

SEDGFIELD NEWS

JANUARY 2018

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Police Pets pose for Charity

12 police dogs from the joint Durham, Cleveland and North Yorkshire Dog Support Unit have posed for a charity calendar to help raise money for Paws Up, a retired police dogs fund. They say never work with children or animals but these dogs are definitely the exception. PC Ian Squire, a dog handler for more than 17 years, photographed the lovely canines and Kaizer, his own companion, features in the month of February. Ian says, "Our police dogs provide a tremendous service to our communities for the best part of their working lives and we want to provide the best possible life for them in retirement. Thanks to the generosity of the public we have so far donated thousands of pounds to the charity." It is hoped the calendar will raise money to help support police dogs once they have retired from service. Paws Up was set up in 2013 and aims to support the dogs with vet bills in their elderly years once they are living with new owners.

Only 1,000 copies of the calendar are available so to help the charity and avoid missing out be quick. They cost £5 each and are available online at pawsup.org.uk or from Durham Constabulary headquarters.

Article by Kelly Aitkin. Photograph by Joanne Coates



"Outstanding in all areas"

Sedgfield Hardwick Primary School has received glowing praise from inspectors who reported that 'pupils make outstanding progress from their individual starting points in all three key stages'. The school was judged as 'outstanding' in all areas by Ofsted at the beginning of November. Cllr Olwyn Gunn, DCC Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "We are delighted that Sedgfield Hardwick has been recognised in such glowing terms by Ofsted. "Every stakeholder in the school is showered with praise in this report, including the 'inspirational' head teacher, the 'strong and professional' governors and the exceptional teachers and teaching assistants who provide these children with the very best early education."

Cont on p 2

Well deserved accolade for Ali Hussein's cooking

The owner and chef at the East India Takeaway on Front Street, Sedgfield, has won the title, Curry Chef of the Year 2017 at the Bangladesh Caterers Association. Ali Hussein's progress through the competition is well known on social media, but other readers may be unaware of his rather special achievements. He is pictured during the last leg of the competition at West London College, where 40 chefs from all over the country had to perform a live cooking demonstration whilst being judged. The theme of this year's awards was 'Britain's love for curry since 1960' and it was Ali's king prawn pimientos that secured his place in the finals.



Ali became well-known in the Sunderland area for Cafe Bangla in East Boldon, before closing it in 2014. Since then he has worked as a chef at St James' Park and the Stadium of Light, and prepared food for the Rugby World Cup in 2016. Another highlight of his careers was working with celebrity chef, Mark Poynton from Cambridgeshire's Alimantum restaurant, where they cooked a feast for royalty from the Punjab, India.

Since Ali bought East India Takeaway he has worked hard to improve the reputation of takeaway food. Ingredients are bought fresh rather than from a wholesaler, and he now employs 10 people. Always an innovator, Ali has promised that 2018 will see more street style food on the menu.



Steve's Nature Diary

January

You will have heard a lot recently about how the changing climate is affecting wildlife.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) have been investigating the effects that climate change might have on where different species might occur in the future. For the first time, scientists at the BTO have been investigating how climate change will affect how common different species are likely to be across Great Britain. The research shows "that although several birds may benefit from a changing climate, particularly in the north, some species will be hit hard and among these are some of the most vulnerable British birds".

Several species (55 of the 124 considered in this study) are likely to benefit from future climate change and their populations may increase significantly by 2080. In contrast, fewer species (11 of the 124) are likely to suffer from climate change. This may apparently look like good news, but in reality, six of the 11 species that are projected to decline are already included in the British red list of the birds that are at highest risk of local extinction (Grey Partridge, Curlew, Grasshopper Warbler, Ring Ouzel, Pied Flycatcher, and Yellowhammer), and four (Red Grouse, Snipe, Willow Warbler, and Meadow Pipit) are currently in the amber list.

These species will be at even greater risk of extinction if urgent actions are not taken to improve the habitats and landscapes they require to give them a chance to adapt to climate change. Why not make one of your new year's resolutions to do something positive for a local habitat near you.

Visit the BTO website <https://www.bto.org/> for more information.

Next DEADLINE

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Sedgefield W.I. 1918-2018: Congratulations!

2018 sees the centenary of the creation of the Sedgefield branch of the Women's Institute and the ladies have arranged a year of celebration.

On Wednesday 31st January 2018 at 11 am, a tree is to be planted in Hardwick Park, to commemorate the formation of the Sedgefield branch of the Women's Institute in 1918. An engraved plaque will be unveiled next to the tree to remember this special event.

A Centenary Dinner will follow on Wednesday 7th February 2018 at Hardwick Hall Hotel, which stands near to the building where the original Founder Members decided to form the Sedgefield branch.

There follows a year of special events which we hope to cover in Sedgefield News, including a special photograph, a floral display in the flower bed adjacent to St Edmund's Church; a day trip to Skipton, a local heritage walk, a Garden Party - the list goes on. It sounds like the ladies are going to have a busy and enjoyable year of celebrating.

