



SEDGEFIELD NEWS

JULY 2016



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

A fond farewell to Father Michael

Many residents of villages in this area will have met Father Michael Gobbett over the last ten years, whether it be at a wedding, funeral, christening, or one of the regular services taking place in the parish. The last decade has seen various changes to how the area's churches are operated, one of the most prominent being the unification of five local churches into one parish. This meant that churches in Sedgefield, Bishop Middleham, Fishburn, Trimdon Village and Trimdon Grange would be able to share resources and manage their workloads more effectively.

Sunday 3rd July in St Edmund's Church marks Father Michael's final service in this parish, before moving to a parish in Whitby. I spoke to him on behalf of Sedgefield News, about his time here, working and being part of this community.

Michael expressed that while bringing about unity in the various local churches was on his agenda, he also wished to maintain ministry within the different communities. Despite appreciating that changes across the organisation have been tricky, Michael does now feel that the churches are more united through the parish. As well as pastoral care services such as baptisms and weddings, the churches have tried to reach out to more people by offering children's activities and bereavement groups, among other services.

Working in Sedgefield has brought many highlights for Father Michael, including a special service in which he welcomed Justin Welby just as it was announced he was to be the Archbishop of Canterbury – an event that made stories in several UK newspapers.

Michael also explained that he has thoroughly enjoyed living in Sedgefield, highlighting the opportunities he has had to work with various voluntary organisations, and citing the town of Sedgefield as a very enjoyable place to live. Sedgefield is unique in its size and the number of people that have been here a long time, continued Michael, which gave him the chance to get to know members of the community very well. Sedgefield and nearby villages each have their own community spirit which larger areas are unlikely to have, and Michael expressed that it is his wish to keep the church true to its heritage.

Moving to Whitby will mean leaving behind the charms of the local areas, but also welcoming what the new job and location have to offer. Father Michael highlighted the impact tourism will have on the church and also the historical nature of the church in Whitby, which he explained would be different to his current parish. Reflecting on the last ten years working and living within the community, Michael summarised his time here with the following:

"We have sought to serve a variety of communities, drawing people together but also recognising diversity, and sharing with people often in their deepest need, I think it's been a great experience to have been a part of that for ten years."

Interview by Jake Graham



Get rid of unwanted 'stuff' in a green & friendly way!

Do you remember Swap Shop? It was cutting edge TV when it launched in 1976. The heart of the programme was that kids could turn up and swap their unwanted toys, books & games for someone else's unwanted toys, books and... Then they invented the internet! Well, it has been suggested that we provide a similar swap shop or free-cycling idea here, perhaps using a stall in the Farmers' Market. We could feature a different type of product each month - bikes, books, furniture, garden stuff and so on, but for the time being we'll just see what turns up. Anything not collected at the end could be donated to charity. We will trial the idea at the July market on Sunday 3rd July from 8.30 - 12.30, then see if anyone wants to run with the project. Come to the SDT stall to donate, browse, swap or if you're interested in helping, have a chat.



William's long ride. See page 3



Hankies & feet took flight at the Mediaeval FayRe. SCA report on page 5

Steve's Nature Diary *The natural world month by month* July

So what did you do for #30DaysWild in June? I am writing this on day 15 and my personal highlights so far have been pond dipping, blowing dandelion clocks with a class full of kids (do you remember doing that?), a very early morning walk and even a whole staff meeting outside! One of the suggestions on the #30DaysWild app was to go to a new nature reserve, so we did. I had picked up a leaflet produced by the Limestone Landscapes and Durham Wildlife Trust "Kingdom of Quarries" and noticed Raisby Quarry, not far from Kelloe - a reserve we had never been to before. After some difficulty finding where to park (visit Durham Wildlife Trust's website for access tips!) we had a very pleasant afternoon stroll through the reserve. Raisby Hill Grasslands is one of the few remaining examples of primary Magnesian Limestone grassland left in Durham and is of national significance for its flora. An abandoned quarry site, it has two ponds surrounded by marsh and fen habitats and areas of developing ash woodland. The terrain is mixed, with poor access to the reserve over stiles and unsurfaced footpaths; hard going in places, but a short circular route is available for the less mobile.

The primary grassland contains plants typical of this internationally rare habitat, including blue moor grass, fairy flax, devils-bit scabious, burnet saxifrage and columbine. Amongst quarry flora are a large number of orchid species including the rare dark red helleborine, fragrant and pyramidal orchids which should be showing well in July. Of all the flowers of the Magnesian Limestone, the rare dark red helleborine is very special because most of its British population is in Durham Wildlife Trust reserves. It prefers bare ground with rocks and very little soil, so it is well suited to growing in disused quarries. It is not as showy as the more colourful orchids, at first sight, but it repays closer inspection. Common rockrose is abundant and supports a small colony of northern brown argus butterfly. This butterfly is one of only five resident British species with a northern distribution, with populations in both Scotland and northern England. It is restricted to four distinct areas in northern England, with the Durham Magnesian Limestone Natural Area the south-eastern edge of its British range. Until recent genetic studies clarified the position, the northern England populations were often referred to as a separate subspecies, the Durham or Castle Eden argus.

