

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

December 2020

Deadline for the New Year edition: Monday 14th December

The Ellen Timney Foundation Christmas Appeal

The coronavirus pandemic has left 80 per cent of low-income families in a worse financial position than before the crisis. According to the Child Poverty Action Group, which conducted the research alongside the Church of England, parents "have been living under a cloud of anxiety in lockdown". Charities have also struggled this year, with so many of their traditional fundraising events cancelled due to lockdown.

The Ellen Timney Foundation is a small local charity, totally run by volunteers, which helps sick and underprivileged children in the North East. Based in Sedgfield, it was set up to celebrate the life of Ellen Timney, who lived in Sedgfield and was an active member of the community. Jane Morgan who set up the Foundation said, "we are finding that families who have never contacted us before are struggling, due to redundancies. Many are working families that are just managing to make ends meet. We do not take requests direct from the families, so we are 100% sure that all requests are genuine as they come through schools, social workers and other local partnerships who know families on an individual basis."

Sedgfield Town Council has encouraged local businesses to decorate their windows for Christmas each evening, 4pm - 11 pm between 28th November & 15th December.

The window of 7 Church View, originally Matthew Jones Barbers shop, is dedicated to raising awareness of the Ellen Timney Foundation, aiming to encourage locals to buy gifts for sick and underprivileged children this Christmas.

Owner, Lesley Edmenson says "as a local business owner, I know how hard it is to survive the uncertainty caused by COVID-19 and thought this was a fantastic idea. It will promote local business and hopefully bring some festive cheer to what has been a very difficult year for many. Having just bought 7 Church View, I thought it was an ideal opportunity to help The Ellen Timney Foundation and to make people aware of the amazing work they do for families in Sedgfield and the North East. I have lived in Sedgfield for many years and I know how generous people are in the community."

Last year the foundation supported over 500 children with their Christmas appeal. This year, due to restrictions, fund-raising has been hard hit, so this is an ideal opportunity to ask for donations. They would love to receive gifts for boys and girls aged 0 - 18, including such items as new toys, new underwear, pyjamas, smellies etc. They particularly look-out for gifts for older children, for example, shaving equipment for boys and make-up for girls are always gratefully received.

The shop at 7 Church View, Sedgfield, next door to Julia and Sofia's Italian restaurant, will be open for drop-offs at the following times:

Mondays & Thursdays until 14th December: 8.30am -10am and 3pm- 5pm

Saturday 11th December: 10am - 4.30pm

Please ensure that you follow COVID19 rules and that you wear a mask. One of our volunteers will be there to help you, and please, don't wrap the gifts so that we can be sure to allocate your gift to the right child.

The Market Garden Sedgfield CIC

It has been quite a year for Carole Lawford and the Market Garden scheme. It was always the intention to do as much as possible for the community, but COVID19 has made it all so much more important.

Carole has been making Christmas wreaths this month and may have a few for sale for people who perhaps can't get beyond the village. Any profits made will go straight back into the scheme. Go to The Market Garden Sedgfield CIC page on Facebook, or if you know Carole, contact her directly.



Remembrance Sunday

This year, most people had to pay their respects privately, but the live-streamed video service made poignant viewing and it can still be viewed on facebook or the Town Council website.

The field of poppies at the war memorial was created by the ladies of the SCA Craft Club and other local residents. Jean Easson sent this photograph with her thanks to all who contributed a knitted poppy.



Fishburn Memorial Garden

A place of remembrance and respect for those we have lost.

Fishburn Parish Council, are raising money to install a memorial garden which will occupy a quiet corner of Fishburn Cemetery, along with a wall to commemorate the deceased with plaques. The garden will incorporate a water feature, hanging baskets, plants and benches.

All money raised will be held by the Parish Council and used to ensure that Fishburn families have a space to scatter the cremated remains of their loved ones and for quiet reflection as we move forward through the strange times of the COVID19 crisis.

Even a small donation could help to reach the goal. On behalf of FPC, the organiser Sandra Dowson, thanks you for your support. If any funds remain at the end of the project, the Parish Council will use them for the good of the village community.



