

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

July 2014

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Inspiring Esme to represent country on GB Para Climbing Team

After losing her lower left leg to blood clots in December 2010 Esme Harte eventually dusted off her old climbing shoes in November of the following year and started the long slow, painful process of relearning to climb. This year, after competing for the first time in the British Mountaineering Para Climbing Series, she came 3rd overall against more experienced, sponsored & coached athletes and has now been selected to represent our country at competitions around Europe. Anyone wishing to help with sponsorship, coaching or advice can contact Esme at ejharte@gmail.com. If you would like to make a donation, however small, to climbing and competition expenses, you can do so at www.gofundme.com/adafgc.
Esme competing at Newcastle climbing wall



Lower Energy Bills: progressing to the next step

Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon & Fishburn, via SDT (Sedgefield Development Trust) are now members of a National Collective Energy Switching Initiative.

What does this mean?

SDT has joined an initiative which could reduce domestic energy costs for residents throughout our area.

What are the benefits?

If large numbers of people collectively switch the supplier of their Gas and/or Electricity at one time the costs will be reduced.

How much can I save?

If you have not switched your energy supplier in the last 3 years, or are paying Standard Tariff charges, an average user of this initiative could save over £150 per year for a dual fuel deal.

Can anyone join?

Yes, as long as your energy bill is in your or your partner's name, and you are a domestic user.

Is it free?

Yes. It will cost you nothing to join.

What is my commitment?

Just asking for a quote doesn't commit you to accepting. After the offer is made, you decide.

Tell me more

The initiative starts on the 5th August, and details of how to get be part of the scheme will be published in the August edition of Sedgefield News and on posters in the village. If any earlier news crops up, it will appear on our website, sedgefieldweb.co.uk and via twitter [@sedgefieldnews](https://twitter.com/sedgefieldnews).

Who is involved?

Sedgefield Development Trust followed up a suggestion from the community that this idea should be explored. So we have joined a regional purchasing scheme, the North East Purchasing Organisation through which we will work with Ichoosr – a company that has developed this kind of bulk tendering of people's energy purchasing both in the UK and in Belgium and Holland. Ichoosr have worked with over 150

local authorities in the UK and still do so but, we understand, this will be the first time the national tender will include consumers in a direct community scheme. Ichoosr are pleased to be working directly with a community controlled group like SDT, seeing it as a possible example for the rest of the country. SDT are, of course, delighted to be pioneers, but we are determined to do it well. So far so good! Now we want to make a good job of getting our residents involved.

Delivering the News

We work hard to get each edition of Sedgefield News first to the printer, then out to the distribution team, in time for readers to have access to news and particularly, diary dates, at the beginning of the month. Anyone can have occasional problems meeting this commitment but if any volunteer is regularly finding it difficult, because of ill health or the burden of other work, to deliver the papers by the 1st

Next deadline: Please send advertising copy, news & diary dates for August by **Tuesday 15th July**

It's trip time again!

The Annual Town Trip for our Senior Citizens is arranged for Wednesday 16th July. We will be going to Redcar, leaving at 12.00 from the Parish Hall, and heading home at around 4.30pm.

Names can be left at the Town Council Offices or given to either Margaret Stewart or Lyn Burdess.

The trip is open to all our senior citizens and seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. There is charge of £3, which is non-refundable.

The Trip is supported by a grant from Sedgefield Charities, and organised by DIDO, a project of Sedgefield Development Trust.

For any further information please contact Gloria on 01740 622447.

Sedgefield Twinning Association celebrate 32nd year of friendship

During the first week of June a small group from Sedgefield spent an excellent week in Hamminkeln, our Twin Town in the Lower Rhine area of Germany. Although few in number we felt that it was one of the most successful visits we have had, due in part to the fact that our planned activities were well spaced out so nobody got too exhausted and we had plenty of time to simply visit our friends, some of whom we have known, if not the full 32 years, for a very long time! We were very conscious that our group is getting older but we were all still very able to enjoy ourselves.

We were greeted with a Welcome Meal at the Bürgerhalle in Hamminkeln where we were entertained by an excellent male voice choir, which included several friends and hosts. A day in the delightful small town of Kalkar followed, guided by an exceptionally good bilingual guide. We had a tour of the old town and a delicious lunch in one of the oldest houses, then a tour of the church with its beautiful carved wooden altars. The day ended with Kaffee und Kuchen (coffee and cakes), a tradition without which no day trip in Germany is complete! I think it safe to say that most of us gained some weight in the course of the week!