New Year, New Challenge ...

Does walking 1,000 miles in a year sound a bit too much? Well, it equates to **2.74 miles a day** or 4.409km. Does that still sound a long way? To give you an idea, imagine this. You could walk from the Cricket Club entrance on Station Road; turn right into the high street and go past the Co-op; turn left at the Dun Cow and walk along East End onto the Lane; turn right onto Chestnut Road and walk up to Hardwick Primary School; then left onto Hawthorn Road and through the cut onto Durham Road; when you reach the turning to Wallington Drive you can turn round and retrace your steps. If this still sounds too far, start with a smaller distance and build up by time, 10 minutes, 15 minutes and so on.

It's a chance to get some exercise, fresh air and meet people. Perhaps you could meet up with friends on the way or combine it with a bit of shopping, taking the children or grandchildren to school, going to work or walking the dog. There are lots of pleasant places to work around the village and for those who want to go further afield, Hardwick Park is on the doorstep.

Like everything, there is a website where you can record your progress, but pen and paper will do just fine, as it is your own personal goal. Perhaps you could take a photograph each day to record the weather and the changing seasons.

Good luck and enjoy. www.walk1000miles.co.uk

And here's one way to get those feet moving ... help Sedgefield News!

We are looking for a kind person (or persons) willing to deliver the News on a regular basis in Sedgefield. The round of 80 papers goes from the village end of Station Road, along one side of West End; a section of Durham Road then down Front Street and High Street, finishing with Cross Street, Rectory Row and the other side of West End. This round could be split between 2 or 3 people. Any offers please to Judith Edgoose, phone/text 07899984464, or mail@toddsousefarm.co.uk. Thank you.

Continued from page 1. Hardwick Primary "outstanding in all areas"

The school's core culture of 'Instil, Inspire, and Innovate' has led Sedgefield Hardwick pupils to exceed the expected national standards in reading, writing and mathematics at key stages 1 and 2. The pupils were also spoken of highly in the report, described as 'wonderful ambassadors' for their school who displayed 'exemplary behaviour'.

Head teacher Sally Newton said: "The outstanding judgements we have been awarded are testimony to the significant journey of creativity and innovation that we have been on since the time of our last inspection. This amazing journey has been possible because of the talent, determination and brilliance of all involved in our school community. Congratulations to our outstanding Board of Governors, teachers, teaching assistants and all non-classroom based staff who together form an exceptional team and each day strive to achieve the best possible social and academic outcomes for every child."

Mrs Newton would like to thank the hugely supportive community who have been instrumental in the changing life of the school. "Together we will continue to create the best possible opportunities for young people as a positive contributor to our own and surrounding communities, instilling success and inspiring learning through innovative thinking."

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Blooming marvellous

Stalwart members of Sedgfield in Bloom were recognised at the recent Durham County Council Environment Awards, presented at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Durham. The whole group was Highly Commended for their outstanding efforts to transform an overgrown area in front of Ceddesfeld Hall. Individual awards went to inspirational chairman Howard Smith and Bloomer Norman Midgley, principal designer of the Stepping Through Time Garden. Publicity Officer Norma Neal said "Public acknowledgement of the work involved in this major project is very gratifying. We have been encouraged throughout by compliments and very positive comments from residents and visitors to Ceddesfeld Hall and Gardens. Please keep the kind words coming!" Bloom volunteers meet every Wednesday at 10 am at Ceddesfeld Hall, and new recruits are very welcome. Support Bloom efforts at fundraising events. See p12



Ian Sutherland with the delivery of plants in April, with Alice Hobson and Norman Johnson.



Reductions in bus fares from Sedgfield northwards

Arriva recently extended the Durham District fare zone to include Sedgfield, giving unlimited travel in the zone. It covers the X12 all the way via Durham to Newcastle, with a bus up to every 30 minutes, limited stop all the way, with many journeys to Durham taking just 33 minutes. Stopping points in Sedgfield are The Green, Salters Lane and Netpark. Buses run until the early hours on Friday and Saturday nights during Durham University terms.

The zone also covers a range of connections from Durham, such as the Arnison Centre, Crook and Bishop Auckland. Fishburn is also included in the Durham District zone, with the X21 and X22 linking it to the X12 at Sedgfield up to every 30 minutes. The cost of a return journey on Service X12 to Durham was reduced from £7 to £6.50. For regular bus users, the weekly ticket is reduced from £25 to £18.20. There are similar savings for 4 weekly and annual travel tickets too.

Bridge building with carols and treats

Pupils from Sedgfield Community College wanted to make a positive response to recent bad publicity about young people in Sedgfield so members of the college brass band and other students made their way to the Eden Drive area one afternoon before Christmas to perform carols and hand out festive treats to residents. The initiative, coordinated by Sedgfield Neighbourhood Policing Team, was supported by Sedgfield Town Council.