LETTERS & NOTICES

I would like to send my sincere thanks to everyone for the kindness and sympathy shown in the loss of my beloved wife Margery.

Peter Reade

GREENER SEDGFIELD

Major supermarkets and retailers announced this year that they are removing glitter from many of their own brand Christmas cards, decorations and wrapping paper.

Whilst many shoppers welcome the news of reducing the amount of micro plastic in disposable items, some have been left disheartened, thinking that surely Christmas should be the time of the year when we should be allowed to have some glitter and sparkle, especially at the end of such a bleak year that 2020 has been.

The sparkle in most glitter comes from etched aluminium bonded to polyethylene terephthalate. It is a micro plastic, not recyclable and due to its minuscule size, it scatters everywhere and eventually ends up in waterways. Very unfortunately, a recent study by Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge has revealed that the increasingly popular biodegradable glitter - cellulose based and considered an eco friendly alternative - causes the same ecological damage to rivers and lakes as the ordinary product. Please also remember that glitter, which is considered unfit for human consumption is definitely not suitable for wildlife, as the RSPB reminds us every year. It should not be used in "reindeer food" - an increasingly popular item over the festive season!

But all this does not mean that Christmas is a miserable gloomy affair from now on. We can send Christmas cards which are indeed less sparkly, but which carry more meaningful messages.

Wrapping paper does not need to be sparkly to be festive - brown kraft paper wrapped with ribbons and carrying twigs of seasonal foliage or decorated with children's drawings can be even more festive and is definitely more special.

We can still decorate our homes but using more natural materials instead. When we place glass decorations or ornaments near our fairy lights, they spread the glimmer. Often the most beautiful things are the simple things. Hopefully, we can appreciate that Christmas without harmful micro plastic glitter is just as much fun, if not even more.

A very happy and healthy Christmas to everyone!

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY DECEMBER 2020

I think it must be an age thing, but when I was younger I remember people having eiderdowns on their beds. Now everyone has duvets. Is this progress? The subject came up in a conversation I had recently with our two new trainees Olivia and Alex at the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. They will work with us for 6 months, getting a small bursary and a training budget, to work with all our staff and learn on the job. They are part of our One Planet Pioneers project, working with young people aged 14-25. I said we might see Eider ducks during a trip to South Gare, and told them a little about the birds and the aforementioned eiderdowns, which they had never heard of!

Eiders are relatively large sea ducks that nest in colonies around the coasts of the northern UK, as far south as Walney Island in Cumbria; you can see them in several places along the North Sea coast all year round. The male is black-and-white, with a pale green patch at the back of the head, pinkish breast and pale yellow-grey bill (easily recognised) whereas the female, like many female ducks is rather duller greyish-brown with delicate barring. Even though it is a rather large duck, the Eider can reach speeds of up to 70mph in level flight, making it one of the fastest birds in the world. They can dive up to 20 metres and scour the ocean floor for molluscs and crustaceans, which they swallow whole, the shells, being crushed in the gizzard and excreted.



Around the North East coast you can hear the bird referred to as Cuddy's Duck, referring to the population around St Cuthbert's home on Lindisfarne, but the Latin name is Somateria mollissima - Greek for something like "body wool very soft". The name refers to the down feathers which Eiders, like most birds, have beneath the outer feathers. The down traps air and helps to keep the bird warm. The special structure of eiderdown means that it is the best insulator known to man. Synthetic or natural, there is no material on earth that can match the warmth to weight ratio of eiderdown.

Around 70% of the world's eiderdown is sustainably harvested in Iceland. Farmers cultivate areas of coastline where they live, even providing small shelters for the Eiders to hide in if needed. The females make a nest from down feathers plucked from their breast and lay up to six eggs. Incubation takes approx. 25 days, while the birds will not leave the nest, even to eat. The farmers keep an eye on the nest site, preventing disturbance and fencing the area to keep out arctic foxes which predate the chicks.

When the chicks hatch, the female leads them down to the sea, where they team up with other young and form crèches, looked after by a couple of adults. Although Eiders nest in the same area year after year they don't use the previous year's down, so it would go to waste if it were not collected by the farmers. This valuable harvest is dried, cleaned and prepared for sale.