After a free day spent with host families, on Wednesday morning we could chose to go for a "walk" with the Senior Citizens of Mehrhoog. Those of us who did, discovered that the Senior Citizens all had electric bicycles – some even seating a couple side by side – but those of us were on foot still managed to get back in time for breakfast (or brunch).

A rainy Thursday was another free day (otherwise the weather was warm and pleasant) but on Friday we had a full day visit to Cologne, travelling in a double-decker train! The morning was spent in the outstanding Roman Museum, featuring (among many other wonderful things) a mosaic from a Roman villa, still in its original site and almost completely undamaged by the intervening years. This was only discovered during World War 2 when they dug down deeply next to the cathedral in order to build a bunker. The mosaic had been the floor of the dining and entertaining area, featuring as it does a drunken Dionysus being helped home by his servant, surrounded by Roman citizens in various stages of undress, all enjoying themselves hugely! We were also enthralled by the collection of artefacts, 80% of which came from Cologne, which were in an amazingly good state of preservation. Lunch in a German brewery, a tour of the spectacular cathedral, then free time to enjoy the shops and the sunshine, completed a wonderful day.

On Saturday, our last day, many of us visited Wesel market and attended an excellent organ recital in the Willibrordi Dom (cathedral). The grand finale was dinner at Hoffmann's restaurant in Dingden, where we were entertained by a remarkable group of bagpipers, the "McBricht Pipers"!

We have returned home full of enthusiasm for entertaining our friends next year here in Sedgefield, and we would be delighted if anyone out there might be interested in hosting someone, or just coming along to see what we do! On the Sunday of Sedgefield Weekend, July 13th, we will be serving tea and coffee in Ceddesfeld Hall from 10am-12 and we plan to hold a small exhibition to tell people a bit about our Association. German food and drink will also be available, so please do come and see us.

Other future events include:

July 19th, a barbecue in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall:

September 20th, a pie and pea supper:

November 8th, a cheese and wine evening and

November 21st at 7pm in the Parish Hall, a flower arranging evening with Val Walker. For further information please contact Judith Edgoose, 620244, or Nancy Wells, 620467



Tumbling Teds

On Saturday 7th June, Sedgefield Primary PTFA and the Friends of St Edmund's combined forces to invite local teddy bears to parachute from the top of the tower!

Despite the rain it was a great day. There was a teddy TLC salon inside the church where wet teddies could opt for a towel rub or blow dry!



Stalls included pop the balloon, sweet tombola, second hand uniform, guess the name of the bear, treasure hunt & teddy hoopla. Funds raised will be shared between the church and the PTFA, who pay for trips and equipment for the children.

"Spike the hedgehog enjoyed parachuting off the church tower because it was fun and he enjoyed the view. He would like to thank Sedgefield Primary School PTFA and Friends of St Edmunds for the once in a lifetime experience."

Spike lives with Grace Rowe (6).

"Charlie the monkey loved his parachute jump. He thought it was very high up but he wanted to do it again and again."

Charlie lives with Lewis (3)

"Teddy had a brilliant parachute jump and floated down very slowly. He liked having a blow dry afterwards to warm him up and dry him off!

Thanks Mrs Smith!"

Teddy lives with

Iona (5) who thinks it's great that the PTFA arrange exciting things for children to do.

Some lovely quotes from the children and animals involved!

'Not in Sorrow, But in Pride'

Sedgefield Players' production proved an outstanding success. Using poetry, song and drama in commemoration of World War 1, the title is drawn from Sedgefield's war memorial; 'Pass not this stone in sorrow, but in pride, And may you live as nobly as they died.' SPYS joined the adults to create a huge ensemble team (in the programme as Sedgefield Players Pals Battalion.) The hall was decorated with banners, bunting and wartime posters. Even the raffle followed a wartime theme, the prizes being Red Cross parcels like those sent to troops. During the interval, a slide show of images donated by local people brought home the impact of the war on Sedgefield itself.