Most residents of this area are elderly so the event was a chance to build bridges between generations. Along with the festive music, residents were served tea, coffee, mulled wine and sweet treats that had been baked at the college. Students also knocked on doors in the area and handed out additional goodies, along with free raffle tickets to win a hamper donated by Sedgfield Co-op and other prizes.

PCSO Lisa Hall of Sedgfield Neighbourhood Policing Team organised the event: "We are proud to have arranged the mini festive community event that brought different generations together in our neighbourhood policing area.

Many young people living in and visiting Sedgfield recently have been the subject of negativity, and our hope was that by organising this with the help of the town council and the college, we have eliminated those perceptions and brought the community a step closer together. Our sincere thanks go to Katie Lennox and Simon Fuller, both teachers at Sedgfield Community College, Chris Lines of Sedgfield Town Council and the young people who supported this special evening to help build bridges within our community." One of the performers, Alisha Quinn said "I was really happy to be involved, because of the positive atmosphere created, both from young people towards the older residents and in return. I think that it helped to repair some of the damage that has been caused in this important relationship between generations."

Cllr Chris Lines adds: "Most young people in Sedgfield are good citizens who contribute positively to the community. This was a great initiative that we were happy to support. Sedgfield Town Council has done a lot over the last two years to improve youth provision. In 2017 we launched a new youth club in Sedgfield, which is now being led to a large degree by young people, who we are asking to help us to continue enhancing opportunities and facilities in the town for the younger generations."



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Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

Notes from the December meeting:

A most disappointing end to the year, as the Police did not attend and there was no feedback on the previous weekend car crime spree. However we learned later in the week that PC Todd had been called away at the last minute to assist in the search for a missing young vulnerable person.

The issues raised by residents were those that we have sought to resolve throughout this year. They are -

Lack of effective communications of local matters from our local Police; Weekend (youth) Anti-Social Behaviour; Vehicles: Speeding & Parking problems in Sedgefield. Members decided the **No 1 Priority** for Police (PACT), even though it does not appear on the Police website, should be **Curbing Weekend Youth ASB and their group sizes**. Following the meeting the Secretary notified local Police with the request that this should be their PACT Priority for the next 2 months.

N/Hood Watch urges all residents affected by these or any other problems to report them to the Police, using the number 101. For Parking and environment matters use DCC Wardens 03000 26000 . Please ask for an incident number or reference for future follow up. *In relation to this, the PCSO, Sedgefield Community College and Town Council are working to support young people in developing better links within the community. Please see article on page 3.*

Christmas Crackdown

Durham Police are keen to reinforce educational messages around driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol and are warning of a clamp down on those who do not heed these messages. Extra patrols and roadside checks will be conducted in the run up to and over Christmas and New Year, in a bid to tackle those who drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Officers will breathalyse drivers and use 'Drugwipe' kits to test motorists at the roadside for the presence of cannabis or cocaine in their system.

Between 2012 and 2016 in the North East, a total of 1,650 people were injured in collisions that involved a suspected drink-driver. Thirty eight of those were killed. Chief Inspector Graham Milne of Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit said, 'It is worrying, that we push this message out every year, and still many reckless drivers ignore the warnings that cause devastating consequences.' The police stress that if you test positive for the influence of alcohol or drugs whilst driving, then you have committed an offence and face a minimum ban of 12 months, with all the attendant disruption to family life and the ability to work. In addition, offenders can receive an unlimited fine. More serious drink and drugs driving offences can result in a prison sentence; causing death while under the influence of drink or drugs can result in up to 14 years in jail.

The public are encouraged to report any concerns relating to drink or drug driving anonymously, using crimestoppers-uk.org or 0800 555 111

Faraday Bags

Police are urging owners of keyless entry cars to protect themselves from theft as a growing crime trend emerges. Keyless entry car theft is growing nationally, as criminals exploit technology to steal high value vehicles. They manipulate the vulnerabilities of the keyless system by capturing the signal from the car's fob and fooling the vehicle into believing the keys are with the vehicle so that it can be opened, started and driven away within minutes. PC Dave Taylor, from Durham Constabulary's organised crime team, said: "While the risk of having your vehicle stolen in County Durham and Cleveland remains low compared to other areas of the UK, it is without a doubt that there are criminals in our area who have the technology to steal vehicles." Now the force is urging people to use a 'Faraday bag' to protect themselves from being a victim of this crime. Drivers can store keys in the bag to prevent unwanted communication between the vehicle and its keys.

The bags are made of flexible metallic fabric and are used to block out electromagnetic fields. It is a low cost, effective solution, and with your keys in the bag, the signal will be blocked and your car will be safe. Faraday bags can now be purchased for just £2.60 from the Durham Agency Against Crime, please contact enquiries@daac.org.uk to order.

Letter from PC Todd

This month I would like to remind residents of the importance of locking car doors. Recently, vehicles were entered and property stolen in Kerr Crescent, Belsay court, Elm Avenue and Boyne Court. In one case a window was forced down allowing access. Please lock your doors and close your windows. Other recent crimes include a garage burglary in White House Drive, where the garage door was forced and property taken, and various shops and stores which have suffered from persons shoplifting.

