievements of the community-led partnership in the use of horticulture to provide a welcoming, vibrant and sustainable village. Chairman Howard Smith said, "This is further recognition of the efforts of Sedgefield Town Council, their professional gardeners and the volunteers of Sedgefield in Bloom working together for the benefit of the whole community. We are also very grateful for the continued support of local businesses, organisations and keen gardeners from tiny tots to veterans, who make Sedgefield so blooming great." Even those with less green fingers can help by coming along to Bloom fundraisers (see our Christmas Coffee Morning on p.6)



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*Teas: Spiced winter red
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Sedgefield in Bloom chairman, Howard Smith and Mayor, Mel Carr receive the award from Roger Burnett, chairman of the Royal Horticultural Society

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel Congratulations to our Young Citizen of the Year

On Monday 3rd November I had the privilege to present this year's Alan Sowerby Award to the pupil from Sedgefield Community College. The staff had chosen the most deserving student for their performance in College and in the Community, during the school year 2013-14.

It was a very big surprise, and particularly pleasing to me, when I was told that the chosen one was the same pupil to whom I had presented the Citizen of the Year 2011-12 at Sedgefield Primary School; none other than **Ryan Stewart**, pictured right.

It was also pleasing because Ryan has also played his cornet for Sedgefield Veterans on numerous occasions, particularly The Last Post, and is extremely gifted. I know that Eric Richards (trumpeter retired) is also very proud of him.

Well done, Ryan!

*David Hillerby, Vice Chairman,
Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch*



The Sedgefield Plan

Shaping the future of our area

It is now 14 months since we commenced this important project with the community and it has not been without its frustrations and problems along the way; however we are now within sight of submitting the final document to Durham County Council (DCC) for approval and inspection and hopefully 'The Plan' will be 'made' and become a statutory element in all planning applications in and around Sedgefield.

The Sedgefield Plan's inspection process needs explanation, we will submit our final submission draft to DCC in late November early December, DCC then have to submit it to a statutory 6 week consultation with this community and all interested parties. Whilst this is going on we will appoint an inspector jointly with DCC who will, hopefully, commence the inspection process early in the new year. The inspector will choose one of three options; 1) It is fit for purpose. 2) it is fit for purpose but needs modification or 3) It is not fit for purpose. Our objective is to achieve option 1 or 2 after which the Plan will go forward to a community referendum when you will be invited to vote for or against and a simple majority of 51% of those voting will win the day with a positive vote for the plan to be 'made'.

So much for our plan, but as you know DCC's Local Plan is currently going through its inspection process at which some of my colleagues, the residents forum, some individuals and the town council have had an opportunity to voice their concerns and seek clarification of some of the assertions that DCC have made. It has become clear that the Eden Drive and Beacon Lane sites will be considered by the inspector and it seems that he will determine which of these alternative sites goes forward to planning to meet DCC's allocation of 450 houses. It has also emerged that DCC highways have decided that they will leave Stockton Road open but only with access to the A689 by left turn, to access the A177. We will have to go through the new estate on Eden Drive if that alternative is chosen. At the DCC plan inspection we questioned the figures stated in the Arc 4 SHMAA Appendix A1, showing Sedgefield as having 7133 houses. DCC's response indicated that this figure represented Sedgefield plus the surrounding settlements. However we would question whether this figure has been used to justify an allocation of 470 houses to Sedgefield village. This represents an increase of almost 20% on the actual number of houses in Sedgefield, currently recorded as 2438. We note that elsewhere 10% appears to be the norm. To increase a community by 20% cannot be sustainable especially as this development is proposed in the short term.

The Sedgefield Plan has been developed with the community and has built an impressive evidence base of views and opinion from all of the surveys, public meetings and direct discussions and conversations. Therefore the plan calls for no more than 300 houses to be built to 2030, that Brownfield sites should be used first and that our green spaces must be preserved. You can read your plan on www.thesedgefieldplan.co.uk.