Well known poems such as 'In Flanders Field' and Rupert Brooke's 'The Soldier' featured alongside less familiar works dealing with the contribution of nurses at the front, the anguish of wives and sweethearts at home and the tragic loss of life and limb in the trenches. Two 1 act plays showed contrasting views of the effect of the Great War. 'After the Ball is Over' by Lynn Britney, set in a grand country house, with the upper classes trying to maintain their life style in the early stages of the war. Charitable work, letters from the front and a touching romance helped them to cope in the face of loss and injury to their menfolk. The men in the trenches in Steve Harper's 'Lions and Donkeys' had cheated death for four years, their heroism and ingenuity more than a match for the young officer sent to take over in the last days of the war.

Audiences were most attentive and appreciative, joining in with wartime songs and responses such as 'We will remember them'. People had come from as far afield as Gateshead and Whitley Bay to see this production, one which will live long in the memory of those involved, both on stage and in the audience. A privilege for all concerned. If you missed out on this opportunity to see a great local company in performance, look out for the Players next event, a week long drama festival in September, bringing talent from all over the region to your doorstep.



Members of the cast performing the song 'Oh It's a Lovely War' by Charles Chilton

Sedgefield charity seeks support after downturn

Sedgefield Educational Foundation is one of two grant-awarding charities dedicated to supporting the residents of the Sedgefield district. Its funds grew out of a number of bequests made by noteworthy Sedgefield philanthropists, the earliest in 1782. Since that time the Foundation has provided financial support to families where help was needed to enable children to benefit from education and for some years provided the salary of the teacher at Sedgefield School before the days of publicly provided education. Over recent years grants have been made to encourage 'A' level students to go on to higher education. In the economic downturn of 2008 the Foundation lost a significant proportion of its capital, and in the following years the requests for help have increased, many families being affected by economic circumstances, increased costs in attending university and cuts in benefit support. Despite this, Trustees of the Foundation have continued to maintain the value of grants and have sought to help all families whose resources fall below a certain level. The Foundation's investments have now reached a level at which the income generated does not provide the annual expenditure, typically up to £4,000. Consequently, Trustees now seek to revive that tradition of endowments from individuals, businesses and philanthropic organisations and invite any persons or representatives of bodies which may be able to help to contact John Hannon, the Clerk to the Trustees. John will be happy to meet with anyone requiring more details of the charity's operation and explore ways of giving support.

Very few parts of the country have charities dedicated to the benefit of its residents. Sedgefield is remarkable in having charities with a long history of providing help with education, training, health, poverty and many other aspects of the quality of life. It is hoped that with the help of those who live and work in the Sedgefield area these benefits will continue into future centuries.

Delivering the news

(cont. from front page) of the month, we would ask you to let us know. We will try to find help or an alternative volunteer - a much better solution for everyone than struggling on and letting down the residents on your round.

As it happens, this month one of our distributors is giving up their round, so we are asking for a volunteer to deliver to the houses between 31 and 56 Station Road. There is another area in the north of Sedgefield which could possibly do with some help too. If you live in the area and could help we would love to hear from you. Like Station Road, the number of houses on the round is quite small.

Please contact Judith Edgoose on 01740 620244 if you can help.

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Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel Notes from June 10th Panel meeting

Outgoing Mayor Mel Carr's kind donation to the group from his charitable fund was reported to members, this will help meet the ongoing costs of meetings and other activities undertaken during the year; members expressed their appreciation.

From the previous (April) meeting Julia Bowles reported that the Residents' Forum's efforts to get funds to purchase traffic Speed Matrix (measuring) equipment had been thwarted yet again, but they intend to try again in September when funding may be available.

Also from the last meeting, Phyllis Hillerby on behalf of residents at the Willows recorded her appreciation for the very rapid response by our local force especially that of attending officer Gavin Rutter to the anti-social behaviour activities residents were then experiencing from a few young persons. Police actions swiftly and effectively eradicated the problem and happily it has not re-occurred; PC Todd was asked to convey residents' appreciation to his colleagues.

PC Todd discussed in detail the low level of crime in the village and the effectiveness they have had regarding most ASB issues but pointed out that there is another – again from young persons – resurgence of this at the Coop premises. This will be dealt with we were assured, once again the question of parental awareness / control was discussed.