In one case children in school uniform were responsible. Their identities are known and they have been dealt with.

The recent spell of cold weather and snow brought out the worst in the idiot youths who pelted snowballs at moving vehicles. If you know who they were, please forward their names.

Lastly, please check out the article on Faraday Bags on the left. Very helpful.

Pub Watch:

A meeting was held recently at the Dun Cow. No issues were raised which required further action by members.

Call 101 to contact Local Police

to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information. It is advisable to keep notes of the conversation & obtain an incident number.

To contact PCLO Faye Callan

Call 101 - extension 742317 email faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk

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Ceddesfeld Hall

Home of Sedgefield Community Association (SCA)

The first event in 2018 is the traditional Burn's Supper with piper, haggis, whisky and traditional poems and toasts on Saturday January 27th at 7pm. Tickets at £24 are available from the numbers below or STC offices.

Looking forward to 2018, SCA are hoping to develop new and recent events such as Sedgefield Community Day (scheduled for June 23rd) and Sedgefield Book Ends, (September/October).

We also want to improve the traditional events such as the Mediaeval Fayre. We're keen to hear from any stall holders who can offer something a bit different and also any businesses, volunteers or other community groups who can support and assist in the run up, on the day or at any other events.

If you would like to become a volunteer in 2018, please get in touch; we'd love to hear from you. Ceddesfeld Hall is run wholly by volunteers who organise and arrange events and activities which hopefully reflect the wishes, interests and pastimes of residents of all ages. Community support is vital in allowing SCA to continue to do this. All money raised through the year, through membership fees and profit from organised events, goes back to maintaining the hall and the organisation of future events.

Sedgefield Co-op is a keen supporter of SCA. Ceddesfeld Hall will benefit from the new round of community funding so please join up to the Co-op scheme by popping into store or going online to register and select SCA as your chosen charity. The scheme runs through to April, and 1% of what you spend on Co-op brand goods, comes to Ceddesfeld. We hope to improve outdoor games and activities for families with younger children with the money raised.

Ceddesfeld bar is open as usual throughout the festive season, Sunday to Friday evening, although we are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Eve and New Years Day. The bar and lounge will be open on Christmas Eve, with a trivia quiz (for those who wish to take part), plus nibbles and mince pies. SCA are also pleased to announce that the bar and foyer is scheduled for redecoration early in the New Year.

For more information, contact Wendy: 01740 620206, Pat: 01740 620607, Sarah: 01740 622185 or visit www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk

SDT Projects

News from Sedgefield Development Trust

Sedgefield Energy Switch

REGISTRATION PERIOD NOW OPEN FOR THE FEBRUARY AUCTION

The results of the October 2017 auction have been very pleasing particularly as more than 20% of the people who registered joined the scheme for the first time. The SDT would like to think that this may be an indication of the growing confidence that people have regarding the scheme. So if you would like to join the increasing numbers who have benefited from the scheme, now is the time to join. Having opened in December, this registration period will continue until **12th February 2018**. **For people who are already a part of the scheme and your existing energy contract comes to an end before the end of April 2018, you need to register for this auction.** If you would like any further information or need any assistance, please call the Sedgefield Development Trust Helpline: **07980 134 594**. We are always happy to help.

Sedgefield Farmers' Market **Sunday 7th January**

Stallholders have agreed that we should have a January market this year. It may be a bit smaller at this time of year but you will still be able to buy meat, veg and lots more from some of your favourite traders.

The Woodland Trust will be manning our Farmers' Market Community Stall this month as well as on 4th February. They will want to promote the Woodland Trust in general, but mainly they will be able to talk to you about the project which will be happening with Sedgefield Development Trust in the Spring (see below.) Sedgefield Development Trust always have a stall at the Farmers' Market with someone available for information on any of their projects. Just call at the SDT stall for a welcoming chat.

Woodland and Wildlife area

This joint project between Sedgefield Development Trust, The Woodland Trust and Durham County Council involves planting up land at the edge of NETPark to create a woodland and a wild flower meadow, which should encourage more wildlife into the area in years to come, and be a source of pride and enjoyment to the community.

The work will all commence in March next year and volunteers are very welcome. More information will be available in the next issue of Sedgefield News. Meanwhile, do come along and support the Farmers' Market and find out more about our project and the Woodland Trust themselves.

Homework help initiative

A core team of volunteers has formed (many thanks to them) with particular strengths in maths and sciences up to A-Level and beyond, and able to cover most subjects between us at primary and up to GCSE level. We are in the process of getting DBS checks done, ready to hit the ground running in January. So, if you or someone you know would like any help with homework/schoolwork, as a one-off or on a regular basis, do get in touch via homeworkhelpsedgefield@gmail.com We are also open to additional volunteers willing to share their expertise.

Tamzin Lafford

Contact SDT via the individual project telephone numbers and email addresses, or simply email sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk

Looking to get fit for the New Year? Why spend a fortune on gyms when you can join a supportive, friendly network of runners for a fraction of the price?