From PC Keith Todd

Sad to say, this time of year brings out the worst in human behaviour. The early dark evenings are welcome to low life, when they take advantage and prowl the streets for victims. Unsuspecting victims arrive home to find their houses broken into and ransacked. This disgraceful crime occurred recently when residents in Hadleigh Close and Queens Drive were confronted with such carnage. This type of crime can be prevented. Please consider the following solutions. Alarm box fitted to the front of your property (real or fake); timing light on landing with bedroom doors left open. Don't leave light on downstairs as this assists the vermin to see what goodies you have and clearly shows nobody is at home. Other crime reported include a burglary in Chestnut Road where a car was stolen. This shows the importance of locking your house last thing at night. On this occasion the criminal was able to open the front door and remove the car key from a hook, conveniently left within reach. A garage was also attacked in Old Durham Road and a motorbike taken. Vehicles were damaged in East End and High Street where persons had kicked the vehicles. On the village green a flower tub was turned over and stamped on, causing damage. The youth responsible was caught on CCTV, identified and will be visited soon. The tubs are there for the enjoyment of all and the gardeners work hard to produce an award winning display of flowers all year round. Parents, can you please inform your children to respect any display.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently at the Black Lion pub. Two incidents were reported which required further action by members. Any violence will not be tolerated and warning letters have been issued to offenders.

P.A.C.T.

No meeting (they are bi-monthly) but complaints were received regarding parking issues around the village. These are being looked at in company with civil parking enforcement officers and an update will be given at the next meeting.

Finally, on a personal note, I

have been selected to raise funds for the ABF 'Soldiers' Charity' and to take part in next year's London Marathon on Sunday 26th April. As an ex-soldier of 20 year's service, I am proud to do my bit for the troops. Please feel free to donate 'Coppers' to this worthy cause! Call in at the Police Office or see me in the street.

Until next time, Keith

**Local Police - 101
CPO Duncan Gill 01325 742714
Parking Shop 0191 3846633**

Sedgefield Area Churches Together Festive Services

Carols on the Green: Friday 19th December at 6.30pm.

Church of England

Carol Services

Thursday 11th December 7pm:	St Edmund, Sedgefield
Wednesday 17th December 6pm:	St Catherine, Fishburn
Sunday 21st December 6pm:	St Michael, Bishop Middleham
Christmas Eve 5.30pm:	St Mary Magdalene Trimdon Village

Christingle Services

Sunday 7th December 4pm:	St Mary Magdalene, Trimdon Village
Sunday 21st December 4pm:	St Edmund, Sedgefield
Christmas Eve 4pm:	St Catherine, Fishburn

Crib Services

Sunday 21st December 4pm:	St Alban's Trimdon Grange
Christmas Eve 4pm:	St Michael, Bishop Middleham

Christmas Eve

Sung Eucharist 9pm:	St Alban, Trimdon Grange
Midnight Mass 11.30pm	St Edmund, Sedgefield and also at St Michael, Bishop Middleham & St Mary Magdalene, Trimdon Village

Christmas Day

Eucharist 8am	St Edmund, Sedgefield
Family Service 10am	St Edmund, Sedgefield
Sung Eucharist 10.30am:	St Mary Magdalene, Trimdon Village
Sunday 28th December:	Parish Eucharist 10am at St Michael Bp Middleham

Sedgefield Methodist Church

Christmas Services

30th November 10am:	"Christmas Is Coming" Advent Cafe-style Service
Sunday 21st December 10am:	Lessons and Carol Service
25th December 10am:	Christmas Morning Service,

Local Catholic Churches

Christmas Eve Mass 6pm:	St Joseph's Coxhoe
Mass 8pm:	St William's Trimdon
(There will be no Mass in St John Fisher Sedgefield on Christmas Eve)	

Christmas Day Mass 10.45am:	St John Fisher Sedgefield
(No Mass at either St Joseph's or St William's on Christmas Day)	

Residents' Forum

The Forum AGM was held prior to the ordinary bi-monthly meeting. The Chair, Secretary and Vice Chair, after many years of service, submitted their resignations. Unfortunately there were no volunteers from those present to fill the vacancies. After much discussion and with an emphasis on the value to the community of having a Residents' Forum it was agreed to appeal for new people to come forward to organise and administer the Forum otherwise it will close at the meeting in January 2015.