The worldwide population of Eider only produces around 4 metric tons of down a year, making it a very valuable resource. A duvet filled with 100% eiderdown could set you back anything up to £8,000! So next time you visit the coast, look out for these dramatic and valuable black & white sea ducks.

Invictus Athlete at Sedgfield Hardwick

We had an exciting day at Sedgfield Hardwick recently when we were visited by an Invictus Games athlete!

Alex Dewar is an ex-serviceman who suffered a brain haemorrhage whilst on a cycle ride, resulting in life-changing injuries, including a permanent partial sight loss. Alex had to learn many basic activities, such as speaking, understanding sound and rebuilding movement in his arms.

Alex came through these challenges to represent his country in the Invictus Games in Sydney, where he triumphed, winning medals in both the swimming and cycling. He visited our school to speak to us about resilience and never giving up in the face of challenge.

Alex spent a day with the children, providing us with a range of exercises and activities including poem writing, question and answer sessions, and class discussions. We also undertook team building activities where we had to work together and communicate effectively to achieve our goals, and we had to show resilience when there were challenges.

"It was nice to learn about somebody who's achieved their dream, even after going through huge challenges," Heidi, a Year 6 pupil, reported.

"It's been an absolute privilege working with the children, it has been inspirational hearing their writing and poems that they have created today! I was immediately struck by the children's knowledge and understanding of resilience, it's clear that it's really well embedded in school," commented Alex.



ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap
email: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

In Conversation with: North East Author Jessica Andrews

Acclaimed North East writer Jessica Andrews joins Anita Sethi in a discussion about roots & community available online on 9th December at 7pm.

In 2020 Jessica Andrews became the youngest ever recipient of the Portico prize for her debut novel, *Saltwater*. This was the story of a young woman from Sunderland who travels to London which explores ideas from roots, identity, the North-South divide & mother-daughter relationships.

Like the protagonist of her novel, Jessica Andrews grew up in Sunderland and like her protagonist, also found that to leave a place does not mean to leave it behind.

In conversation with journalist Anita Sethi, she discusses community, identity and her North East home.

You can join online for a fee of £6 at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/in-conversation-portico-prize-winner-jessica-andrews-tickets-122996713481?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>



Creative Writing Online

Sadly, the return of lockdown this month has brought an end to the revival in arts & entertainments activities across the country. However, the extra spare time, solitude, & introspection which comes with enforced isolation makes a perfect melting pot for our own inspiration & creativity, which can be put to good use! Some fabulous opportunities for aspiring writers are available online during December, courtesy of New Writers North & Stockton Arts Centre among others.

Stockton Arts Centre is running a 2 hour online class in creative writing on 10th December from 10am, with writer & educator Joan Opie.

Two more workshops, both organized by 'Anyone Can Write' & free of charge, will be held on 4th December, for novice & intermediate writers) and on 14th December, for experienced writers. They will cover creative topics like structure, finding your writers' voice and how to write dialogue, along with more practical concerns like funding and getting your projects green-lit. Both are available to all online.

On the evening of 10th December, New Writing North is hosting an online Fiction Writers Roadshow to provide support & advice for those looking to break into the industry. Speakers from the worlds of publishing, creative writing & literary agency will be followed by a Q&A session via Zoom. New Writing North is an organisation dedicated to developing writing talent in the North of England & this event is also totally free. Take advantage of adversity this winter, fire up the laptop or pick up your pen, and add your literary voice to those of Anne Fine, Jessica Andrews, Ann Cleeves & our many other North East writers. All the details follow.

Silver Creative Writing Course at Stockton Arts Centre (£5 fee) 10am on 10th December <https://arconline.co.uk/whats-on/creative-writing>

Free Introduction to Writing Bootcamp for Novice & Intermediate Writers at 6:30pm on 7th December <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-introduction-to-writing-bootcamp-for-novice-and-intermediate-writers-tickets-122710689977?aff=erelpanelorg>

Free Writers' Workshop for experienced writers. 6:30pm 14th December <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-writers-workshop-for-experienced-writers-tickets-123528143001?aff=erelpanelorg>

New Writers North Online 6pm on 10th December (free) <https://newwritingnorth.com/event/northern-writers-awards-roadshow-fiction/>

Centennial Celebration

Sedgefield WI celebrated the 100th Anniversary of its foundation in 1918 and held many events throughout the year. Members also decided to compile a book of memories of the last one hundred years. It is now available to buy, and contains 32 pages of recipes, photographs and memories.