Other butterflies seen in large numbers include dingy skipper, common blue, ringlet and small skipper. The day we went was a little cool and a little early for good numbers of butterflies but we did see a rather spectacular clouded magpie moth and some very early painted ladies.

The marshy grasslands and ponds are dominated by lesser pond sedge and provide a good habitat for dragonflies such as common hawk and darter. The ash woodland contains a large number of mature wych elm providing food for the larvae of white-letter hairstreak butterflies and the scrub and woodland are very good for warblers, in particular grasshopper warbler. Brown hare are regularly seen boxing on the limestone spoil screens. If you fancy visiting a new reserve, check out the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust and Durham Wildlife Trust websites to see where your closest reserve is.

Wig Wednesday on 25th May was an opportunity to support the national children's leukaemia and cancer awareness charity, CLIC Sargent.

Parents and children from Sedgefield Primary Reception class, alongside Chic Hairdressing salon, decided to take part. Jasmine Johnson is a pupil in reception at Sedgefield Primary and her little sister Rosa (2) was diagnosed with Childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) in November 2015. Rosa is undergoing a 2 year treatment plan for ALL and has weekly visits to the Children's Oncology Ward at the RVI in Newcastle to receive her treatment. CLIC Sargent support families like The Johnson's who are affected by a diagnosis of childhood cancer. They assist in a non-medical capacity to provide vital emotional, practical and financial support to young cancer patients and families during and after treatment. Their aim is to take what the children and families tell them about the impact of cancer on their lives to service providers and policy makers to help change things for the better.

The reception children raised more than £130 for CLIC Sargent on Wig Wednesday and the school is holding a sponsored Wig Walk on Wednesday 29th June to help raise awareness of childhood cancer and leukaemia, as well as further funds for CLIC Sargent. During Rosa's weekly treatment visits to the RVI (104 in total!) Danielle and Colin (mum and dad) aim to make a weekly delivery of new toys to the oncology unit. They are currently on week 20 and are continuously trying to find new donations. **If you have anything to donate (or have any ideas for other donation sources) please contact Danielle on dcjrjohnson79@gmail.com**

News in brief

Durham Constabulary is to start deploying unmanned aerial vehicles – commonly known as 'drones' – to assist with operational policing.

The force is in the process of obtaining the relevant authorisation from the Civil Aviation Authority to begin using the two devices it currently owns.

The plan is for the drones to be used in a variety of ways such as helping searches for missing persons; providing footage to assist operational contingency planning; reconnaissance of buildings or locations suspected to be used by criminal gangs and during certain incidents – for example, traffic disruption – when the police helicopter is unavailable or may not be able to fly due to poor weather.

The Friends of Saint Edmund's are eager to make greater use of the wonderful old building to benefit more people and organisations in the community. Access to the building has been improved and new lighting will be installed this summer.

If you would welcome gallery space to exhibit your work, tell the story of your group and its activities, or if you simply have ideas about how we might use the space available for community activities, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact churchwarden, Brian Mutch at 6 Hasledone Grove, Sedgefield, tel: 622302 or email b.mutch@btconnect.com.



Picture by Paul Heasman, Rosa's uncle

Sedgefield Twinning Association Visit to Germany

11 'twinners' travelled to Hamminkeln, Germany, on June 5th for our bi-annual visit, and though there were so few of us, numbers reduced at the last minute by illness, we were made very welcome. We had a great week, with a programme quite different from other years. Instead of coach trips to visit neighbouring towns and villages, we were shown all sorts of interesting aspects of Hamminkeln itself. Hamminkeln consists of 7 separate villages, some very small, none very large. Our Welcome Meal on the first night was at Brünen, where for the first time we met Mayor Bernd Romanski, who welcomed us to Hamminkeln. We were entertained by the Brünen Youth Choir.

The following morning we met at a farm café in Brünen for Kaffee und Kuchen – a very necessary part of German life - then on to another village, Loikum, for a guided tour of Farm Steinkamp, a family farm with 160 dairy cows who live in cow luxury! They have free constant access to food (all home produced), can go and get themselves milked whenever they feel like it (up to 6 times in 24 hours) in the automatic milking machine – they even have a back scratcher they can use when they have an itch! They are all chipped and their care is monitored by computer, but if this all sounds very impersonal, the enthusiastic farmer (our guide) knew every cow individually and can keep an eye on their progress on his mobile phone. Happy cows are healthy, productive cows and there were few instances of problems. The milk business runs at a loss because of the low price of milk in supermarkets; but they also have goats and pigs, and a biogas digester which provides all the electricity and heating with a surplus which is sold locally. We also enjoyed homemade strawberry milk in their beautiful farmhouse garden!