Keith gave a very interesting description of our local team's involvement and that of the wider force in tracking down a miscreant, who had carried out a distraction type crime on an elderly local person, predominantly by using (Durham Police Force's) social media.

Concerns for the number of "Scrappies" with overloaded looking pick-up trucks were reported to the Police.

The issues with vehicle parking and traffic congestion along the road leading to Sainsbury's, with the attendant safety issues so caused, were brought to Keith's attention; as was the speeding along the Fishburn road and down Durham road.

Chairman Ken Saiger was able to close the meeting before 8pm, thanking those who had attended and reminded everyone that the next meeting will be the AGM plus a normal meeting on Tuesday 14th October.

Finally, please try and report (to the Police on tel.101) all out of place or suspicious vehicles and also any persons that cause you or neighbours concern. Such reports will help to make our village and homes even safer. There are no Panel meetings during July, August or September.

Local Police - 101

CPO Duncan Gill 01325 742714
Neil Langthorne 01325 742755
Parking Shop 0191 3846633

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Change at Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Sedgefield installed Bob Theakston, seated right, as president this year. He takes over from Bill Gaskarth, seated left, together with some of the club members.



From PC Keith Todd ...

May 2014, a good month for residents of Sedgefield. Crime in general, we are told is decreasing across the country. More locally, we can see that our village has a very low crime rate. I am pleased to say that in May we had no reported crime. We hope this remains the same during the world cup celebrations as we support England in their quest for glory.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Cross Hill. Members were informed of one incident inside a pub involving a female customer. She has received a written warning regarding her unacceptable behaviour and warned about her future conduct.

P.A.C.T. Meeting

A meeting was held directly after the Neighbourhood watch meeting. Residents highlighted the success of the police Beat team in preventing any further incidents of ASB in the Willows area when a number of youths were spoken with and it was explained to them the impact their actions had on the local residents. No new priority was identified this month but the police Beat team will continue to patrol and monitor various locations around the village.
Until next time, Keith

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STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

July Events Diary

Tuesday 1st

Chair-based Exercise Class Parish Hall 11am.

Sedgefield Garden Club Visit to Thornton Hall Gardens (fully booked)

Wednesday 2nd

Sedgefield WI Parish Hall 7.15pm. Growing Hardy Plants by Howard Leslie
Members' Comp; a House Plant. Visitors welcome. Entrance fee includes refreshments

Friday 4th

Sedgefield & District U3A 2pm Parish Hall. Members Only. Annual General Meeting, followed by Strawberry Cream Tea. For more information, phone Ray on 01740 629276

Sedgefield in Bloom. Gardeners' question time, 7pm. See opposite for details.

Friday & Saturday 4th & 5th

Ceddesfeld Beer Festival - see opposite page

Sunday 6th

Sedgefield Farmers' Market from 8.30am on the Village Green. Good local food, plants & community stalls.

Monday 7th

Local History Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm. Vic Wood on Lower Tees dialects.

Friday 11th

Country Market Parish Hall 10-11.30am. Home baking/Jams/Cards/Plants/Crafts

Saturday 12th

World War 1 Exhibition Ceddesfeld Hall from 10am-4pm on Saturday July 12th. Part of Sedgefield for Heroes Weekend. Entry free.

Sunday 13th

Open Gardens Day. As part of Sedgefield's **Weekend for Heroes**, several gardens will be open to the public. Tickets and maps (£3) available in advance from the council offices and the village green on the day.

Monday 14th

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

Tuesday 15th

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club Parish Hall at 7.30pm.
Members only evening; Workshop with a buffet provided by the club.

Thursday 24th

Sedgefield Show Meeting at 8pm in the Nag's Head. All welcome

Monday 21st

Sedgefield Family History Group (branch of CFHS) 7.45pm Computer room, Ceddesfeld Hall. Help Evening. Let us help you find that missing ancestor. £1 for non-Cleveland FHS members. New members always welcome. For more information go to www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk or call 620367. Nb. No meeting in August.

Looking ahead ...

Sedgefield Show is on **Saturday 9th August**, gates opening at 10am. Please support your local show!