The Centennial Celebration Book is available for £5 from Mrs. Elaine Thomson 01740 621562

Please send Diary & Event details to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

SEDGEFIELD LIBRARY

Tel: 0300 026 9521

Durham County Council re-introduced its 'pick and collect' service to enable people to borrow books during lockdown restrictions.

Collection points are at 12 libraries - Barnard Castle, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Crook, Newton Aycliffe, Peterlee, Seaham, Shildon, Spennymoor, Stanley, Bishop Auckland Town Hall Library, and Clayport Library in Durham.

All other libraries, including Sedgefield Library, remained closed during the lockdown period, but anyone can use the pick and collect service, regardless of where in the county they live or which library they normally visit. Readers can order up to six books either online or over the phone. They are then contacted by library staff, using their registered phone number, to arrange collection at a participating library.

At the time of going to print we do not know if things will change on or after December 2nd.

BorrowBox is still available with membership.

For more information visit www.durham.gov.uk/pickandcollect

Police Dog Buzz.

You may have seen a post from Durham Constabulary, promoted on the Sedgefield News Facebook page, seeking a forever home for PD Buzz. Well, we are delighted to announce that he has now well and truly put his Paws Up!



Durham Constabulary reported being inundated by offers to rehome Buzz! Of course he could only go to one, so suitable applications were reviewed in order of being received, and as expected, the first people who came to visit, fell in love with him instantly.

Police would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who showed an interest in adopting Buzz. "Although a large proportion of our retired dogs do indeed retire with their handlers, sometimes this isn't possible due to personal circumstances.

We do, on these rare occasions, endeavour to find the most perfect homes possible for our retired police dogs, so that they get to live out their best retirement life which they so richly deserve."

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SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SCAM ALERT from Durham Constabulary

We have been made aware of fraudsters who are contacting people claiming to be police officers and demanding that people either withdraw money to hand over to them, or transfer money to them online. If you receive a call like this, do not transfer any money, or give them any personal details. If you suspect they are fraudsters, ask them for an incident number and check it with us by calling 101. Or simply hang up. Remember, your bank and the police will never:

- Ask you to transfer money out of your account
- Ask you to withdraw money to hand over to them for safe-keeping
- Send someone to your home to collect cash, PINs, cards or cheque books
- Phone and ask you for your full PIN or full banking password.

You can report suspected fraudsters to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or online at actionfraud.police.uk

Operation Trident

People across County Durham and Darlington are being urged to take steps to prevent themselves from becoming a victim of crime as the dark nights draw in. The following tips can help reduce the chance of your home and vehicle becoming a target for criminals:

- Lock all windows and doors – even if you're at home.
- Ensure that no items are on display and remove valuables from your vehicle each night.
- If you have elderly neighbours, keep an eye on them.
- A well-lit home gives the impression someone is in.
- Leave a light on or use timer switches so lights come on when it gets dark.
- Don't leave your house and vehicle keys in the lock or on a side table in view of a window, making it easy for a thief to fish them through your letterbox.
- Don't leave curtains closed during the day, only in the evening and overnight.
- If you have a house alarm, use it.
- In addition, secure any outbuildings and gates and consider installing a security light and/or CCTV.
- Report any unusual behaviour to us.

If you witness any incidents please report them as quickly as possible!

To report anything suspicious in your area call Durham Constabulary on 101, or 999 in an emergency.

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 (anonymous)

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Concerned about your memory?

It's a worrying thought. No-one likes to think about dementia, but if you have concerns, then the Alzheimer's Society provides an excellent Dementia Advice Service that covers Sedgefield (as well as the rest of County Durham). The service is for anyone who is worried about their memory or who is affected by dementia (either for yourself or your family and friends). We aim to provide the right help at the right time; offering personalised information, advice and signposting to ensure people are supported in a way that suits them.