So if you want the Forum to continue, please consider coming forward to help. For further information, contact Julia Bowles 01740 620409 or Janet Spalding 01740 620156

The ordinary meeting followed, with updates on ongoing issues, in particular, the travellers' horse fair held here on August Bank holiday. The Forum had submitted Freedom of Information requests to establish the cost to the tax payer of the event and a very conservative estimate of cost of policing and County Council provision is around £24K. Report was given on the Forum's attendance and presentations at the Examination in Public of the Co Durham Plan. It was emphasised how important it is that our community has its Neighbourhood Plan in place as we will need to be fighting off the totally unacceptable development proposals for our village. Please do keep attending public meetings and make your views heard on planning applications on the County website. 'People Power' really can make a difference, in fact it is probably the only thing that will.

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December Events Diary

Monday 1st

North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust Open meeting at 11am in Sedgefield Parish Hall. Full details of meeting can be found on page 3

Methodist Wives & Friends 7.30pm. Carols, Mince Pies & Ginger Wine!

Sedgefield Local History Society Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm. Programme change. Social, with festive refreshments, mini quiz & shared Christmas experiences. We hope to have Chris Clennell next year.

Tuesday 2nd

Neighbourhood Watch Christmas Panel Meeting 7 pm, in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. *All Welcome*

Sedgefield Gardening Club 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Christmas party with Faith Supper.

Wednesday 3rd

Sedgefield WI Parish Hall at 7.15pm. Games Night & Pooled Supper. Members' Competition, a handmade Christmas Card. Visitors always welcome

Friday 5th

Sedgefield in Bloom Christmas Coffee Morning 10-11.30 am in the Parish Hall. Delicious homemade cakes & scones, gifts, crafts, books, tombola & raffle. You might even see Santa !

Sedgefield & District U3A 2pm, Parish Hall. Christmas Party, Xmas Buffet, Quiz and Fun! For information call Brenda on 01740 629574

Youth café at Toshach's open from 7 - 9pm

Saturday 6th

Sedgefield Hand Bell Ringers are playing in Sainsbury's store.

Sale of Cards & Posters by Spennymoor Artist, Colin J Richardson. Durham Town Hall 9.30am to 4 pm. In aid of the artist's and Rotary's chosen charities. Signing.

Sunday 7th

Sedgefield Christmas Farmers' Market from 8.30am on the Village Green. Details on enclosed insert. Should be fun!

Tuesday 9th

Jazz in St Edmund's 7pm. Details on opposite page

Ladies' Club Ceddesfeld Hall. Christmas Social & Buffet

Friday 12th

The Country Market Parish Hall, 10 - 11.30am. Home baking, Jam, Cards, Plants & Crafts. Refreshments are on sale so it's a good place to catch up with friends!

Live Music Night at Sedgefield Cricket Club. 7.45 pm. Main guest Happy Cats plus John Wrightson Band & Billingham Silver Band. £11, inc Xmas buffet. Tel 621347

Friday 12th and Saturday 13th

Fishburn Junior Band playing in Sainsbury's

Lyrics Christmas Concerts 7pm in the Parish Hall. Tickets £5 (£4 under 16) from Tickety Boo, Connie Spring (01740) 621196 or any choir member.

Saturday 13th

Cricket Club Quiz Night starting at 8pm. Presented by Peter Burnip

Monday 15th

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

Methodist Wives & Friends Christmas meal out.

Friday 19th

Youth café at Toshach's open from 7 - 9pm

Saturday 27th - Tuesday 30th

Beauty & the Beast - Sedgefield Players' Pantomime: Sat 27th 2pm & 7pm; Sun 28th, 2pm; Mon 29th 7pm, Tues 30th, 8pm. Tickets from Tickety Boo & players.

Looking ahead to Friday 23rd & Saturday 24th January

Sedgefield Winter Beer Festival With bands, 101 (Fri) & the Q Jumpers (Sat). Tickets £5 per night from the Post Office. A great Christmas present!

Regular Meetings

NECP Concertina Workshop

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

Eddies@4 on Sundays

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

Bridge Club

Sunday & Tuesday, 7.30pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners welcome. Jen 620434

Sedgefield Players

Parish Hall, 7.30pm Sundays & Weds. SPYS: 7-17 yrs Sunday 6.30pm. 620091

Ceddesfeld Hall Pre-School

Mon, Wed, Fri am; Children 2+years 620934

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Hall, Mon, Wed, Thurs, 9:15-11:30am, term time. 620893

Fishburn Art Group

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

Community College Bowls

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

Sedgefield Mags

1st Mons, Nag's Head, 8pm 07966029434
Tai Chi Tuesdays, Parish Hall, 10 - 11 am.

