

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

**January 2020: A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR! Deadline for next edition: Wednesday 15th January**

## Sedgefield's shopping trend goes local

Small Business Saturday was held on 7th December to celebrate small business success and to encourage customers to 'shop local' and support businesses in their communities. This seemed a good excuse to talk about the local shops in our community.

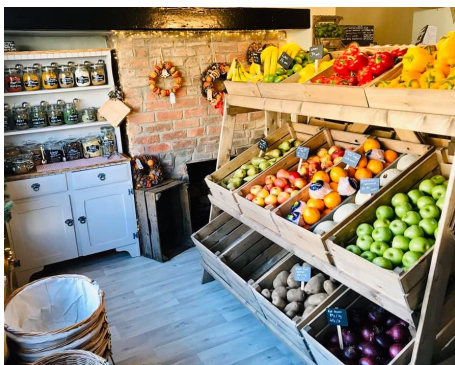
UK consumers have taken to online shopping with enthusiasm, spending more online than any other European country. Since 2006 online sales have grown each year, reaching 20% of total retail sales in December '18.

The newspaper headlines tell us of the death of the high street and of town centres becoming derelict. But it doesn't have to be like this.

High streets are at the heart of the community and are our "original social network", providing a space in which communities are able to mix freely. This is especially important for more vulnerable or isolated groups; high streets can act as a real focal point for community activity.

Sedgefield and the surrounding villages have a number of unique and distinctive shops alongside traditional businesses. You can do your weekly shop at one of the supermarkets, then get that special treat, or maybe several, at one of the smaller speciality shops.

The latest, a 'green' greengrocer, has just opened its doors in Sedgefield.



*Above: **From Loft to Loved**  
Possibly the quirkiest addition to our streets, combining beautiful craft shopping with a range of workshops designed to inspire our creativity.*



**The Juicy Pear** (left) sells vegetables, fruit, dry foods, herbs, spices, nuts, cheese, bread, and greener personal and household items.

Every month a flourishing farmers' market takes place on the Sedgefield Village Green, with fresh produce provided by local growers.

There are a host of lovely shops to find a special gift from handmade confectionary to eye-catching clothing. But it's not all about boutique shopping. Our villages have a great selection of hairdressers, estate agents, opticians, post offices, corner shops and much more.

You can take a break from all that retail therapy with a quick bite to eat in a cosy tea shop, or perhaps have something more substantial in one of the restaurants and pubs.

The internet may be convenient, but it doesn't offer the community experience of a visit to your local town or village, with the chance to catch up with friends or just to grab a cup of coffee.

Ensuring that local shops thrive and can compete in the digital age is a complex problem, but the one thing we can all do to make sure they survive is to go and visit them.

## SEDGEFIELD NEWS TEAM

consists of volunteers with a wide range of interests & expertise. We would love to hear from you if you're interested in covering the local arts scene. All our contact details can be found below.

## DO YOU LOVE OUR MARKET ENOUGH TO GET INVOLVED?

We are looking for someone to attend the monthly Farmers' Market alongside the market manager, with a view to helping on a regular basis and developing new ideas for this increasingly successful project.

You're welcome to "try before you buy" so if you are interested in coming along on Sunday January 5th, call Roger Clubley for a chat on 07803 269956.

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## GREENER SEDGEFIELD

For sometime we've been encouraged to recycle and reuse but lately it's been emphasised how important it is to reduce or refuse. One way to do this is by eliminating single use plastic. These items are things like straws, coffee stirrers and most food packaging for things like fruit and vegetables which often is unnecessary. Do bananas not already have their own packaging, so why do they need a bag around them? Zero waste stores have been popping up aiming to provide the growing number of discerning customers with more eco-friendly alternatives to pre-packed products. Sedgefield News asked Greener Sedgefield to give an overview of such a venture.

Happily we can report that Sedgefield has their own zero waste store in the newly opened, The Juicy Pear. Owners, Natalie and Mark Barron originally envisaged a greengrocers but decided to encompass a bigger opportunity. Talking to Mark and Natalie they clearly have grabbed the ethos wholeheartedly. Natalie tells us that the stock is as local as possible, reducing carbon footprint. As well as fruit and vegetables, The Juicy Pear encourage customers to bring their own containers and refill on various products including cereals, dried fruits, nuts and seeds.

There are spices and herbs in large jars and you pay for what you need by weight. Dispensers contain liquid shampoo, conditioner, body and hand wash as well as washing up liquid so you can refill and repurpose bottles from home.

## Careers Day at Sedgefield Community College.

The Co-op recently took part in a Careers Day for Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 students, alongside representatives from the NHS, Kier Construction, The Armed Forces, Parsons Containers and a range of other potential employers.

The Co-op had three information points: Logistics, Stores/Member Pioneers & Funeral Care, and students heard about the various roles and job opportunities in the various branches of the Coop. There were some great questions and comments from insightful kids trying to make sense of the world. One particular comment from a Y10 interested in apprenticeships really stood out! "The Co-op does 21 different types of apprenticeships? That's awesome!" Many thanks to Sedgefield Community College for the invitation.