Regular Meetings

New Generation Church

Sundays at 11am, in Sedgefield Parish Hall. All welcome

NECP Concertina Workshop

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

Eddies@4

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

Bridge Club

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

Sedgefield Players

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

Ceddesfeld Hall Pre-School

Mon, Wed & Fri mornings; Children invited from 2+years. Tel 620934

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Church, Mon-Thurs 9:15-11:45. Spaces for 2+yrs. Call 620923

Fishburn Art Group

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

Community College Bowls

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

Sedgefield Mags

1st Monday of month in Nag's Head at 8pm. Contact 07966029434

Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

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

Sedgefield Pop In Club

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

Sedgefield Art Group

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

Craft Club

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

CAB Advice Sessions

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

Toddler Club

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

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers

Wed 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall (Mon1st wk of m'th) Beginners welcome. 621292

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

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

Sedgefield Acoustic Evenings

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

Round Table

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

Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group

Small friendly group 10am -12 Thursdays

Café@St Catherine's

Friendly chat & Fishburn gossip! Fridays 9.30am-12noon: Tea/coffee/toast/chat!

Lyrics Choirs

Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall. SLYC 6pm Adults 7.30pm New members welcome.

Sedgefield Social Club: July events

Saturdays, 5th: Lisa Candara, Vocalist **12th:** Maggie Newman, Vocalist
19th: Jimmy Moon - Songs from the 50's & 60's: **26th:** Kris Howe, Vocalist
Cover charge £1.50 pp. Members and Guests Welcome

Country Night: Monday 21st: John Aston

Cover charge £3pp All welcome (no membership necessary)
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Friday 1pm - 7pm

Saturday 9.30am-12.30pm

Craft Club: 10am-12 noon

Thurs 3rd, 17th & 31st July

Sedgefield in Bloom

No, you haven't missed it! Gardeners' Question Time is this month, on **Friday July 4th** at 7pm in the parish hall. A team of three RHS experts will be on hand to solve your gardening problems. With a welcoming glass of wine (and more available in the interval) what more could you ask for a fiver? Tickets, with tear-off question slip, from council offices or any of the Bloomers. For more information, ring me on 01740-620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk.

The council gardens and Bloom volunteers are moving up a gear ahead of the judging dates, July 24th and August 4th. The Bloom Beacon, floral beds and tubs all around the village are looking beautiful. Work is also going on in Ceddesfeld Gardens, the Manor House and Wykes Close Wildflower Garden. In Rectory Row, plants donated by residents are putting on a fine show, alongside the church wall and opposite. Unfortunately, the sunshine and showers of recent weeks have also given the weeds a big boost. While you're busy looking after your own garden, take a look at the gutters nearby. If we all cleared weeds from our own small corner of this lovely place, the effect would be instant. The same goes for litter and cigarette ends. Pride of place is a major factor in the judges' decision making. We have that in abundance in Sedgefield, along with terrific community spirit. In the 50th anniversary year of Britain and Northumbria in Bloom, the RHS theme is Growing for Gold. Let's all pull together once again and bring gold back to Sedgefield in Bloom.

World War 1 Exhibition Ceddesfeld Hall on Saturday July 12th Sedgefield Local History Society commemorates 100 years since the Great War and its effect upon the people of Sedgefield. Thanks to the generosity of local people and those from further afield, we have collected a fascinating array of photographs, stories, memorabilia and artefacts. Meticulous research by members of LHS has produced a wealth of additional information about the men whose names appear on the war memorial and their comrades who returned from the battlefields. We also show how life on the Home Front was affected and celebrate the brave spirit of those who supported the fighting men in various services and charitable organisations. With music from the time and a continuous slide show of images, we hope to honour the memory of Sedgefield's wartime heroes. For further information, or if you would like to loan or donate items for the exhibition, ring 01740-620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk.

WWI Poppy Crosses

Here is your last chance to sponsor a poppy cross and thereby "remember" your ancestor or someone from a war memorial. You have space for 10 words (no more please !) to express your feelings on Wars. The Veterans are sending 100 crosses, plus a wreath to The Western Front. The wreath will be placed at The Menin Gate, Ypres on Monday 28th July, in line with the beginning of the war in 1914. Great Britain declared war on 4th August.

Our friends, motorcycle group Boundary 500 will leave Sedgefield Village Green with our crosses on Saturday 26th July. They will receive a special send-off starting at 0930, with the Lord Lieutenant, DCC Chairman John Robinson, Mayor of Sedgefield Mel Carr and other dignitaries in attendance. Your deadline is Saturday 20th July. Contact David Hillerby on 01740 621343. Thank you for your support.