A gentler form of exercise.

Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

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

Fishburn Taekwondo Club

Tues & Thurs 6pm, Fishburn Youth & Community C'tre. Mike Britton 07743455065

Sedgefield Pop In Club

for elderly & disabled. Ceddesfeld Hall
Tues 9.30-12 Wed 10-12.30 Thur 1-3.30

Sedgefield Art Group

Methodist Church Hall 6.30-8.30pm Tues. Tuition. New members welcome

Craft Club

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

CAB Advice Sessions

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

Sing for Health

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

Toddler Club

Wednesday term time 1.15 to 3pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Joan Brennan, 622385.

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers

Wed 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall (Mon 1st wk of m'th) Beginners welcome. 621292

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

Wednesdays, 7.30pm. Contacts, Bob, 07831270892 ; Mel, 07530315331

Sedgefield Acoustic Evenings

Ceddesfeld Hall, 8.30pm 1st Fri & 4th Wed. Informal singaround, all welcome.

Round Table

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

Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group

Small friendly group 10am -12 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.

Sedgefield Library

Wed 9.30am-12.30pm Thurs 10am-6pm
 Fri 1pm - 7pm, Sat 9.30am-12.30pm
Craft Club: 10am-12 noon on
 Thursdays 4th & 18th

Sedgefield Library will close at 12:30pm on Wednesday 24th December for the Christmas break. We will re-open on Wednesday 7th January 2015 at 9:30am, when normal hours will resume
On behalf of all the library staff, merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Sedgefield Social Club

Sat 6th December: Lisa B

Sat 13th: Ali Jay

Sat 20th: Jimmy Moon

Xmas Eve: Alec Blackwood

Sat 27th: Dave Lyn

New Year's Eve: Chris de Verne
 Cover charge of £1.50 per person
 Members and their Guests Welcome

Mon 22nd: Country Night Xmas Party

Cover charge of £3 per person
 Members and their Guests Welcome
 Concert room available for functions
 Tel: 01740 620591 for bookings

New Generation Church

Services in December

7th: Sedgefield Parish Hall

14th: Sedgefield Community College

21st: Christmas Celebration at
 Hall Garth Hotel, Coatham Mundeville

28th Celebration Service at
 Hall Garth Hotel, Coatham Mundeville

Sedgefield's Winter Wonderland

Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School are holding a Winter Wonderland event on Friday 12th December 2014. The whole community is invited to share our festivities from 3.30pm until 7.00pm. Grab a hot chocolate with Santa Claus, do a spot of shopping at our traditional Christmas Market or create a special Christmas memory in our Elves' Workshop.

Lights, music, a photo-booth and even our very own **ICE RINK!** Get wrapped up for magical family evening at Sedgefield Hardwick! For more information, please contact us on 01740 620041

40 year celebrations wind up with a festive concert

Sedgefield Lyric Singers performed their first Christmas concert in the Scout Hall in 1974. This year, they will continue to celebrate, with Lirica and the Youth Choir in a Christmas concert in Sedgefield Parish Hall.

Bring along friends and family and enjoy the festive atmosphere, with traditional favourites to music from the movies. Everyone is welcome to join in as we celebrate the season and our 40 years together.

The Lyric Singers always welcome new members (especially tenor and bass) so please get in touch if you would like to join this friendly choir. All the concert details can be found opposite, on the Diary page.

Sedgefield Blues Club

The club has had quite a year, establishing ourselves as one of 'the' clubs where artists aspire to play. A mix of young and established artists, combined with the facilities and hospitality at the Parish Hall have put us on the 'blues map'.

Whilst ending 2014 on yet another sold out gig (Detroit born, Marcus Malone), our stall has been set out for 2015 and we are already almost fully booked for the year. January 16th sees the music of legendary Howlin Wolf at the Parish Hall, with Tim Aves' Wolfpack. Tim Aves, broadcaster as well as musician, once joked "get me a gig at Sedgefield and I'll come and wash the glasses." Tea Towel please!