The following day we spent the morning in another of the villages, Dingden, where we visited the "Humberghaus", where a Jewish family lived before World War II. An incredible amount of research has been done to research the lives of the members of this very ordinary family, many of whom are still remembered in the local community. Some of them survived the war and some didn't, but all their stories were fascinating and really brought this relatively recent history to life. Sad stories, but also positive – as recently as last year, descendants of the family came back to Dingden and were moved at the research that has been done to ensure that future generations never forget what happened. *Next month in part 2, we visit a group (below) who work with refugees, and complete the story of our trip. Judith Edgoose*



Our heritage on camera

Elle Cain is a student photographer from Sedgefield who has recently completed a degree in photography at Cleveland College of Art and Design in Hartlepool. As part of the completion of the degree, the work of photography graduates at CCAD is now on show in a free exhibition in the Art Gallery at Church Square, Hartlepool until August.

Elle is a documentary photographer and two of her projects are on show. One is the documentation of this year's Sedgefield Ball Game and the other shows the 2015 Durham Miners' Gala. Many residents of Sedgefield and the surrounding villages may find they or their family members or friends are featured in the work, especially that of Sedgefield Ball game. **Elle feels that both pieces are a celebration of our great heritage. You can see some of her work at www.elle-cain.com, but there's much more on display at the excellent exhibition, including a series of gallery prints and a professional photo book.**

A long ride!

Sedgefield's William Clifford-Brown aims to cycle from London to Istanbul this summer, to raise money for **Doctors Without Borders'** vital work with Syrian refugees.



This will mean a gruelling 3,500km ride through France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and Bulgaria, before arriving in Turkey one month after setting off. William aims to raise at least £500 to support the work of Doctors Without Borders (also known as Medecins Sans Frontières) and says every penny donated will be sincerely appreciated. To donate, either go to **www.justgiving.com/WCliffordBrown** or text "MSFW89 £..."

We wish him the best of luck and will report on his trip later in the year.

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Neighbourhood Watch Meeting 14/6/16

PCSO Amy Jorgeson, standing in for PC Keith Todd, delivered a comprehensive report on crimes since the last meeting in April. She answered questions from members openly and clearly and listened to issues that will be followed up by herself and PC Todd.

These included continued Cold Calling problems and motorists making dangerous right turns prior to the roundabout at the Stockton Road junction. PCSO Jorgeson urges residents to report any instances of these problems to the local police. Amy also covered issues of Anti-Social Behaviour in the Old Cemetery and Eden Drive areas, some of which involve drug abuse. She confirmed that local officers are pursuing the perpetrators in both areas; any help from the public will be greatly appreciated.

Chairman, Ken Saiger, thanked PCSO Jorgeson for her excellent report and for her ability to provide clear answers to questions raised. He also thanked Julia Bowles (in her absence) for her continued support with N/H/Watch and her efforts to keep the Police informed of residents problems.

Please note the next N/H/Watch meeting does not take place until October 11th.

Summer in Sedgfield in Bloom

Despite the lack of sunshine, summer is beginning to bloom beautifully in Sedgfield. Council gardener Stephen Young, single-handed since the retirement of his assistant Roy Cairns, creates magnificent carpet bedding, meticulously designed and planted, and a host of colourful tubs and baskets, brightening up the centre. The enthusiastic team of Bloom volunteers have also worked hard on various projects around Sedgfield.

The grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall are a blaze of colour, thanks to new beds created in formerly drab areas. This year, the garden to the right of the entrance has been extended and deserves its new name, the Woodland Glade. The Welcome Window, looking into the bar, also lives up to its title. The Archway Walk leading through to the parkland has been brightened up with shrubs, perennials and annuals. Work continues to improve the planting to the right of the arch, while the area under the windows looking out on to the terraces has also been spruced up with more colourful planting amongst the formal shrubbery. The large area to the left of the main entrance is to be transformed over the next two years into a garden reflecting the history and heritage of Ceddesfeld Hall. Heavy work has already begun on this major project, known as 'Stepping through Time'.