Annual membership of the Harriers is just £39 and includes up to five coach-led sessions a week as well as membership of England Athletics. We have runners of all abilities, from complete beginners to national standard and everything in between, so you're bound to find kindred spirits. There are also sports hall session each Monday evening free to members. If you join now you can get membership (up to March 31) for just £14! If you're still not sure, come along to one of our sessions and give it a go! New joiners can try up to four sessions for free. If you're interested, please come down to a session and let the coach know you're new. Or, contact club membership secretary Andrew Featherstone for more information: a.p.featherstone@hotmail.co.uk (07739 839004)



Big Fat Review of the Year 2017

I can hardly believe it's been a year, it's flown by so quickly, mostly, I think, because 2017 has been an exceptionally busy year in our community, especially with regards events and arts projects. Our many venues in the Village have seen a huge variety of performances, art events, gigs, music events, concerts and charity shows, all of which contribute to making Sedgefield the wonderful place it is.

The Parish Hall has seen performances by the Lyric Singers, SLYC and Lirica with their regular concerts throughout the year, including this year the Youth Choirs performance of their old favourite 'Yanomamo' by Peter Rose and Anne Conlon. The adult choirs have performed two sold out shows in the summer and at Christmas, both of which were incredibly well received by their faithful audiences.

The Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club have gone from strength to strength with another sell out year including performances from LaVendore Rogue, Stevie Nimmo, Greg Coulson, Eugene Bridges, Kossoff...The Band Plays On and Marcus Bonfanti. The Sedgefield Players have performed a variety of plays and shows including Elaine Murphy's 'Shush', 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C. S. Lewis and their annual Pantomime, 'The Pied Piper' by Alan P. Frayn. Their success at festivals this year has been exceptional with wins at Richmond and Saltburn in the All England Theatre Festival for their production of Russell and Wafer's 'The Regina Monologues' and then at the Sedgefield Festival in September where they swept the board with their productions of Brecht's 'The Jewish Wife', Stef Smith's 'Remote' and 'A Touch of Rose Madder' by Jim O'Connor.

This year's Folk Festival was a smash hit, utilising venues including the Parish Hall and Ceddesfeld Hall, with sold out performances from Flossie Malaviale, The Mighty Doonans, The Goodfellows and Other Roads. Over the road at Ceddesfeld the Open Mic nights have become a regular part of the Folk Festival and have been headlines this year by local groups including the Holkey Folkies and The Milliners.

Ceddesfeld also sees regular events including Burns Night Suppers and Quizzes, as well as the SCA being the drive behind the annual Medieval Fayre and Sedgefield Day. The Manor House is growing its reputation as an excellent venue, as well as hosting regular events such as Jane Spinks week long art projects.

All in all, another spectacular year, developed by the wonderful volunteers that Sedgefield is so lucky to have. Last mention must go to members of Sedgefield in Bloom who do so much to keep Sedgefield looking beautiful all year round and the wonderful work they do to help in the community. Here's hoping that 2018 will be just as productive, exciting and innovative. *TG (Photos from a variety of sources)*



Manor House Success

As regular readers and attendees of events at the Manor House may be aware, The Manor House is hosting gigs. Recently 3 very different gigs that were very well received by the audience - and they had some brilliant feedback from the artists themselves.

Lorraine Carpenter, Tour Manager for Dana & Susan Robinson from Vermont, USA, emailed "I understand from Dana that he and Sue had a lovely time and they felt the audience enjoyed it too. It was a pleasure working with you. I hope we'll do it again sometime." Dana also posted on his Facebook page "a wonderful evening at the Manor House in Sedgefield, UK."

Keith James, with his Songs of Leonard Cohen, reviewed his performance in front of a sell-out crowd; "I enjoyed my concert at the Manor House very much! It was a really great experience with a wonderfully warm and enthusiastic audience." Old Red Eyes commented on Facebook following his gig; "Loved it tonight at the Manor House. More like that please! Thanks to all who came." The great news is that some of the Manor House audience is coming from as far as Leeds, Barnard Castle, Washington and Middlesbrough - it's brilliant to be bringing folks here to Sedgefield.

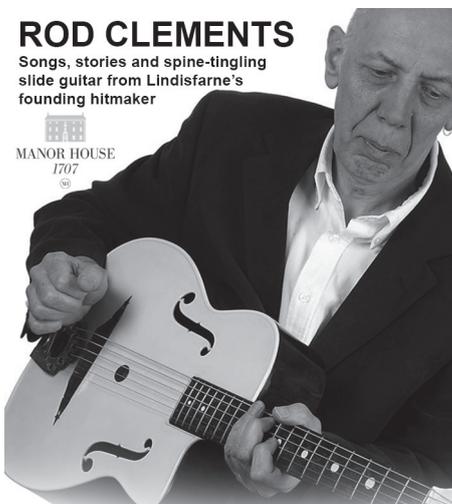
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More events in the
January Diary on page 12

As we head into deep winter, the England cricket team has not done much to warm our hearts so far in Australia. The Aussies have already regained the Ashes and a 5-0 whitewash looks like a good bet at the moment. Oh well. On a more positive note, the England women's cricket squad deservedly won Team of the Year at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards, after a brilliant World Cup triumph. Voting in the main award was very tight, but (finally!) Sir Mo Farah won. It was a great night for athletics, with Para-athletics superstar Jonnie Peacock in third and the Lifetime Achievement Award going to Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill. Meanwhile, here in Sedgfield, we have plenty of our own sports stars (individuals and clubs) and achievements to celebrate, as always.