*Tim Dredge.*

Whilst in the shop we discussed other areas of the house that can have an environmental impact, such as washing up or having a shower.

Most synthetic sponges release tiny plastic particles which then go down the drain, products do exist which prevent this and are made from natural fibres like coconut.

The Juicy Pear have considered these areas too. They were telling us that they have tested and use various products within their home and family before putting the brands on sale.

The importance of being free of unnecessary packaging has been extended to shampoo bars, toothbrushes, and personal hygiene products. Even children have been considered with a range of products aimed at them including reusable drinking straws.

The Barrons admit not everything has been easy to keep plastic free, their biggest struggle having been to



source cucumbers not wrapped in plastic, something which hopefully will be remedied in the future as they're going to work with a local allotment holder.

Natalie and Mark will introduce more stock as time goes by and are happy to listen to customers requests and recommendations. They certainly have some great ideas going forward. We wish them well and congratulate them on the opening of their store.



## Winter Wonderland

Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School enjoyed their annual Winter Wonderland celebration on Friday 6th November. The event, which has been running for a number of years, has become larger and more popular, attracting visitors from Sedgefield and beyond.

This year, visitors were greeted with the sight of four large 'snow globes' constructed within the school hall, each one decorated to reveal a different Christmas scene - a living room on Christmas morning, an elves' workshop, a snowman scene, and a reindeer stables. Christmas punters were treated with a performance dance of Wizzard's 'Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday' by the school staff.

In the school corridors, a wide range of stalls were available with wares for all ages. Some stalls were selling products made by Sedgefield Hardwick pupils, and there were also a large number of professional and charity stall holders, all with a wide range of products. Food and drink was also available from Mrs Claus' kitchen, lovingly concocted by Mrs Claus herself!

After the performance, the snow globes opened to visitors, providing a range of skill games and activities, as well as selfie opportunities! Both children and adults took great

pleasure in throwing snowballs, trying to knock the snowmen's hats off! Of course, no Winter Wonderland would be complete without a visit from the man in red himself, Santa Claus! He took up residence in his grotto, located in the Reception garden!

Overall, the evening was a large success, and we are already looking forward to next year's event!





## Sedgefield News: from the past

by Martin F Peagam, *The Time Traveller*, for Sedgefield Local History Society.

### In January 1920 – 100 years ago

Charles Renner, a Fireman on the North Eastern Railway, was leaning out from the cab as it passed through Sedgefield Station. He was struck on the head by a projection from a passing goods train. Renner suffered a fractured skull and died soon after.

### In January 1870 – 150 years ago

An inquest held at the Black Lion Hotel heard about a fatal accident near Sedgefield. George Carney was employed by Mr Wight, a soda manufacturer from Stockton. On a foggy Tuesday night, Carney was on his way back to Stockton, having delivered a supply of lemonade to Sedgefield. With Carney in the one-horse spring wagon was George Heald, a greengrocer.

Confused by the fog, the horse became disoriented as it approached the stone wall of a bridge after rounding a sharp bend. The horse stopped suddenly, then fell. The wagon over-turned, and the occupants of the wagon were thrown from the wagon into a ditch. George Heald recovered quickly but George Carney was not so fortunate, and died.

The inquest made recommendations for the road to be widened and protection be provided near the wall, to prevent future accidents.

### In January 1820 – 200 years ago

A reward of ten guineas was being offered to bring to justice those who had stolen 'A Fat Country Pig'. The pig had been stolen on Christmas Eve the year before. Its owner, John Elcoat, offered five guineas and another five guineas was being offered by the 'Sedgefield Association for Prosecuting Felons.'

If you would like to know more about your local history, visit the Facebook page of the Sedgefield Local History Society or come along to one of our meetings.

## Blocki's Boys do it again!

Without Mike Blocki this time, the boys have won the Bishop Auckland Town Quiz, to reclaim the shield they last won in 2015.

This is a charity event, with at least £655 going towards local charity, 'Community in crisis'.

25 teams took part at Bishop Auckland Rugby Club - many thanks to them and to Glyn & Gillian Wales for their organising skills.

Blocki's boys were Graeme Oram, Tony Bland, Brian Lowes, Andrew Cannings, Darren Young and John Race.

## Betty's Boutique fashions a Grand Show with a Grand Total!

Over £500 was raised for Sedgefield's guides and rangers at a stylish and successful evening in a packed Parish Hall. Lily Grundy (below, directing from the stage) sends thanks to audience, models & helpers for fantastic support.



## True Friendship

The partnership between Sedgefield and our twin town of Hamminkeln in Germany goes back a long way. For decades, there have been very successful and positive exchanges with Scouts, choirs, our Twinning Association and, more recently, through running.

Visits either to Hamminkeln or from Hamminkelers to Sedgefield invariably make us feel so warmly welcome, buzzing, excited about the new people we've met and friends we've met again, and already looking forward to next year! And with the exchanges continuing to be so successful and positive, we are looking to explore how we can build on this, for instance create links between local businesses, schools, leisure clubs - let's dream big!