Elsewhere, Bloomers have been busy in the Manor House Rose Garden, created in 2012 to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This year, the 700 bed on the church bank is dedicated to Her Majesty, honouring her 90th birthday, while the Bloom Beacon will commemorate the sacrifice of Sedgfield men at the Somme in 1916. The wildflower meadow and borders at Wykes Close are beginning to bloom beside planting at the church wall and Vicar's Dash, which help to make a steepish climb a little easier. Bloomers have also worked on Crispin Court, Rectory Row, Malton Terrace Herb Garden plus the Turnpike Bed and agricultural heritage area at Beacon Lane. Improvements to roadside beds near the Scout hut on West End have attracted praise; they will look even better once nature has done its work.

Northumbria in Bloom judges Eileen Burn, Val Giles & Ron McParlin visit again on Wednesday July 13th from 10.30 am. Being placed in the new category, Champion of Champions, Sedgfield has to go all out to maintain the standards which have brought so many Gold and Best Small Town awards and in 2013, Best Overall in Northumbria in Bloom. Community involvement is just as important as beautiful blooms and Sedgfield always scores highly in this category. Our loyal sponsors continue with generous support, and both businesses and residents in the centre of

PC Todd reports

Crime remains low in Sedgfield, with only four offences reported to police. These include a burglary at the Social Club where, in the early hours, someone climbed over a wall at the rear and forced open a window. They were unable to enter the building but did ransack the outbuilding before leaving empty handed.

A burglary was reported at Hardwick Hall where two males walked into the hotel and helped themselves to the cash and till drawer behind the bar. In Cross Street three windows were smashed and in Caden Court a water bowl from a bird feeder was stolen. We are always interested in information related to these crimes and would ask you to contact police. **Call 101**, e-mail keith.todd@durham.pnn.police.uk or just pop round to the police station.

*Until next time,
Keith*

SEDGFIELD NEWS INFORMATION

**Deadline for August edition -
Friday 15th July.**

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the village go to great lengths to make their frontages colourful and eye-catching. Good for business as well as for the Bloom! Everyone can help by joining the battle to keep the village litter free. Most of us take a pride in this lovely place, so come on, litter droppers, make an effort. Don't drop it, bin it!

Thanks to everyone for support and encouragement. If you see the judges on the 13th, give them a smile and a friendly welcome to this blooming beautiful little town.

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Something has set Sedgfield buzzing!

Could it be our busy little newcomers?

With the help of SDT and the head gardener at Hardwick Hall Hotel, a small group of bee keepers has set up an apiary, well away from the public's gaze.

The **Busy Bees at Hardwick** project hopes to enhance the natural environment and promote bee keeping in the area. And of course there may be honey!

The priority of the group is to develop their bee keeping skills, and protect and nurture the colonies of bees. At this time of year bees naturally swarm as part of their life cycle and the desire to increase. When the bees leave a hive in a swarm it can be noisy and alarming. Then they will settle in a cluster around their queen until they decide where to go next. Don't be afraid if you see a swarm; look but don't touch.

All of the bee keepers have completed, as a minimum, the beginners course offered by Darlington Bee Keeping Association.

If you think you might be interested in learning about bee keeping this Autumn, please get in touch with SDT, either at their Farmers' Market stall or by calling Roger Clubley on 620609. Also, the Darlington Beekeepers Association will be returning to Sedgfield Farmers' Market on Sunday 7th August and they are happy to chat and give all the information you need.

Sedgfield Farmers' Market

Clervaulx's bread and summer veg will be back at the market on Sunday 3rd July, where the Community Stall will be taken by Sedgfield Young Farmers. There will be music from Lol & Maxine Crallan with the Ceddesfeld Ukulele Group, so come along and enjoy a sociable morning supporting Sedgfield Farmers' Market.



"Looking for the Queen."

Photograph by Clare Midgley

Ceddesfeld Hall *Home of Sedgfield Community Association*



It's been a very hectic but enjoyable time since last month's article.

Sedgfield Mediaeval Fayre began with an amazing 'Rio Carnival' parade of children from both of the local primary schools. The procession was led by the May Queen Robyn Taylor and her attendants, Isabel Williams, and Ruby and Scarlett Cockburn, in their carriage. They were followed by elephants, flamingos, giraffes, tropical birds, musical instruments and all things Olympic, with torches, Olympic rings and banners. A fabulous band of drummers escorted the parade and went on to give a wonderful rousing performance at the end. It was impressive. Huge thanks must go to Sedgfield Primary School, Hardwick Primary School and Apollo Arts for their combined enthusiasm and effort. The weather was changeable, but spirits were not dampened. The green was busy with a wide variety of fairground rides, craft and charity stalls, attractions and entertainment including, children's dancing, Morris dancing, birds of prey, Living History and of course Mediaeval Knights who engaged the crowds throughout the day. Ceddesfeld Hall and its grounds were busy also, with further activities for children, including puppet shows and face painting. It was a brilliant community event. Thanks to the volunteers who help in the run up and on the day! The SCA are delighted to be part of Sedgfield Day which took place on 11th June. The event started at Ceddesfeld with a display of school work and children's voices (from both primary schools) ringing out across the lawns. There were displays promoting Sedgfield Players, Lyrics, Sedgfield in Bloom, Twinning, The Blues Club and the History Society as well as science and astronomy from Net Park.