Support comes from North East band, Hokum Hotshots. Tickets can be purchased at sedgefieldblues.com or call 07957104434.



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SPORTS UPDATE with CHRIS LINES

This time last year, I got into 'grumpy old man' mode and wrote about my gripes with the BBC Sports Personality of the Year show, chuntering on about how it was better in the past, when it included a proper, in depth review of sport during the previous 12 months, rather than pandering to the culture of celebrity obsession. Of course, I still watched the programme and enjoyed much of it. The clear winner in 2013 was Andy Murray, but as I outlined last month, I think it's going to be a much tighter contest this time around. That said, now that Lewis Hamilton has secured the Formula One championship, the odds will be shortening on a win for him.

Here in Sedgfield, we have enjoyed another great year of sporting achievements, by teams and individuals of all ages. We live in a very active community and it is a privilege to report on just some of the local sports news here. I am lucky to have some regular contributors and am very grateful for their input, but equally, I am always keen to hear from anyone else with good sporting story that they would like to share. So, if you have a tale to tell, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Squash

Sedgfield Squash Club celebrated the tenth year of the Sedgfield primary schools mini-squash competition on 23rd October by welcoming five competing teams for the first time, as Bishop Middleham joined old-stagers St. William's (Trimdon), Trimdon Juniors, Sedgfield Hardwick Primary and Sedgfield Primary. The club also had a new approach to pre-competition training: Diane Harker, supported by a partnership between Sedgfield Squash Club and a grass roots funding programme through the county association and England Squash, delivered taster sessions to the whole of Years 5 and 6 at all five schools in early October. Stephen Rowsby and Oliver Larcombe provided follow-up training for school teams, while James and Oliver Larcombe organised the round-robin competition.

Each team has five players but this year the format was simplified with a minimum of two girls per team and no other restrictions. Two teams, including the winners, included three girls. To maintain a round-robin format, which with an extra school now featured 10 rather than six matches, each game was shortened to first to seven points-a rally scoring. The competition was a resounding success, with excellent performances from children new to the game as well as more experienced players. Last year, it felt impossible to have a closer competition, yet amazingly, it nearly was. Three teams entered the final round with only 13 points separating them (35 per match available) and again the title wasn't decided until the final game. Final results: 1st Sedgfield Primary 123 points (four wins); 2nd Sedgfield Hardwick 118 (2 wins); 3rd St. William's 117 (three wins); 4th Bishop Middleham 82 (one win); 5th Trimdon Juniors 54 (no wins). Top individual scorers (for each place in the team) were:

1st Jessica Weatherspoon, Sedgfield Primary 28 points; 2nd Cameron Mutcaster, Sedgfield Hardwick 25; 3rd Jack Murray, St William's 28; 4th Ryan Easton, Sedgfield Hardwick 28; 5th Anya Murphy, St William's and Danny Welsh, Sedgfield Primary 25.

Sedgfield Primary will now represent the area in the Durham and Cleveland inter-primary schools competition early in 2015.

Three Sedgfield juniors competed in the North East regional championships, held at Pontefract. In the boys U17s, Oliver Walls and Dan Toas gave good performances, finishing 5th and 11th respectively. Jessica Weatherspoon competed in the girls U11s, finishing 4th.

In the first stage of the inter-county championships, the Durham & Cleveland teams included Sedgfield's Rob Pearce (Boys U19s), Oliver Walls, George Peden and Daniel Toas (Boys U17s) and Jessica Weatherspoon (Girls U13s). Rob posted a great win over senior county player Cai Younger with a 3-2 result, with Oliver, George and Dan all winning their matches against Lincolnshire.

Although I will report more fully on senior team progress next month, a notable result for the club was achieved in November when the 1st team, competing in the County Premier League, won its match against a strong Guisborough side, fielding three club juniors; Rob Pearce, Oliver Walls, and debutant George Peden. This was a great result for the club, with its top junior players competing at the highest level within the county.

Football

Sedgfield Youth FC under 10s team started the season well and are improving with every game. They have already managed three wins, equalling their total for the whole of last season! There has been great enthusiasm from the kids, who turn up in numbers to both training and the games.