In May, another large contingent will come from Germany to visit Sedgefield and, although we don't know numbers yet, we are already thinking of ideas on how we can welcome them with an interesting, social and fun programme. The Sedgefield Twinning Association is finding it increasingly difficult to pull this together and would really like to have some input from the wider community. So, if you'd like to get involved in the organisation or maybe even stand for the committee and support the future direction of the STA, or if you'd just like more information, please get in touch with one of us. Alda Hummelinck [ahummelinck@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ahummelinck@yahoo.co.uk) or Judith Edgoose: [mail@toddsousefarm.co.uk](mailto:mail@toddsousefarm.co.uk)



## Meanwhile... Advent in Hamminkeln

The build up to Christmas starts at the end of November with weekend Christmas Markets all over the town.

We have been meeting up at markets in Brünen, Mehrhoog, Ringenberg and central Hamminkeln to take photos to share with Sedgefield News, to give readers a glimpse of what's happening here in the weeks before Christmas.

There are handmade Christmas decorations and unique gifts on offer, but the main attraction is the chance to meet friends and neighbours over a hot "Glühwein" or two, whilst enjoying local bands creating a special Christmas atmosphere. Laura and Hildegard Seidel





## ARTS UPDATE

### Festive songs for shoppers

Sunday 1st December dawned glorious: bright, crisp, but definitely frozen. With bobble hats a-plenty, Sedgefield Lyric Youth Choir (*photo right*) and Sedgefield Hardwick School Choir battled blinding sun and air so cold it took your breath away, to sing at December's Farmers' Market. It was a real treat for the customers!

With frozen feet, squinting faces and numbed fingers, the youngsters reminded us that there is more to Christmas than stocking up on sprouts - even lovely, locally grown sprouts on a stalk! Well done and thank you from the Market team.

If you are aged 8 to 18 and love to sing, then come along and give us a go. SLYC meets on Friday evenings - details below. For further information, contact Rob Guest on 01740 621140 or Kristen Peacock via email: [kristen.peacock@gmail.com](mailto:kristen.peacock@gmail.com)



### We needed a little CHRISTMAS!

Sedgefield Lyric Singers, SLYC and Lirica sang their socks off at their December concert - **We Need A Little Christmas** and the house was entertained by a wide repertoire of festive pieces including Rob's arrangement of Babe Of Bethlehem; a beautiful mash up of The First Noel & Pachelbel's Cannon and Rutter's lyrical, Christmas Lullaby, to name but three.



The Lyric Singers (*above*) have a more balanced choir these days and gave their best performance for a long time, the vocal quality enhanced by a mix of younger and more mature voices. SLYC performed with smiling confidence and Lirica produced a spine-tingling blend, even with their new line up.

Audience feedback was extremely positive and self-reflection over a pint at Ceddesfeld bar afterwards, concurred: this had indeed been the little piece of musical magic that we all so sorely needed.

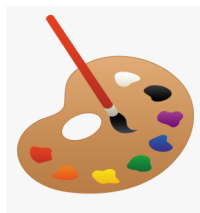
Your three choirs will be back June 26th & 27th for their joint Summer concert, so save those dates now. Look out for us at the Mediaeval Fayre and other local events too. 2020 rehearsals begin Friday 10th January at Ceddesfeld Hall- 6:30pm SLYC, 7:30pm The Lyric Singers; new members most welcome. Join your choir and sing into Spring!

### Sedgefield Art Group

**Our new 10 weekly sessions are due to start on Tuesday 14th January, from 6.30 till 8.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall.**

We are a small group of eleven people with a variety of skills who get a great deal of pleasure (and some pain!) from drawing and painting. The sessions are relaxed and informal with individual help, advice and encouragement from our tutor Derek Slater.

New members are most welcome. Experience is not a requirement, most of our members had never put pencil or brush to paper since their early school days. Should you be interested, please come along on January 14th. If you would like a chat and some more information please call Derek English on 01740 622032.



[sedgefieldartsandevents@hotmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldartsandevents@hotmail.com)

### Events at The Manor House

We have a great programme of events to start the New Year

**31st January – 2nd February is Independent venue Week**



**Friday 31st January:**

**The Alan Hull Songbook**

with Dave Hull-Denholm and Ian Thomson of Lindisfarne

**1st February: The Bird Scarers**

with Michael and Gary Chaplin – tales of life in the Durham Coalfield

**2nd February: Songwriters**

**Afternoon** with Phil Caffrey, Hayley McKay & David Neil Crabtree

**Tickets for all 3 events £10 each or for the whole weekend at £25.**

**Friday 21st February**

**'Call my Quaff' wine tasting evening**

with Newcastle Wine School.

Tickets £25. Details on

[www.manorhousesedgefield.co.uk/calendar](http://www.manorhousesedgefield.co.uk/calendar).

All tickets from  
The Manor House  
**01740 629 264**



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or [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com)  
(search Sedgefield.)

### Sedgefield Blues Club draws a new line!

Your contribution to live music also helps us to donate and support other local activities, and after ending the year on another sell out, we've been able to decide what to do with the extra money. So to draw a line under 2019, Sedgefield Blues Club have made a donation of £200 to Sedgefield Youth FC. The donation will be used to buy a lining machine which will enable the club to mark out the pitch for the Under 9s and U10s teams. By lining the pitch themselves, they will save the club hundreds of pounds over the coming years and will enable future SYFC teams to pay less each year on pitch fees, in turn helping the club to become more self-sufficient.