Ladies' Escape served strawberries and cream and other refreshments were served throughout the day by Twinning and the Bloomers. Face painting and children's games and sports kept the youngsters entertained whilst an afternoon of music and singing was enjoyed in the main hall. Lol and Maxine Crallan opened the show followed by the Ukulele group, Ceddesfolk Ceilidh Band, Northumbrian Pipers and Lirica who entertained audiences from 12.20 to 4 pm. It was fabulous and huge thanks must go to all who took part and performed free of charge. Ceddesfeld Hall hosted only part of the fun on the day, with lots of other activities going on, on the green, in the Parish Hall and St Edmund's Church. Sedgfield Town Council, Sedgfield Village Games and funding from DCC Community Fund facilitated the day. Many thanks to the individuals involved with these organisations.

On Sunday 12th, the SCA also hosted a special Queen's 90th Birthday celebration for older residents. It was by its nature a very special event and more information will follow on this.

The SCA now look forward to their Beer Festival on Friday 1st (7pm) and 2nd July (6 pm). With 14 great beers plus BBQ food, and entertainment on the Saturday night, it can enjoy a relaxing evening (or two) in very pleasant surroundings. We're then on to the first weekend in September and the Folk Festival. More on that next month!

For more information, contact Wendy, 620206: Pat, 620607: Sarah, 622185 or visit our website, www.sedgfieldsca.org.uk.



See another fantastical creature from the Fayre on page 11.

Kipling's 'Jungle Book'

The Sedgefield Players Youth Section (SPYS) will be performing their summer show, an adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's 'The Jungle Book' by Stuart Patterson at the Parish Hall in July. Nearly 60 young people from Sedgefield and the local area will be taking to the stage, in what is the 80th anniversary year of Kipling's death, with the beloved tale of the Wolf-Boy Mowgli, his friends Baloo, Bagheera and Kaa, and deadly enemy Shere Khan the Tiger. You might be expecting naught but the Bare Necessities in this production, but you would be wrong! Kipling's original version (before it was Disneyfied) is a wonderfully woven tale of friendship, loss, sadness and growing up.

Along with the SPYS an array of puppets will be taking to the stage, lovingly crafted

by Carl Harrison. The production is directed by Tom Guest and Sarah Atkinson, with original music by Brandon Hadwin and Charli Devin and is kindly sponsored by Hays Travel. It is sure to be a sell out show, so get tickets while you can.

In other Players news the June production of 'Will Power', an evening of works written and inspired by the Bard was a huge success with audiences enjoying the variety of work the Players had to offer. They are now working towards the annual September Festival which will take place from the 12th - 17th in the Parish Hall. TG

Art at The Manor House

The Manor House in Sedgefield is hosting a second summer art exhibition, where local artist, Jane Spink will exhibit her latest work, which features the North Yorkshire Moors, THE Yorkshire Coast and Hardwick Park.

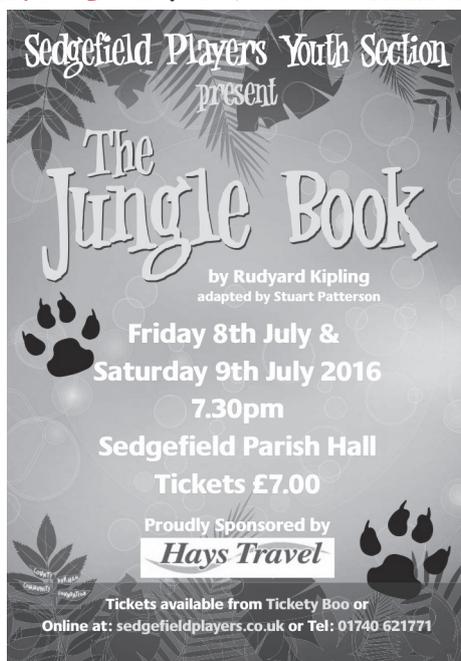
Jane will work in the Manor House throughout, aiming to

complete a new picture each day. Above is her latest painting of the Manor House.

It is intended to make the exhibition into a community event, so other local artists and art groups are invited to exhibit during the week. Interested groups should contact Jane at janespink2001@yahoo.co.uk. Visitors can play their part too, by adding to the community art project 'blank canvas' as well as enjoying the art activities on offer.