We aim to support people to carry on living well with dementia or memory problems. The service is commonly offered in your own home, and although this has not been possible during the COVID19 pandemic, we still offer information and advice, mostly by phone. Over 1800 such calls have been made in County Durham by our Dementia Advisers since lockdown began. We have also trained volunteers to provide Companion Calls with the aim of reducing isolation during the pandemic. These calls provide a friendly chat but do not offer advice. There's also our virtual dementia community choir, Singing for the Brain, which is delivered via Zoom.

If you or one of your family have concerns about memory, or have a diagnosis of dementia, and need someone to talk to about it, you can contact us directly, as follows.

Email: durhamandchester@alzheimers.org.uk

Local phone: 0191 3890400. Please leave a message. We'll call you back.

National Dementia Connect Helpline: 0333 150 3456

Website: www.alzheimers.org.uk



Coop community fund NEWSFLASH

The Co-op has just announced the pay-out for Round 5 (Local Causes) and the good news is that over £15,000 will be paid out to six causes in the patch that Hollie Thompson and I share, that is, stores & Funeralcare Units in Sedgefield, Fishburn & the Trimdons.

A share of the monies goes to Fishburn Football Club, Sedgefield Rugby Club, Sedgefield Youth Club, Fishburn Youth & Community Centre, Trimdon Village Hall and Sedgefield Memory Cafe.

A big THANK-YOU to everyone who took out Co-op membership. By doing so you raised funds for these causes, and it really makes a difference to our communities. Tim Dredge.

Coop community fund: the next round

Sedgefield Players are asking for your support!

The Players are one of three groups to be chosen as a local Co-op Community Fund cause, along with **Sedgefield in Bloom** and **The Market Garden (Sedgefield)**.

The new support period runs from 25th October 2020 until 23rd October 2021, during which time each group will receive two lump sum payments. The Players will use their share to buy resources for both adult and SPYS' productions when they resume performances.

How it works.

Every time you shop in the Co-op and use your loyalty card, the 3 local charities can benefit. Show your support by logging in through the members' portal and making your choice. If you buy selected Co-op branded products, you will earn a % for your chosen group, as well as earning your own points to spend at your leisure - a welcome bonus in time for Christmas!

What to do next.

Get yourself a Co-op card for just £1 and start spending!

Ask in the store or apply online at www.membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration, then download the app, click on 'Community' and choose one of the causes to support (hopefully Sedgefield Players, please.)

Happy spending and thank you for your continued support, whoever you decide to opt for. Stay safe all.

Sedgefield Area Churches Together
are planning a COVID-secure

 *Carols in the Car-Park*
Drive-In Service
on Sunday 20th December 

Prior booking will be required, but entry will be free.
Subject to restrictions in place at the time. Keep an eye on Facebook, Twitter, Sedgefield Round Up and sedgefieldweb.co.uk for details nearer the time.

Services at St Edmunds on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Provided that national COVID19 regulations allow, there will be a Eucharist at St. Edmund's Church at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve and at 10am on Christmas morning. The latter will be a service of all age worship and there will be an opportunity to leave at the peace.

Due to the requirements for social distancing, numbers will be strictly limited.

For the Midnight Eucharist we can accommodate 30 households and for Christmas morning 25 households.

Access to both services will be by pre-booked ticket only, and places will be available on a first come, first served basis.

If you wish to attend either service please contact: Brian Mutch on 01740 622302 or by email at: b.mutch@btconnect.com.

Ceddesfeld Hall News

50 Years of the SCA part 2 will appear in the January edition of Sedgefield News.

We apologise for the delay, but as you see, it has been necessary to reduce the format to 8 pages again during this second lockdown.



Sedgefield in Bloom

Volunteers were disappointed recently to discover damage to three areas of planting in Ceddesfeld Hall grounds. Presumably taken for Christmas decorations, we have lost hydrangea heads, primroses from a set of planting tubs and sprigs from the top of a pair of berried holly bushes, kindly donated some years ago by a resident, carefully shaped into attractive spheres, and now somewhat flattened. This sort of damage is mercifully very rare, the actions of a tiny minority. Bloomers work voluntarily all year for the benefit of the community, even during these challenging times.