All the SYFC teams have had a magnificent season so far - long may it continue. Keep your eyes on the Sports section for updates.

*Below: the under 11's impeccably observed one minute silence in November*



# DIARY JANUARY 2020

Submit events to [diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com](mailto:diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com)

- Fri 3rd** **Veterans Coffee morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-12pm.  
**Sedgefield and District U3A** at Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Speaker, Peter Worrall on A brief history of time. All welcome. Guests £3 at the door, 01740 629574.
- Sun 5th** **Sedgefield Farmers' Market** 8.30am -12.30pm
- Mon 6th** **Sedgefield Methodist Wives & Friends**. Carrier bag sale. Contact Margaret Dickerson 01740 621093 or Jennifer Mason 01740 620296.  
**Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm. Saxon Jewellery by Alan Pierce. Contact Suzanne Hoper 01429 888250.
- Tue 7th** **Sedgefield Tea Dance**, Sedgefield Parish Hall 1-3pm, £2.50 including refreshments. For information, call Joyce 01740 622601 or Ann 01740 629070.
- Wed 8th** **Sedgefield Women's Institute**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7.15pm. "Pies, Poetry and Plonk", competition - a new year resolution.  
**Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch Meeting**, Sedgefield Social Club (Upstairs Room) from 7pm.
- Fri 10th** **Quiz night**, Sedgefield Cricket Club at 8.30pm.
- Sat 11th** **Dance for Dementia**, Sedgefield Parish Hall from 8pm-11pm. The Mayor of Sedgefield, Leo McCormack, hosts an evening of dancing and entertainment. Tickets cost £10 each (including pie and peas supper) and are available from the council offices or from the Mayor.
- Tue 14th** **Ladies Club**, Ceddesfeld Hall, Quiz by Judith
- Thu 16th** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Fire Station, 10.30am-12pm. For dementia clients and their carers only.
- Fri 17th** **Live Music Night**, Sedgefield Cricket Club, 7.30pm. Chris Bannister (music of John Denver), also featuring John Weighell and John Wrightson Band. Admission £11, for tickets 01740 621347.
- Sat 18th** **Sedgefield in Bloom, Dancing to Sharon Cardno** in the Sedgefield Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets from council offices, £10 including pie & peas.
- Mon 20th** **Sedgefield Methodist Wives & Friends**. Poetry & Song with Jan Smith. Contact Margaret Dickerson 01740 621093 or Jennifer Mason 01740 620296.
- Tue 21st** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Annual General Meeting.  
**Sedgefield Tea Dance**, Sedgefield Parish Hall 1-3pm, £2.50 including refreshments. For information, call Joyce 01740 622601 or Ann 01740 629070.
- Fri 24th** **Drop-in Café Coffee Morning**, 10am-12pm at Sedgefield Parish Hall, Teas, coffees, biscuits, cakes, friendly chat and more. A yellow **Foodbank donations box for non-perishable food items**. Raising funds for County Durham Foodbank and Sedgefield Area Churches Together.
- Tue 28th** **Mordon & District Ladies Circle**, Mordon Village Hall, 7.30pm. Handicrafts with From Loft to Loved.

## Peace, wellbeing and mindfulness

On **Sunday 2nd February** at 6pm a reflective, meditative, **Taizé-style ecumenical service** will be held at St. John Fisher Church in Sedgefield.  
 Organized by Sedgefield Area Churches Together.

## Mayor's Civic Ball

**Friday 6th March 2020 at Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield**

**Drinks Reception: 7pm. 3 course meal 7.30pm**

**Entertainment by International Singing Star Peter Grant, accompanied by Ivory Dan McCormack, supported by Watermelon Dance & Zumba Fitsteps Group,**

**The Mayor's Charity Band - 60's rock & roll dance music Carriages at Midnight**

**Tickets £35 from Sedgefield Town Council Offices - 01740 621273**

*Raising funds for Butterwick Hospice & the Alzheimer's Society*

## Sedgefield Library

**Tel: 03000 269521 Opening Hours:**

Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Thursdays: 10am - 6pm

Fridays: 1pm - 7pm

Saturdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

**Basic computing**, tailored to your needs:  
 Thursdays 10.30 - 12.30

**'Boogie Beat' pre-school session:**

Thursdays 2pm: Booking essential

**Craft Group:** 1.30pm 2nd & 4th Friday

**Book Circle:** 3rd Friday 2pm: new members always welcome.

We hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas & New Year and look forward to seeing you when we open again on

**Thursday 2nd January.**

## The Hub

@Sedgefield Community College

**New Dance Generation - Monday**

U9s 5-5.45pm. Over 9s 5.45-6.30pm

**Clubercise: Tues 6pm**

**Zumba: Tues 6.30pm & Thurs 7pm**

**Blade Taekwondo: Sat 10.30am**

Call **01740 617882** for all enquiries.

## January at Sedgefield Social Club

Sat 4th: Mark Peters

Sat 11th: Rose

Sat 18th: Kevin Royale

Sat 25th: Julia Robinson

## Sew Easy Sessions in January

Mondays 6.30-9pm

Venue: Parish Hall Boardroom.