Bowls

Sedgfield Bowls Club has completed its internal competitions for the year and the roll of honour is:

Wimpey Tadman Trophy Winners, Joan Gibson, Liz Garner, Peter Reade. Runners up were May Brown, Gary Mustard, Edith Cherry.

Robinson Vase Trophy team winners: Joan Gibson, Norman Dixon, Terry Wells, Linda Robertson.

Doubles Winners, Liz Garner & Edith Cherry. Runners up, Gary Mustard & Carol Archer.

Singles Winner, Geoff Parsons. Runner Up, Linda Robertson.

Player of the Year was Geoff Parsons.

Congratulations to all who played in the Durham Community Carpet Bowls winter competition and summer friendlies with Witton le Wear and Stanington. New players are welcome to come and join in during sessions in Ceddesfeld Hall. Bowls is a great way to take gentle exercise and make new friends.

For more information call Sheila Sutherland on 01740 622532.

Athletics

It's been a busy few weeks of celebrations for Sedgfield Harriers.

At the annual dinner, senior awards were handed out, including to the Club Member of the Year – Christine Hearmon. The full list of awards to will be posted on www.sedgfieldweb.co.uk

A few days later, the club celebrated the achievements of junior members. Over 100 All Stars certificates for performances in runs, jumps and throws were handed out, as well as the following awards:

Most Improved U11 girl, Lillie Graham

Most Improved U11 boy, Shamus Dodd

Most Improved Multi Discipline - Amelia Martin

Most Improved Sprints - Ellie Spink

Most Improved Endurance - Abbie Walker

Junior Club Member - Aimee Barlow

Most improved Strength and Conditioning - Callum Darby

Girl's Track Performance - Aimee Barlow

Boy's Track Performance - Robbie Till

Girl's Field Performance - Ellie Spink

Boy's Field Performance - Thomas Rowe

Girl's Cross Country Performance – Sophie Glaister

Boy's Cross Country Performance - Ciaran Lines

Young Volunteer - Robbie Till

Kieran Walker is cheered on by coach Scott Hydon, on his way to 3rd in the NEXC Championships



Rugby Union

There has not been much first team action for Sedgfield District RUFC since the last update. The much anticipated local derby against Newton Aycliffe was postponed when the opposition failed to turn up, and a match against Hartlepool fell victim to the weather. The first team's only fixture was a visit to Bishop Auckland, where a slow start from Sedgfield and poor scrummaging saw Bishop lead 13-0 at half time. A change in approach in the second half, with a series of probing kicks coupled with effective chasing, saw Sedgfield overturn the deficit to lead 13-20, thanks to a penalty try following a break from Josh Hetherington and further scores from Paul McCormack and David Birkin. Bishop Auckland came back through a penalty try of their own and a late converted try to win 27-20. However, the losing bonus point keeps Sedgfield in the top half of Durham & Northumberland Division 2.

The Sedgfield Saxons have continued their progress in their first season in the Tees Valley Social League, with a 12-10 victory at Acklam and a good performance in a 37-15 defeat to league leaders Billingham. The Saxons are slowly climbing the league after a slow start, and are currently 10th.

Home fixtures in January: 1st Team: 6th Whitley Bay Rockcliff; 20th Darlington. **Saxons:** 13th Newtonians; 27th Redcar Mariners.

Youth Football

The newest football team in the village has had a flying start to the season. At time of writing, Sedgfield Youth FC under 8s sit at the top of the Russell Foster Youth League, having scored 25 and conceded just 7 goals in their opening five games. The team was formed a matter of days before the start of the season, with the first training session literally the night before the opening game. All the boys (Will, Ben, James, Max, Daniel, Fraser, Benjamin and Zac are pictured below) have performed brilliantly and, along with the coaching team of Mal Dickenson and Chris McGirr, they thank Sedgfield Co-op, Marc Stanley and Right Lines Communications for generous sponsorship, without which they would not have had this opportunity.



Squash is on the next page, but otherwise, that's all for this month, and for 2017!

Thanks to everyone who submitted news during 2017 and please do keep sending it to chrisjlines@aol.com Here's to an exciting year of sport in 2018.

Sports update continued

Squash

Many congratulations to Sedgfield Squash Club, winner of Sports Club of the Year for East Durham and Sedgfield in the County Durham Sport and Physical Activity Awards. The award was presented for demonstrating commitment and passion for sport and physical exercise through the activities and opportunities it provides for its members and the local community. Sedgfield Squash Club now proceeds to the county-wide final in January. Fingers crossed for more success then!