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS

Homework Help continues to offer remote support via internet conferencing during term time.



Big THANKS to all our helpers and students for all your efforts. Enjoy a break over Christmas and the New Year! As ever, Homework contact us on Facebook or email homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.

Energy Switch Let us help you reduce your energy costs.

Another successful switching campaign is complete and a good number of our residents are taking advantage of the scheme, so why not join them?

Next auction is in February 2021

Registration opens on 1st December 2020 & closes: 8th February 2021

Auction: 9th Feb. Offers will be issued from 22nd February.

To register on line, go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk/energy-switch and click on 'REGISTER TODAY' then fill out your details. **Remember to have your latest energy bill or annual statement with you when you start your registration.**

If you can't apply via the internet, contact our helpline on **07980 134 594** and we will complete registration for you. You will be only talking to Sedgefield people and won't be committing to anything.

Don't forget, if you are already part of the scheme and your existing energy contract comes to an end before the end of April 2021, you do need to register for this auction.

Christmas Trees for Habitats

The Woodland and Wildlife project will join forces with Sedgefield in Bloom to recycle your real Christmas trees. If you would like to bring your tree to us directly, you can simply drop them off or you'd be welcome to stay and help turn your trees into homes for wildlife (there is no cost for this). It was great fun last year, so we really hope the COVID19 restrictions will allow the event to go ahead, please follow the government guidelines at the time.

Sedgefield in Bloom is also offering a kerbside collection service to pick up your trees at a cost of £5 (details were in the November issue). The trees will be delivered to our site for the Woodland & Wildlife volunteers to recycle them into wildlife habitats and mulch for the newly planted woodland.

We will be at our NETPark site, TS21 3FH (follow the green arrows from Discovery 1&2 car park) on Saturday 9th January and Saturday 16th January 2021, 10am until 12noon.

Do you have spare time on your hands? We are always looking for new volunteers to carry out the many tasks that can be carried out all year round. If you are interested in volunteering with us, please contact Melissa - woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or join our facebook page, Woodland & Wildlife Sedgefield, for more information. **Merry Christmas!** 

SYFC Presentation Night

The club management and coaches would like to let everyone know how proud we are of our club. This year's presentation evening was different, for obvious reasons, but at last we were able to reward our players for the hard work and effort they put in last season.

There were smiling faces everywhere, alongside a set of proud parents when we finally handed over the silverware. Ryan Davey (Chairman) said, "It was an honour to be part of the presentation day and to see all of the kids get their well-deserved trophies".

A massive thank you must go to Sedgefield Cricket Club for making the evening possible, and to Sedgefield Development Trust for kindly providing the trophies. The Trust's support was brilliant in a season full of great achievements for a club that really is going places.

We can report that all teams have made another magnificent start to their respective seasons and hopefully we can start playing again in December.

Right: U12's away at Thirsk, wearing poppies as a mark of respect.



Sedgefield Farmers Market

Sunday 6th December

Our cheery traders will do their best to bring a Festive feel to our COVID19 restricted Christmas Market, so we do hope you will turn out in force to support them.

We're expecting some pretty special produce on the stalls, so perhaps a little local Christmas shopping will be on the cards. While you're in the village, why not check out which other local shops are open too?

Everyone is keeping fingers crossed that the promise of vaccine success will allow a return to normal as early as possible in 2021, but for now it's the same routine we have become accustomed to. Listen to the stewards, use the hand sanitiser, and socially distance. That way we take the best possible care of each other.

A very Merry Christmas and good health to you all.

Murton Moor Farm

For Local, Free-Range, Award Winning Kelly Bronze Turkey & Local, Free-Range Goose

- Proper old-fashioned free-range turkeys & geese, reared by us at Murton
- Raised outdoors to maturity for full flavour
- Turkeys fed on a cereal based feed without additives or antibiotics
- Geese fed on our home grown wheat & oats
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M & J Dryden
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