## Ceddesfeld Accoustic Group

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

## St John Fisher Catholic Church Weekly Mass Times

Weds & Fri mornings, 9.45am

Sunday 10.45am. Thurs 7pm Adoration

Friday am after Mass, Legion of Mary

**parishsecretary1961@btconnect.com**

## New Generation Church

Sun 5th at Bethany Centre, Newton

Aycliffe, DL5 4UD

Sun 12th, 19th, & 26th

at Sedgefield Parish Hall

## Sedgefield Methodist Hall Non-Profit Playgroup

Mon, Wed & Thursday 9.30-11.30am in term time. For children aged 2 to 4.

Contact Barbara Smith 01740 620923 or

Jane Jones 01740 620893

## Sedgefield Blues Club

Please note:

**Friday 24th January**

**Kirk Fletcher + Emma Wilson Band**

**NOW SOLD OUT**



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## SEDGEFIELD VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**Twelve Scams for Christmas** Amy Jorgeson, Sedgefield Police Beat Team:

It may be the season of goodwill, but thieves and scammers never take a holiday. Some tips to stop you becoming a victim of fraud :



- 1. Online Shopping Fraud:** If possible, use online retailers that you have used before and have a good reputation. Be cautious when purchasing expensive items, especially those items that seem to be at a price 'too good to be true'.
- 2. Telephone Fraud:** Don't assume a caller is genuine - people aren't always who they say they are, and numbers showing in your phone display can be cloned. Never disclose security details, such as your PIN or full password. Don't be rushed - a genuine bank or organisation won't mind waiting to give you time to stop and think.
- 3. Auction fraud:** Always use recommended methods of payment rather than transferring money direct to a seller. Research the seller before you bid. If available, check their feedback but be mindful this can also be falsified.
- 4. Holiday fraud:** Always pay with a credit card; if they don't accept it don't buy from them. Use companies that are ABTA or ATOL protected.
- 5. Loan and investment scams:** Reputable loan providers will not ask for an advance fee. If they ask for an advance fee just say no. Research any loan or investment companies online before making any financial commitment.
- 6. Ticketing fraud:** Only buy tickets from reputable ticket sale, or resale, websites that are licensed to resell tickets and offer protection to buyers.
- 7. Donating to charity:** Visit the charity's website by typing the address into your browser rather than clicking on a hyperlink embedded in an email, social media or online ad.
- 8. Mobile malware/malicious apps:** Make sure you have the latest software installed on your mobile device for increased protection. Only download apps from official app stores like Google Play, Apple Store and Microsoft.
- 9. Links to websites:** If you receive a link through email/social media, please be aware, these can contain malware that could infect your computer; e-cards are an example of how this can happen. Always check the sender is someone you trust before you click on the link and ensure your anti-virus is up to date.
- 10. Social media scams:** Be careful about the personal information you put on your social media accounts. Check your privacy settings to ensure that you are only sharing the information with the people that you want to.
- 11. Dating fraud:** Guard your privacy when chatting online & be selective with the information you provide about yourself. Never send money or give credit card or online account details to anyone you do not know and trust. Trust your instincts, if something feels wrong act on it.
- 12. Mobile payments:** Always ensure that your phone has a strong password, or make use of the biometric settings to safeguard what is on your phone from unauthorised access. If lost or stolen, most mobile devices have the software to wipe all data from their memory remotely - learn how this works. If you have difficulty get a trusted friend or relative to help.

### Police Report

Sedgefield Police Beat Team have reported 35 incidents in Sedgefield in the month prior to 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019. This included:


**Thefts:** farm tractor stolen; thefts from the Co-Op, Sainsburys and Bolams (12 incidents in total); and theft of diesel (3 incidents)

**Burglaries:** residential burglary - theft of central heating boiler. From 22 October to date there have been 5 burglaries at the Co-Op. The burglaries are planned and different vehicles have been used. One person has been arrested and released on bail. It has been suggested by Police that internal shutters be fitted to deter criminals. Local police are working with CID to trace others responsible.

**Anti-Social Behaviour:** 3 incidents. Our Police Beat Team reported that crime in Sedgefield is very low compared to surrounding areas but we need you, to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity promptly and in complete confidence.

### Business & Advertising Notes

First, an apology. Our advert for **AES - All Electrical Services** - has shown an incorrect telephone number since the advert was placed in July. It is now correct (page 6) and the advert contains fuller information about the business.



**At Casa Yoga,**  
Cristina Moreira  
focuses on being  
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ability.  
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## Dawn of the Age of Graphene

**NETPark is home to the CPI Graphene Centre, a focus of expertise on this wonder material. But what is graphene?**

Why does it attract so much corporate interest? Think back to school science. Graphene is pure carbon, which exists in different forms, e.g. diamond and graphite, because its atoms can link to each other in several ways. Graphene is a single sheet of graphite comprising a one atom thick 'net' of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal array reminiscent of the geometry of a bee honeycomb, or the structure of chicken wire fencing. It has been referred to as a 'two dimensional material' - one of its dimensions comprises the diameter of a single carbon atom! This arrangement of carbon atoms imparts several remarkable properties.