Sedgfield Youth FC U14s are currently sitting top of their league. They were conceding too many goals at the start of the season, but have improved a great deal in defence, while scoring for fun at the other end. The club would like to thank Lee Mason from LM Windows for sponsorship of the new U14s strip. Both teams play on Sunday mornings in the TJFA league, with home games at Sedgfield Community College. **The U14 2014-2015 team is pictured below.**

Sedgfield NETPark F.C are enjoying their first season in the Durham Alliance League and currently sit joint top. The team has also made it to the quarter finals stage of the Durham County Trophy. NETPark FC now has over 40 local players registered and the switch from Sunday to Saturday football is proving to be a really positive one for grass roots football in Sedgfield. With the added expense of paying for linesmen as well as referees, the club is working very hard on raising funds.

If anyone is interested in any kind of club sponsorship, please call David Ryder on 07515020766 or d.a.ryder@durham.ac.uk. Games are played on Saturdays, normally 1.30pm or 2pm kick off, with home fixtures played at Sedgfield Community College.



Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers held its annual dinner in November, handing out awards to senior runners. The special guest, who handed out the awards, was Alan Bell, an official starter at major athletics events, who has officiated at Olympic and Paralympic Games, World Championships, European Championships and Commonwealth Games. Alan was the starter during 2012 and has just been told he will also be doing the job during the next Olympics in Rio. He disqualified Usain Bolt from the final of the 100m during the World Championships in 2011 – apparently Bolt doesn't hold a grudge!

The big winner was David Sawyer, who picked up Runner of the Year and Individual Performance of the Year. David only took up running a year ago, attending sessions with Sedgefield Harriers and immediately discovering how much he enjoyed it. Having lost some close friends and relatives to breast cancer David decided to take on a challenge to raise money for Breast Cancer Care and planned a gruelling challenge for 2014 of five marathons, five half marathons, five 10ks and five 5ks, Sedgefield parkrun being the last 5k and the Northumberland Castles Half Marathon being the final race. Not content with that, David linked the last two events, running non stop from the end of parkrun, throughout the day and night to get to the start of the half marathon around 25 hours and 75 miles later. He completed his epic run in the shadow of Bamburgh Castle on Sunday 26 October. David was accompanied by fellow members of Sedgefield Harriers at every stage of the way and when he won two awards (as voted by fellow Harriers), it came as no surprise to anyone. The other senior awards can be seen at www.sedgefieldweb/sport

Junior Awards Night Winners

Most Improved U11 Girl: Sophie Glaister. Most Improved U11 Boy: Thomas Rowe & Travis Anderson. Most Improved in Multi-Discipline Group: Joshua Wilson. Most Improved in Strength & Conditioning Group: Robbie Till. Most Improved Sprinter: Tia Anderson. Most Improved in Field Events Group: Jake Smillie. Boys Field Performance of the Year: Clifford Cansfield. Girls Field Performance of the Year: Kate Carmichael. Boys Track Performance of the Year: George Pilkington. Girls Best Track Performance of the Year: Hannah Scarborough. Most Improved in Endurance Group: Tom Collins. Boys Cross Country Performance of the Year: Kieran Walker. Girls Cross Country Performance of the Year: Rebecca Hall. Club Person of the Year: Aimee Barlow.

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Your Letters

Appeal for help to find uncle lost in World War 2

Denise Robson of Stockton is looking for information about her uncle, Richard Harland who lived in Sedgefield before being called up into the RAF. Richard aged 20, was killed in 1945 whilst flying over Dortmund, Germany. Is there anyone who remembers Richard (born 1924) or who knew his parents, Fred & Doris Harland, who lived in Winterton Cottages? If you can give any information, please contact me on 01740 621343 or email davidh.no10@btinternet.com in the first instant.

Thank you,
David Hillerby.

Unexpected remembrance

Every year for the past 17 years I have tried to visit Belgium and France for Armistice day. This year I was able to attend the Remembrance day service at St Edmund's before setting off. The Menin Gate at Ypres on the 11th was incredible to be part of, however, the next day on a visit to Talbot House (Toc H) in Poperinghe I was amazed to find crosses for the Canadian Airmen remembered next to the war memorial in the upstairs chapel.

Can anyone cast any light on this?

Kind regards, Will Robinson

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