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

We're expecting a good turnout from stallholders on July 6th and to keep you up to date, late news can be found on our Facebook page, on twitter [@sedgyfarmmarket](https://twitter.com/sedgyfarmmarket) and online at sedgefieldweb.co.uk or the new website, sedgefield-farmersmarket.co.uk.

There will be two community stalls to visit - one from Sedgefield Community College and the other from Sedgefield Village Veterans. So there's lots to come out for - we hope to see you on Sociable Sunday!

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"Expectations for England seem to be refreshingly realistic at the moment", I wrote last month. Ho hum. Anyway, wasn't that a great strike by Tim Cahill?

English sport has had a tough time of late in general. The rugby union team returned from New Zealand after three defeats to the All Blacks, while the cricket team lost the one day series against Sri Lanka and, at the time of writing, is going to have to work hard to secure a positive result in the final test match. A longer series against India is next on the agenda.

On a much more positive note, one English sportsman has just set an amazing record. Steve Birkinshaw, an athlete who lives in Cumbria and works at Newcastle University, set out on a week long continuous circuit that included the summit of each of the 214 hills or mountains that feature in Alfred Wainwright's famous seven volume Pictorial Guide to the Lakeland Fells. His route was 512km in length and included 36,000m of ascent. Steve completed his run in six days and 13 hours, knocking almost 12 hours off the record set by fell running legend Joss Naylor MBE in 1987. Starting from Keswick on Saturday 14 June, each day he ran about 78km and reached the top of over 30 peaks. Throughout his run, Steve was carrying a GPS tracker, which allowed the public to follow his progress and to hike or run up to meet him at locations along the way. As the week progressed, word of his progress spread via social media and there was someone waiting to cheer him on at the summit of almost every Wainwright top. On the final day, scores of runners appeared to join Steve for the final leg of his challenge and accompanied him as he arrived in Keswick, where hundreds more people were waiting to welcome him, including his wife Emma and their three children. I was fortunate enough to be able to join him for a few miles on the sixth day of his run. I covered about 18.5 miles on a warm day and my legs were aching afterwards. It's hard to comprehend covering another 300 miles as part of the same run, but Steve managed that. I was also there to see him finish in Keswick, where there was a really special atmosphere as people saw the conclusion of a genuinely astonishing adventure. Anyway, back to Sedgefield...

Boxing

Sedgefield boxer Bradley Saunders is making very impressive progress in his professional career. He is now unbeaten in 10 fights, including eight knock outs, and recently secured his first major belt. Bradley beat seasoned pro Ville Piiapanen in just 81 seconds and claimed the WBO Inter-continental light-welterweight title. Promoter Frank Warren was ringside for the fight in Newcastle and has stated that a world title challenge beckons if Bradley continues to perform to the same standard. His next fight will be against a yet unnamed opponent on the undercard of the heavyweight rematch between Dereck Chisora and Tyson Fury in Manchester during July. This will put Bradley in the media spotlight once again and provide him with another opportunity to demonstrate his ability to a big audience.

Sedgefield Village Games

Two years ago, the London 2012 Olympic Torch visited Sedgefield and was greeted by thousands of people. The same day saw the launch of the Sedgefield Village Games (SVG), an initiative that was inspired by the Olympics and set up to provide pathways into sport and healthy living for residents in and around Sedgefield. SVG put a lot of focus on young people and over three weeks in 2012 laid on a series of taster events with the help of many clubs and societies in Sedgefield. Hundreds of youngsters participated and the games were widely acclaimed as a great success. Although London 2012 is now just a memory, the Sedgefield Village Games project has endured. Last year, the committee behind SVG revised the set up and agreed some new objectives. SVG continues to organise its own events or support others, but now also seeks to support young people achieve their personal sporting ambitions by providing bursaries. In addition, the SVG committee is exploring other ideas that will benefit the community in Sedgefield.

Village Games committee member, Simon Hill supervises Jenny Walker as she has a go at tossing the caber. A reminder here and at the top of the opposite page, of just how much fun is to be had at a Sedgefield Village Games event!