**Graphene is the thinnest and lightest material known,** with a very high strength:weight ratio (200 times stronger than steel); it has high electrical & thermal conductivity along the plane of the carbon sheet, much higher than copper or silver. It is the best heat conductor at room temperature, and the best electrical conductor known. In fact, latest research indicates that room temperature superconductors can be developed from graphene.

Its optical properties are also under intensive study, for it is almost totally transparent. Along with high electrical conductivity, lightness & phenomenal strength, graphene can be ideal material for more efficient solar panels, LCDs etc.

**The CPI Graphene Centre helps with developing & commercialising new products.** It has attracted several new start-ups to NETPark, to work on game-changing formulations, e.g. graphene epoxy & polyester resins for anti-corrosion coatings and paints; additives to strengthen concrete; combination of graphene with aerogels to produce the strongest, lightest, most resilient materials ever developed, with uses in bullet-proof armour, aerospace, renewable energy generation; manufacture of revolutionary medical devices & sensors; in desalination of seawater, domestic water purification, separation of oil from water, waste water treatment; improving the effectiveness of personal hygiene products. Finally, the application of graphene formulations to computer chip and printed circuit technology will revolutionise electronics and computing.

**The positive impact on the UK economy cannot be overestimated.** We are very fortunate to have a local centre of energetic, innovative expertise focussed on a truly game-changing discovery. AF

**For Local Police, call 101** to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information. Keep notes and ask for an incident number. Information will be developed & acted upon.

**CPO Rona Stocks**  
[rona.stocks@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rona.stocks@durham.pnn.police.uk)  
**Police Community Cohesion Officer**  
**Faye Callan** 101 Extension 742317:  
[Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk)  
**Confidential email address:**  
[John.lamb@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:John.lamb@durham.pnn.police.uk)

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY

### JANUARY 2020

Some of you who read this column may have seen a recent Countryfile programme (December 1st) which was based in the Tees Valley. (Photo right)

The Tees Valley Wildlife Trust managed to get coverage for a couple of projects and even I made a very brief appearance! I was leading a guided walk at Errington Woods, New Marske as part of "Sensing the Wild" funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project aims to take groups of blind and visually-impaired people out to experience wildlife and nature across the four seasons in local green spaces.

The Trust is working with Going for Independence, a socially focused organisation, whose aim is for people to be empowered to live life to the full, maximising their quality of life and independence. Their particular knowledge base is around equipment and adaptations for independent living, including the use of electronic assistive technology [www.goingforindependence.org](http://www.goingforindependence.org).

To deliver the project the Trust has been supported by a number of friends groups to deliver both indoor and outdoor workshops. For the outdoor workshops/guided walks, members of the friends groups have been providing one to one support and have been given training on how to assist a blind person. They have also been involved in choosing accessible routes for their special visitors. Indoor sessions are used as a way of building up confidence in participants and the friends groups. The autumn session included a visit from foxy (stuffed fox), playing conkers, having a closer look at seeds and fruit, sloe gin tasting and guess the variety of apple.

The project has visited local green spaces for its autumnal walks including Ward Jackson Park, Hartlepool; Linthorpe Cemetery, Middlesbrough; South Park, Darlington; and Errington Woods. All these places are relatively accessible and are havens for wildlife in urban situations and well worth a visit if you are in the area. On the walks the friends groups help to guide their partner. To make the activities more sensory, natural objects are collected, touched, smelt and described. Participants also experience light and shade, walking on different textures and magnifiers are used for looking at smaller objects and species.

At the end of the Errington walk the friends had organised a camp fire and barbeque with sausages and toasted marshmallows. The Countryfile presenter enjoyed this! One of the participants had never had toasted marshmallows before! As well as getting the groups outdoors there is a social side to the activities and this has included: memories being reignited by playing conkers and one lady from Poland learned the game for the first time as it is not a custom in her country.

Many participants don't get out much because of the support they require and definitely don't get out into the wider countryside. From the project we are hoping to gain an insight into how people with low vision are isolated and excluded from activities that others can access and looking at ways to improve this.

**Happy New year to you all.**

### Plotting for the future by Carole Lawford

The future is often in our thoughts during the festive season, as we reflect on this year, and consider what we want from the year ahead.

I'm planning for 2020 to be a year of progress and community for myself and those who are supporting me to move forward and achieve my project's aims. It really is giving me a forward focus and not back to my lost legal career. So onwards to several small and medium projects whilst the huge job of finding a venue for the main Market Garden continues.

Sedgefield is a busy little place, with all kinds of events and classes, new skills to learn, social occasions and our fantastic Sedgefield News to help us plan and know where they are and when. The community and festive spirits are strong here, I am feeling myself as we share ideas and bringing them to life.

By January, when you're reading this, at least one of the pilots will be scheduled or completed and I will be able to share it with you by February.

So Happy New Year and may the 2020 bring you what you need, if not everything you want, and you enjoy the potential changes we all have ahead. Thank you for your kindness and support.