Entry is free and all are welcome. The Manor House will be open from Tuesday 5th to Thursday 7th July between 11 am 5.30pm, then on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th July between 11am and 3pm. Pictures are for sale and prices start at £20 for a framed print. Commissions are also welcome.

An evening reception will be held on Friday 8th July from 7.30pm with a licensed bar available - an opportunity to enjoy a drink on a summer evening in a beautiful building. The reception is strictly ticket only, as numbers are limited but tickets are free and are available directly from Jane. Please mail janespink2001@yahoo.co.uk to secure your tickets. Further information including daily updates throughout the exhibition can also be found on the event's Facebook page 'Jane Spink - Art' or by emailing Jane at the email address above.



Sedgefield Blues Club

Just a reminder that on July 16th, we are holding a special gig at The Manor House. This is a unique chance to experience some very talented musicians in an intimate environment. Tickets for this one off gig are only £5 and at going to press, half have already been sold. Our headline acts are George Shovlin and George Lamb, but special mention to 'the support', The Last Wednesdays, our local acoustic group who can be found at Ceddesfeld Hall the last Wednesday of the month. Feel free to pop along and join them. Please ring for further details 07758418430 or buy online at www.sedgefieldblues.com

Wonderful Stuff!

The Festival of Wonderful Stuff, a celebration of local, regional and the finest music, food and drink, takes place from 1st - 3rd July at The Vane Arms in Thorpe Thewles.

This is the festival's second year, after a resounding success last year. Many superb music acts will be performing across the weekend.

Tickets can be bought from the pub or online at <http://www.wegotickets.com/f/9995>

Full confirmed line-up so far is:

Friday 1st July 6pm - 10pm

The Kets, Andy Jones, Loose Like A Goose and Phat Tyrtles

Saturday 4pm - 10pm

Misti Heslop, Chloe Chadwick, Tom Joshua Band, Daniel Lucas (Boss Caine), Amelia Coburn, Joe and Helen Hammill (Cattle & Cane) and Head of Light Entertainment

Sunday 4pm - 9pm

Michael Gallagher, Mary Davidson, D6ixS, Charlotte Grayson, Black and White duo and The O'Blimeys.

Summer Concert

The Sedgefield Lyric Singers, SLYC and Lirica will be performing their summer concert 'When I Hear Music' at the Parish Hall on the 1st and 2nd July. Tickets, which are £5 or £4 for under 16s, are available from Tickety Boo or by calling 621196.

As part of the concert SLYC will perform 'Mighty Mississippi', a short musical that explores the history and stories surround the people who lived, worked and died along that mightiest of rivers.



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Yes, we're already half way through the year and some of 2016's biggest sporting events are either happening now or looming large. As I type this, England top their group after two games of Euro 2016, the cricket team has wrapped up a test series victory against Sri Lanka, the rugby union team is ahead in the three test series in Australia and Lewis Hamilton is back in form in F1. There's a good sporting buzz right now for sure – will it last? With Wimbledon, the Open Championship and the Rio Olympics due to follow soon, there's certainly no shortage of sport to look forward to, whether the British representatives shine or not. And here in Sedgefield, we have enjoyed our own festival of sport recently – a little more about that later.

Cricket

The various senior and junior teams at Sedgefield Cricket Club are nearly half way through their seasons. The club appears to be busier than ever at the moment and it's great to see so many young people involved in the sport. I'll include a mid-term report on the club's progress next month.

Athletics

It has been a very busy few weeks for Sedgefield Harriers, with runners tackling races all over the North East. The Tees Barrage 10K saw Ean Parsons lead the club's men home, quickly followed by newcomer Gaz Hamblin. Next were Andy Featherstone, Ste Austin and Richard Fearnside. First lady home was Nicky Blackett, followed by (five months pregnant) Emma Featherstone, and then junior Georgina Letts. At Raby Castle soon after, Lisa Darby was the solitary Harrier in a 5K race and enjoyed a strong run on a challenging course. The hilly Raby Castle 10K on the same day attracted seven Harriers in hot conditions. First to finish was Ray Carmichael, followed by Ean Parsons, Andy Featherstone, Dave Round, Mike Wood, Graham Darby and Sheree Lyons.

The Pier to Pier Race (about seven miles from South Shields to Sunderland) was a club Grand Prix event and attracted a large turnout of Harriers. For the second week in a row, the first Harrier home was Ray Carmichael, closely followed by Simon Cavey and David Walker. Next to finish were Ean Parsons, Andy Featherstone and Lisa Darby, followed by a steady stream of other Sedgefield runners.