Sedgefield Village Games gets into the Olympics spirit with a mass Usain Bolt pose. Can you find yourself?

One of the most popular events that SVG hosted in 2012 was a family fun and games afternoon at Sedgefield Cricket Club.

It was such a success that it was repeated in 2013 and it has also now been confirmed that the fun and games afternoon will return to the cricket club this year, on Sunday 21st September. Before that, SVG will provide fun and games during Sedgefield Weekend on 12th and 13th July, on the lawn behind Ceddesfeld Hall.

Look out for more details about the family fun and games afternoon soon, here in Sedgefield News and on www.sedgefieldgames.com, where you can also find details of the bursaries that are available and how to apply.

Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers will host its annual summer handicap race for the Gerry Kearsley Memorial Trophy on the evening of Thursday 17th July, following a scenic and undulating cross country course, starting just outside Fishburn. The event is free to enter, in advance or on the night, and thanks to the handicap system, is a great opportunity to compete for runners of all abilities.

Registration will be open from 6pm and the first runners will set off at 7pm. The club is, as always, grateful to Peggy Kearsley for her generous sponsorship of the race. For more information, contact Ean Parsons on 07771 828568 or email ean.p@sedgefieldharriers.co.uk



Sedgefield Cricket Club under 9s winners

Cricket

News just in. Sedgefield Cricket Club's fledgling under 9s team has already bagged silverware, winning a recent tournament in Norton. Well done! More details next month.

That's all for this month. As always, please send any sports news to chrisilines@aol.com.

Your Letters

Citizen of the Year

Not usually at a loss for something to say, I was momentarily stunned at the Town Meeting in May when I was declared Sedgefield Citizen of the Year 2103. I have been very touched since then by the number of compliments and congratulations I have received. I feel proud and honoured to have been recognised for the work I do, particularly with Sedgefield Players, the Local History Society and Sedgefield in Bloom. It's a great pleasure to be involved with such great organisations, all of which contribute tremendously to village life. My sincere thanks to the organising committee of Sedgefield Development Trust, Rotary Club and Town Council and to dear friends who nominated me for the award. Now, when do I get to graze my sheep on the village green?

Norma Neal

Mediaeval Fayre 2014

(organised by Sedgefield Community Association)

What a difference a year makes! We had a brilliant sunny warm day - the first in years - blotting out thoughts of last year's torrential rain. The day got off to a great start with the tableau parade from the two village schools led by the Flower Queen, Jessica Darnton and her three attendants in the horse and carriage. Sedgefield Primary School and Sedgefield Hardwick School both did us proud with their eye-catching tableaux, the Hardwick School winning by a fraction. The day followed its usual pattern on the green with the Fancy Dress (won by Annabelle Elliott), Morris Dancers, dancing from Sedgefield Primary School, the Tug of War and Mediaeval Combat from Dawn of Chivalry. Punch and Judy, birds of prey, ACLE living history and many more were in Ceddesfeld grounds,

As usual, thanks to Sedgefield residents for providing us with the goods to sell on the SCA stalls and to those Sedgefield businesses who sponsored the Fayre. The event would not be possible without our volunteers. A huge thank you to everyone who helped - collecting, sorting, selling, singing, not forgetting those who put up the stalls and stocked them and the bar staff.

You all did fantastic work, helping us raise a little over £5000 for SCA funds.

Wendy Gill, SCA Chairman

Another Successful Christian Aid Week

Thank you for showing your concern for people whose lives are being devastated by conflict, famine or natural disaster. During Christian Aid week in May this year the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury and Mordon responded again with great generosity, and a total of £3,822.96 was raised.

This amount will be further increased by an extra £362 as a result of the completed gift aid declarations.

Thanks to our 50+ volunteer collectors, who after delivering the envelopes endeavour to call back twice. It is not always easy to catch everyone when they are at home so we are sorry if your envelope was not collected. Thank you to those people who brought their envelope to the collector's address or our home afterwards.

David and Margaret Glass

Stepping out for Stroke

Margaret Hope of The Meadows, Sedgefield, pictured with daughter Alison, raised £441 for Step Out For Stroke (Stroke Association) by doing a sponsored walk at Stewarts Park, Middlesbrough on Friday 30th May.

Margaret would like to say a big "Thank You" to everyone for their support and generous sponsorship.



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