Winter cycling

With the road cycle racing more or less finished, where do cyclists go? Some retreat to training on turbos and rollers in garages and conservatories (or in the house if they can get away with it) others turn to Cyclo Cross.

Now in its 5th year, the Hardwick Park based round of the North East Cyclo Cross League series was held on the 25th November and saw a healthy field of 70 riders from across the north east racing in Hardwick East Park.

Cyclo cross is an increasingly popular winter based off road form of cycle racing and easily accessible for new competitors of all ages. The Hardwick Park round is always popular as the course offers fast racing and is spectator friendly. This year's event was held in typically cold November conditions, with low temperatures just warm enough to make the going increasingly heavy after the preceding week's rain. In the main race for seniors, veterans and Juniors, James Raw of Cycleways SG Petch gained the lead early on and stretched it out to take a comfortable win, covering 8 laps of the 1.3mile course in 48 minutes and 31 seconds. The remaining podium places were hard fought, with frequent place changes, with Ellis McCoy of GS Metro 2nd and Jon Bayley of Gosforth RC 3rd. The preceding Under 12s race, on a short course, was equally competitive, with Ben Scott of Newcastle Pheonix beating Daniel Thompson of Cleveland Wheelers by 11 seconds after most of the race lying second.

The series may well return in 2018. Anyone interested in competing or helping out in this volunteer event should look up www.neccl.co.uk

Ian Dunn, Ferryhill Wheelers. Photo by Wilf McNaughton

Sedgfield army of volunteers thanked at celebration event

Now in its third year, 'A Celebration of Sedgfield Volunteers' was organised by Sedgfield Village Games, held in the Manor House and supported by Sedgfield Co-op. At the special reception, with refreshments and a free raffle, Sedgfield's volunteers were thanked once again for their hard work.

More than 70 representatives from a wide range of community groups attended, between them representing scores of clubs, societies and other community groups. Guests were asked to bring donations for the local food bank and a generous number of items were collected. They have been handed over to the foodbank by Michael King of St. Edmund's Church and Sedgfield Area Churches Together.

Chris Lines, event organiser and member of the Sedgfield Village Games committee, comments: 'There was a brilliant turnout at the event - the room was packed and it was a lovely atmosphere. We welcomed a very good cross section of the many volunteers who help make Sedgfield such a vibrant community and great place to live. It's really nice to be able to thank volunteers in this way for their amazing work and we're very grateful to the Manor House and Sedgfield Co-op for supporting the event again.'

Sedgfield Village Games was inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and although the main focus has always been on sport, it has also contributed to the many other aspects of community life in Sedgfield, all made possible by volunteers.



Letters & thanks

Re: Our letter to Sedgfield News on the Station Road Playing Field "Village Green" registration

It is over two years since we made this application (July 2015) so this is to update you on progress.

We have recently contacted the Registration Authority and have been informed that the application is with their legal department.

This is not a time limited process but it is encouraging that it may be getting some attention.

*N Holmes and Rachel Myers
3 Hornby Avenue. 620763*

Mayoral thanks

The Mayor and Mayoress of Sedgfield, Councillor David and Mrs Elizabeth Brown, would like to thank everyone who attended, helped, sponsored and provided prizes for their fundraising lunch held on Saturday 4th November in Sedgfield Parish Hall. We raised £2,004 towards the Great North Air Ambulance and the Macular Society, as well as other local good causes. Thank you for your generous support.

Turbulent Times

I am seeking help with a research project called Turbulent Times, which focuses on 'Shell Shock' and the WW1 returnees.

I understand that a number of WW1 soldiers were admitted to **Winterton Hospital** in Sedgfield, having returned from WW1 with various mental health problems. I am seeking

1. Any information on how these soldiers travelled to Winterton Hospital from down south where they landed when they returned from the war front;
2. Any information on soldiers and their conditions;
3. For those that died whilst in Winterton Hospital, where they are buried; and
4. Any additional information that your readers think would be helpful.

The research is funded from the Heritage Lottery Fund and is managed by the Workers' Educational Association which is a non profit making organisation which delivers a number of courses for adults. I am a volunteer for this project and my written word hopefully will be included in a WEA publication and will be available to the public. Thanks for any help offered.