At the end of May, teams of Harriers competed in NYMAC four stage relays in Stewart Park in Middlesbrough. Each runner covered a mile, with batons handed over at the end of the first three legs in traditional fashion. It was a frenetic, fast-paced event and Sedgefield Harriers entered eight teams, made up of all ages. A men's veteran team, Dave Round, Paul Lee, Ean Parsons and Mike Wood, claimed third place in their category and the event saw some speedy performances by many Harriers, including a few juniors.

Soon after the relays, 22 Harriers took part in one of the region's most famous running events, the Blaydon Race, which is always held on the evening of 9th June. The extremely popular event (*picture top of next page*) starts in Newcastle city centre and, as the traditional song states, takes runners along the Scotswood Road and, via a few twists and turns, all the way to Blaydon, about 5.7 miles away. There were some excellent performances by Harriers on the night, who all earned the bottle of beer and butty that came in the goody bag handed out after the finish.

Squash

The squash season has now ended and Sedgefield Squash Club is settling down for the summer. However, there are still plenty of activities for members to attend and get involved in during the closed season. The summer squash ladder has once again been devised in order to keep everyone active, and to encourage members to challenge each other for their place in next season's seedings.

The club hosted a stall during Sedgefield Day, which aimed to encourage both children and adults to take part in training sessions down at the club and discover more about the sport. The stall gained a lot of interest from young children who enquired if they would be able to attend training sessions during the summer, which is great news for the club's junior programme.

This was followed on 14th June by a free taster session for juniors as part of the Sedgefield Village Games (see photo below).

This event was run by Simon Hill and Craig Weatherspoon and, as the photo demonstrates, it proved to be very popular with the youngsters.



Sedgefield Village Games

The Sedgefield Village Games 2016 Festival proved to be a great success – the squash session mentioned above was one of 16 well organised free taster events. At the time of writing this, the festival is still underway, so look out for a full report and pics next month. That's all for this month. As always, please send any sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com.



Photos, right:
Medieval Fair

left:
Blaydon
racers!



Your **LETTERS**

A Very Big Thank You

The ladies of the Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield would like to thank everyone who supported the Cream Tea and Flower Demonstration to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, held in the Parish Hall. We had a lovely afternoon. Val Guest, a national flower demonstrator was excellent, very talented and fun. She made numerous beautiful floral arrangements and they were raffled later in the day. This was followed by a super afternoon tea, all none fattening of course! With your help we raised £819 for Breast Cancer Research, North East. Thank you all very much.

Ann Carr

Nottingham Knockers

We were recently visited by a youth who announced that he was an ex-offender taking part in a government backed rehabilitation scheme. I pointed out the No Cold Callers notice displayed prominently on our window but was told that it didn't apply, as he was "working for the government". He produced a hand written 'identity card', scrawled in black felt marker on lined paper before he started to empty his large bag of cleaning products onto our door step. I repeatedly told him that I was not interested, but he was very persistent, and tried to sell me a car washing sponge and a cleaning leather for £20 apiece! When he finally listened for long enough to understand that I didn't have any cash he gave me a mouthful of four-lettered abuse and left; but not before commenting "nice car you've got there mate; dead easy to break into like." Ominously, he also enquired whether we had a dog. Several of our neighbours gave them money just to get rid of them. I did not see any supervisor. Later I came across them again, trying to buy alcohol from the Post Office. I reported the matter to Sedgefield Police, but was told that they were 'just a bunch of unfortunate lads who had had bad upbringings and were to be pitied.'

Two days later we received another visit. This youth was clearly feigning a speech impediment, but went through exactly the same routine. I explained that we had received a visit only two days previously and were not interested. He became extremely abusive and aggressive, to the point that he completely forgot his speech impediment! This was again reported to the police, who on this occasion sent a car out, but we don't know if anything else happened. Despite police assurances, a few seconds research on Google brought up an item called Nottingham Knockers, which described how criminal gangs use such tactics to gain intelligence (perhaps the wrong word?) before breaking into houses. I would therefore like to know what Sedgefield Police plan to do about these individuals and their intimidating behaviour?

A concerned resident (name and address supplied).

Christian Aid Week 2016

Thanks to the generosity of the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury, & Mordon, with additional support this year from Mainsforth, we are delighted to report that a final total of £3,787.45 was collected. This will be increased by approximately £300 as a result of completed Gift Aid declarations, and by a further £113 given at the Good Friday Procession of Witness. A grand total of over £4,200 will go towards helping to improve the lives of some of the world's poorest people. Thank you also to our dedicated collectors, who gave their time and effort to this very worthy cause. After delivering the envelopes, collectors endeavour to call back twice, but it is not always possible to catch everyone at home. We are sorry if your envelope was not collected. Thanks also to the people who delivered their envelope to their collector's address or to our home afterwards.