*Carole and Honey*



## YOUR LETTERS

### BBQ memories

Following the Parish Family BBQ held at The Rectory in Sedgefield in September, the money raised was used to purchase spring bulbs and compost. Along with plant pots and baskets donated by members of St Michael's Church, Bishop Middleham and St Edmund's Church, Sedgefield, these were presented to Carol and Dorothy of the Memory Café (centre & right respectively) by Rev Geoffrey Short. A big thank you to everyone who attended the event and to Betty's Boudoir for the raffle prize. *Julie Latheron, on behalf of the Parish of the Upper Skerne*



### Thanks

On 3rd December Val Guest hosted a Christmas Flower Demonstration in St. Mary Magdalene Church. All the flower arrangements were raffled and an amazing £426 was raised in aid of Cancer Research.

Thank you to everyone who came along and made it a success.

*Suzanne Hopper*





## CEDDESFELD HALL

Home of Sedgefield Community Association

SCA would like to wish all members and friends of Ceddesfeld Hall a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Our **Christmas Eve Quiz Night** begins at 8 pm, with prizes for the winning team as well as mince pies and nibbles. This is a free event and everyone is welcome to come along a join in the fun.

An **Open Mic** night is scheduled for Saturday 18th January (7.30 pm to 11 pm) and a **Pop and Prosecco** Evening, (which is a must for singers of all abilities) takes place on Friday February 25th (£5 a ticket or pay on the door). More on this next month.

The **Burns Supper** (Saturday 25th January) offers a drinks reception, followed by a 5 course meal (choice of haggis or roast beef in advance please) to include a cheese board and coffee. In true tradition there will be 'pipes, toasts, talks and quotes' too, all for £25. Tickets can be purchased by contacting any of the numbers at the foot of the column. **Also look out for SCA website and Facebook page which posts lots of event information.**

## 2020 SCA calendar of events

**Open Mic Night: Sat 18<sup>th</sup> January**

**Burns Supper: Sat 25<sup>th</sup> January**

**Pop & Prosecco: Fri 21<sup>st</sup> February**

**Ukulele Kanikapila: Sat 7<sup>th</sup> March**

**Easter Picnic: Mon 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**St George Dinner: Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April**

**VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Celebrations: Fri 8<sup>th</sup> May**

**49<sup>th</sup> Mediaeval Fayre: Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May**

*(Get in touch if you're interested in applying for a craft stall)*

**Open Mic/Spoken Word: Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Beer Festival: Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July**

**Family Sports & Games: Sat 1st Aug**

**Folk Festival: Fri-Sun 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Sept**

**October Dinner: Sat 17th October**

**Book Ends Festival: Sat 26th Sept to 15th October**

**Lirica Concert: Sat 10<sup>th</sup> October**

**STC Fireworks: Fri 30<sup>th</sup> October**

**STC Snow Party & Craft Fayre: Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Nov**

**Christmas Ukulele Kanikapila: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, contact Wendy, 01740 620206; Pat 01740 620607 or Sarah 01740 622185. Follow us on Facebook or visit our website for all information at [www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk).

## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST NEWS

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



A project of Sedgefield Development Trust

Homework Help wishes all its current and potential students and helpers, the students' parents and carers and all the wider community who support and encourage us, a Happy and Successful New Year!

**homework@**

**sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk**

## Sedgefield Farmers Market

**Sunday 5th January**

Buoyed up by the huge success of our Christmas Market, we're eagerly anticipating the coming year, starting with the first market of 2020 on the first Sunday in January.

It's worth following our Facebook page to keep up with all the latest. We'll have our weather eyes open and will let you know if there are likely to be problems, but we're pretty used to coping by now.

**Here's hoping to be able to wish you a Happy New Year in person!**

**farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk**

**charitystall@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk**

## CHRISTMAS TREES FOR HABITATS

**Turn your real tree into a log pile habitat! Saturday 4th January 10am-1pm**

Bring your tree to the Woodland & Wildlife site, where we will be preparing the Christmas trees to make homes for wildlife.

You can stay and help strip the branches, or drop it off at **NETPark, TS21 3FH** (follow the green arrows from the Discovery 1&2 car park).

## Dates for your Calendar

This year the project will be recognising some significant national wildlife days. Look out for further information about the activities we'll be organising for those days and look out for more dates in the spring.

**Plough Sunday, 12th January**

We'll be on site preparing the ground for hedge planting and creating habitats.

**Wildlife Day, 21/22 March**

Activities on site for all the family.

**Earth Day, 18/19 April** Open Day

**WOODLAND  
& WILDLIFE**

A project of Sedgefield Development Trust

## Sedgefield Energy Switch

**ENERGY BILLS  
UNBEARABLE?**



**Find out more about Energy Switch at [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk) or ask at our information tent at the monthly Farmers' Market.**

**Or LET US HELP.  
Call our HELPLINE on  
07980 134 594**

## Do you distribute or deliver Sedgefield News?

In recognition of the work you do, we would like to say thank you to the **Sedgefield News distribution and delivery teams**

You are all invited to Ceddesfeld Hall on Monday 17th February from 7.30pm to around 9.30pm, for a chat and a drink or two.

We can often be surprised to meet a deliverer who we didn't know personally, so this will be a chance to put faces to names.