Gareth Rees, Thorpe Thewles.

gareth.rees1@sky.com

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DIARY: January 2018

Submit your events to diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Wed 3 rd	Sedgefield WI: Parish Hall, 7:15pm. "Binchester Roman Fort" by Gordon Henderson. Ginger wine & mince pies. Members' competition: Who was the best woman of the last century, & why?(max 20 words). Visitors always welcome
Fri 5 th	U3A: Parish Hall 2pm. Barbara Dixon: "A Ramble round a Registry Office" Members free, Visitors welcome, £3 at the door.
Sat 6 th	Drop in Surgeries: Cllr John Robinson. 9 – 9.45am Bradbury & Mordon Village Hall; 10 – 11am Sedgefield Library; 11.15 – 12 noon Fishburn Community Centre. Cricket Club Quiz: 8pm at the Cricket Club. Quiz entry fee £1 per person.
Sun 7 th	Sedgefield Farmers' Market: On the village green from 8.30am. New Generation Church: 10.30am in The Parish Hall.
Mon 8 th	Local History Society: Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm. The Lindisfarne Gospels by Olley Burton. Wives and Friends: Methodist Church Hall 7.30pm. Carrier Bag Sale.
Tue 9 th	Ladies' Club: Ceddesfeld Hall, 8pm. "Why my Top Ten Cafes" Talk by Erland Rendell
Thu 11 th	Sedgefield Show Meeting: 8pm @ Sedgefield Social Club
Fri 12 th	Sedgefield Country Market: Parish Hall 10am to 11.30am. Home baked produce, Crafts, Jams, Cards, Plants, Refreshments. For information call 629441.
Sun 14 th	New Generation Church: 10.30am in The Parish Hall.
Tue 16 th	Sedgefield Local History Society and Village Veterans: Commemoration of James Weir Gibbin - Killed in Action, Jan 16 1917. All welcome for a brief ceremony starting at 10.45am at the war memorial. Sedgefield, Ferryhill & District Flower Club AGM: 2pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall.
Fri 19 th	Live Music Night at Sedgefield Cricket Club: 7.30 pm. Main guest: Jez Lowe. Also featuring: Rob Lowery, John Weighell and John Wrightson Band. Admission £11, includes buffet. Tel 621347. The Sedgefield Plan: Sedgefield Town Council Public Meeting, Parish Hall, 7 -9pm
Sat 20 th	Sedgefield in Bloom Dance: Dance to 'Rootin Tootin' in the Parish Hall – tickets £10 (from council offices), includes pie and peas supper; bring your own drinks.
Sun 21 st	New Generation Church: 10.30am in The Parish Hall.
Tue 23 rd	Mordon and District Ladies Circle. Visit to Parlour Made Production: An insight into cheese making in Mordon.
Fri 26 th	Sedgefield Blues Club: A night with Aynsley Lister. Doors open 7pm. Tickets £15. Visit www.sedgefieldblues.com for contact details and further information.
Sun 28 th	New Generation Church: 10.30am in The Parish Hall.

2017 - another successful year at Sedgefield Blues Club

Hundreds of fans enjoyed the best acts on the Blues circuit from the UK and beyond. As volunteers, we get great pleasure in the feedback from people outside the area who have discovered a hidden gem - plus, they are always overwhelmed by the beauty of our village and the kindness shown to them by local people.

Our first act in 2018 is Aynsley Lister (see Diary). He has headlined festivals all over Europe, including Durham Blues Festival last year. This will be his third (long awaited) visit to Sedgefield and another fantastic evening of entertainment that will continue to make Sedgefield Blues Club one of the most talked about venues on the circuit.

For example, did you know over 200 bands/artists get in touch each year wanting a gig, most based on recommendations from other artists; very satisfying for all involved.

Please check out www.sedgefieldblues.com for next year's gig list. It would be great to see you there. Finally, Sedgefield Blues Club wishes all our friends, volunteers and all of our artists a Merry Christmas and a New Year. See you next year.

Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the Publisher or the Editor. We strive to be impartial & independent. We reserve the right to edit copy & will not publish letters of unknown authorship. Please send your contact details with correspondence.

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SDT Company Secretary, John Fitzpatrick, 7 Melgrove Way, Sedgefield, TS21 2JN, email sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk

Sedgefield Library

Tel: 03000 269521 Opening Hours:

Library re-opens at 9.30am on Wednesday 3rd January

- 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 2.15pm: 'Boogie Beat' Pre-school session. Booking essential.

Craft Group: 1.30pm 2nd & 4th Fridays

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Tues 6.30-7.30pm & Thurs 7pm - 8pm

Chi Taekwondo Sat 10.30am - 11.30

For tennis, wheelchair rugby & other sports, call the Hub on 01740 617882

Sedgefield Social Club

Entertainment in January

Saturday 6th: Sue Allan

Saturday 13th: Stephz

Mon 15th: Country Night, Billy Davies

Saturday 20th: Becca

Saturday 27th: Kevin Royale

Telephone Number: 01740 620591

Sedgefield Tea Dance

Tuesday 16th January from

1pm - 3pm in the Parish Hall

Ring Ann, 629070 or Joyce, 622601.

Youth Club

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The Sedgefield Plan

Sedgefield Town Council is holding a Public Meeting on Friday 19th January at Sedgefield Parish Hall from 7 – 9pm

Work to develop a neighbourhood plan. known as The Sedgefield Plan has been ongoing for some considerable time.

You are invited to attend this meeting, the purpose of which is to explain the current status of the plan and to seek your views on how this should now move forward. Further information regarding this meeting will be published on www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk and in our Twitter feed, as well as via posters and the residents' database.