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JULY 2016 DIARY

email diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Fri 1st	U3A Parish Hall 2pm. AGM and Cream Tea, All members welcome, guests £3 ☎ 629574
Fri 1st & Sat 2nd	Lyric Singers, SLYC and Lirica 'When I hear Music' Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7.00, Tickets £5/£4 U16, Tickety Boo or ☎ 621196
Sat 2nd	Sedgefield Library 10-11am Surgery with County Councillors, Rachel Lumsdon and John Robinson
Sun 3rd	Farmers' Market on the Green from 8.30am.
Mon 4th	Local History Society 7.45pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. 'Beamish History of Agriculture' by Seb Littlewood
Tue 5th	Tea Dance Parish Hall, 1 - 3pm
Wed 6th	WI 7.15pm Parish Hall. "Getting Crafty" with Edna Oswald. Members' Competition: a pretty scarf. Visitors always welcome Willowdene Care Home "Come Dine With Me" luncheon 12:30pm. Roast dinner, dessert and entertainment. Free to attend but prior booking essential. ☎ 01740 771310.
Fri 8th	Sedgefield Hardwick School Summer Carnival after sports day. Country Market 10 - 11.30am Parish Hall. Home baking, plants, crafts, refreshments. A warm welcome awaits.
Fri 8th & Sat 9th	SPYS: The Jungle Book Parish Hall 7.00 Tickets £7 Tickety Boo ☎ 621771 sedgefieldplayers.co.uk
Mon 11th	Really Easy Bridge Lessons at Ceddesfeld Hall. 1.30 - 4pm. ☎620607
Fri 15th	Deadline for Sedgefield News August edition Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support 9.30 to 11.30am. Fletcher room, Parish Hall.
Tue 19th	Tea Dance Parish Hall, 1 - 3pm Sedgefield Gardening Club Trip to Littlethorpe Manor Gardens F'hill, S'field & District Flower Club Parish Hall 7.30pm. Members' night. £5.50/ £8 non members
Thu 28th	Sedgefield Show Meeting 8pm at Sedgefield Social Club
Sat 30th	Willowdene Care Home , Garden Fete 1:30pm-4pm. Stalls, Games, Food and Refreshments & Live Entertainment.

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Clubbercise with Sharon: Tues 6 - 7pm

Zumba with Emilia: Tues 6.30 - 7.30pm
and Thurs 7-8pm

Polka School of Dance: Weds 5-8pm

Chi Taekwondo: Sat 10.30 - 11.30am

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Tel: 03000 269521 Opening Hours -

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Sedgefield Social Club's July entertainment guide will be posted to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Win a Wedding Prize

Butterwick Hospice is looking for 8 couples to take part in their second 'Win a Wedding' event. All the couples have to do is to raise money for Butterwick Hospice during a 12 week period.

Their task is to raise as much money as they can for the hospice and the lucky couple will walk away with a dream wedding package worth £10,000. Last year's winning couple organised a range of fund raising events for themselves and for plucky friends and family to participate in. These included taking part in a Colour Run, jumping from a plane, sleeping homeless for a night and bungee jumping. In addition they arranged and attended a Charity Ball and set up a 'Just Giving' page to facilitate sponsorship and donations.

The whole process for them was a "fantastic experience" and has left them with memories they will never forget. Their advice is to "do it! You really have nothing to lose and everything to gain." The prize wedding package includes hire of the venue, Hardwick Hall Hotel, wedding photographer, hairdressing and make up, wedding cake, interior decor, table plan, thank you cards, invitations, travel to the venue, registrar, hen party and vouchers towards the cost of wedding rings. For more information or to enter, visit www.butterwick.org.uk/winawedding or contact the fundraising office on **01642 628930**.

Sedgefield Village Action Group: Urgent Information on Eden Drive 300 houses appeal: Public Enquiry

The appeal on the first refused application has been withdrawn and replaced by another on the second refused application DM/15/03808/OUT.

This appeal (Ref: APP/X1355/W/16/3150609) is due to begin on the same date, August 9th, at Sedgefield Racecourse, leaving very little time for interested parties to make any sort of case relating to the development.

The appellant has requested that the appeal be dealt with by the public inquiry procedure. Representations previously made to the Local Planning Authority prior to the application being decided, other than those which the maker has asked to be treated as confidential, will be sent to the Inspectorate and the appellant. Any new representations that you wish to make in relation to this appeal should be made online via <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/> or in writing ASAP, quoting the appeal reference above, and forwarded directly to: The Planning Inspectorate, 3/01B, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN.

Although time is extremely limited, SVAG are applying for Rule 6 Status, which will enable them to be more fully involved in discussions and to make a strong case against the development. SVAG urges local residents to comment, if they haven't already done so and to attend the hearing, which will probably run over a few days.

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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