You can let us know of any problems you meet on your rounds, and meet some of the people who produce the News.

Sedgefield Development Trust welcomes participation in all of our projects and is very grateful for the help we receive from our many friends and volunteers.

## SPORTS UPDATE

Email your reports to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)

**The annual BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award event proved to be a good night for cricket, with the England's victorious team at the men's ICC World Cup picking up prizes for team and greatest sporting moment of the year, followed by DCCC's Ben Stokes claiming the main award of the night.**

In another year with plenty of great contenders, I reckon that all three of those awards were richly deserved, as was the one presented to John Blackie as coach of the year (he has guided world champion sprinter Dina Asher-Smith and many others) and the lifetime achievement recognition that was given to Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, yet another local connection.

However, probably the most impactful moment of the night was when the amazing Doddie Weir was presented with the Helen Rollason Award. The Rugby union forward was capped 61 times by Scotland and played for the British and Irish Lions, but he won the award for what he has done since being diagnosed with motor neurone disease three years ago, setting up a foundation that has so far raised £5m to fund research into finding a cure for the disease and bringing a lot of attention to the cause in the process.

When he accepted the award, Doddie's speech was spine tingling and was in keeping with the man who many in the North East will be familiar with from his time at the Newcastle Falcons (he was part of the team that won the Premiership) and as a regular guest and speaker at events in the region over many years. Doddie is making the absolute most of every day he has left and it was extremely fitting that he was celebrated in this way by the BBC.

### Cycling

Cyclo cross returned to Hardwick Park at the end of November, for the eighth year in a row. After several years of good conditions, prolonged rain in the lead-up and on the day made conditions heavy going for riders on the course based in East Park. The small field of Under 12s had the worst of the weather, with Harry Knox of Tyneside Vagabonds narrowly beating Daniel Thompson of Cleveland Wheelers, after swapping places several times over their nine laps of a shortened course.



In the main senior race, with some improvement in the weather, Jon Bailey of Gosforth Road Club led from the start for a comfortable win over eight laps of a 1.2mile course. Among the field of 43 riders were several cyclo cross regulars from Sedgefield, with Chris Dobson finishing the highest up the standings in eighth, while Rob Spink, Mark Bayles and Richard Bayles also rode well. The venue is expected to be used again in 2020 as a round of the North East Cyclo Cross League. For more information on the league visit [www.neccl.co.uk](http://www.neccl.co.uk).

### Athletics

For many runners, the main focus of winter is cross country. Last year the conditions were unusually benign, with a distinct lack of rain, snow, wind and mud at most fixtures. It was said that the biggest queue at the venue for the English National Cross Country Championships near Leeds in February was for the ice cream van! This season is already proving more testing. There was plenty of rain and mud in Aykley Heads for November's Harrier League event. Runners and club tents at the NE Counties Cross Country Championships in Alnwick in December had to contend with strong, biting winds.

However, none of this was quite as challenging as conditions in Sedgefield for the North Easterns back in 2015, when the snow started falling during the first race and didn't stop all day. No-one involved will forget it and Sedgefield will have another opportunity to host a memorable occasion, as Harriers have just been awarded the the championships in 2020, during the club's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday year.

The club holds its annual winter handicap race, for the Gerry Kearsley Memorial Trophy on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January, starting and finishing in Bishop Middleham and following a scenic multi-terrain two-lap course of around six miles. The event is for affiliated runners, free to enter, with handicaps based on each runner's best 10K time from the previous 12 months. Full details at <https://sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/gerry-kearsley-handicaps>.



Above: Chris Hearmon enjoying traditional cross country conditions

### Youth Football

The Sedgefield Youth FC U10 teams continue to make excellent progress. The Saturday team – buoyed on by much success already - currently sit at the top of their division in the Russel Foster League, with only four games to go in the winter league at the time of writing this.

Meanwhile, the newly formed Sunday team is setting the Teesside Junior Football Alliance alight, winning all 13 games that they have played so far, while scoring 88 goals and conceding just 10.

Keep watching this space!

### Cricket

Sedgefield Cricket Club wishes its members, friends and families a prosperous 2020 and hopes that everyone continues to enjoy the facilities and from April, the cricket. January serves as a reminder that membership subscriptions are due (which provide the all-important bar discount!)

The club is currently developing a new online membership system with MyClubhouse, a firm specialising in offering systems to volunteer run organisations. This will allow subs to be paid online, although cash and card payments will continue to be taken at the bar. Details of how to renew will start to be publicised by the end of December, including the new subscription levels payable. Any general queries can be emailed to Chris Bunting at [sccmemberships@outlook.com](mailto:sccmemberships@outlook.com).

Looking ahead, junior indoor coaching is already underway for some of the age groups, with the remainder beginning over the next few weeks - parents will be contacted by the coaches with details. Keep in touch with what's going on at the club by following it on Facebook and Twitter.

That's all for this year. Have a great festive break (unless you're a keen sportsperson, in which case, train hard) and here's to another great year of sport in Sedgefield, and elsewhere, in 2020. Thanks to everyone who has contributed material for me to use in these updates. As ever, please send any sports news to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com).