



SEDGEFIELD NEWS

JUNE 2016



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

Walter Howell is Sedgefield's Citizen of the Year 2016

Walter Howell has never been one to sit back and wait for things to happen. As a youngster in Fishburn he, and his friends, would spend their weekends cycling. Trips to York and back on a Saturday, followed by The Lake District and back on a Sunday were not unusual occurrences. Walter's love of cycling led to him and his friends undertaking a two week cycling tour of France, Belgium and Luxembourg – the boys were fifteen years old! Looking back, Walter is still amazed at the memory of his parents waving him off to Europe for two weeks with no means of contacting him during that time. However, he also believes that being given that freedom to explore both himself and the world was very valuable to him as a young man.

It should come as no shock then that one organisation that attracted Walter's admiration was The Boy Scout movement. Aged only eighteen, Walter founded a Boy Scout Troop in Fishburn. For their first trip Walter, accompanied 24 boys in the back of a furniture removal van to the Lake District! The founding of this troop had a welcome knock on effect for Sedgefield as Geoff Hopper, one of the original scouts, went on to set up Sedgefield Scouts. Currently, Walter retains an interest in scouting in his position as Group Chairman of Sedgefield Scouts.

With such an interest in working with young people, it is not surprising that Walter chose teaching as his profession. Walter began his working life as a Teacher of Art at Wheatley Hill Boys' School before moving to Wingate Secondary Modern and seeing out his career at Wellfield Comprehensive School.

Walter's art skills were to come in useful in one of his first community involvements in Sedgefield. In the very early days of Sedgefield Community Association money was a major issue. It was suggested that a fund raising jumble sale should be held in the Parish Hall. Walter suggested that perhaps they could jazz it up, give it a theme or something - just to make it a little more interesting. Walter used his Art skills to create medieval banners and persuaded stallholders and helpers to attend in medieval costume. It was so well received someone suggested that it should be held outdoors the following year. And so, The Medieval Fayre was born.

Walter's Art skills would often come in useful during his 45 years as Productions Director with Sedgefield Players. The role was primarily a managerial one, overseeing productions ranging from Drama to Pantomime and Comedy to Reviews. However, Walter could often be seen making scenery, sleeves rolled and up to the elbows in paint. Looking back, Walter recalls with particular fondness the outdoor performances The Players staged in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall. These included Camelot and The Tempest but Walter's highlight was the Performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' which was scheduled for September. As the date approached doubts began to surface over the wisdom of choosing to perform outside on a date so late in the summer. Fortunately, the weather gods were kind, providing a lovely night from early evening right through to the midnight finish. "Magical," remembers Walter.

Walter was also the prime mover in the formation of the Junior Players section. Needing some children for one of his first pantomime productions, Walter persuaded adult members to donate their children to this worthy cause. It occurred to him that



A picture of surprise & delight!

a junior section would help to "grow our own talent". At the moment the youth section is 60 strong and goes from strength to strength. Recently, they competed at Port Sunlight against a number of well established adult groups. Although they went with no thought of victory against such strong opponents one of the young players was nominated as best actress and the group was awarded the adjudicator's prize for outstanding teamwork.

The common thread running through Walter's story is that he has been a truly positive force in bringing people together in common interests. He, and his wife Mildred, continue to enjoy meeting new people by opening their garden for public viewing each year. "It's not really about the flowers," Walter told me, "it's about meeting kindred spirits and the community involvement in a village I love."

SEDGEFIELD NEWS INFORMATION

Deadline for July: Wed 15th June

Send copy to

sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com;

call/text 07572 502 904

or post to

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Sports editor: **chrisjlines@aol.com**

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diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Sedgefield Village Games

In an increasingly inactive society, Sedgefield can be proud of the huge variety of active pastimes available within the community. Sedgefield Village Games aims to ensure that generation after generation is inspired to lead healthy lifestyles and this month's 2016 festival can play an important role in that. It should also be great fun for children and parents alike, so please get involved! See page 6 for details.

June

How will you be spending your June? Last year The Wildlife Trusts ran the UK's first ever month-long nature challenge and more than 18,500 people took part in The Wildlife Trusts' 30 Days Wild challenge, committing around 300,000 Random Acts of Wildness - different ways to connect with, experience and take action for nature. It's not too late for you to take part in your own 30 Days Wild. People let their lawns grow wild, adults danced in the rain and made nature cocktails while families created wild works of art, went star-gazing and created homes for wildlife in their gardens. Even people at work found time for wildlife, by taking meetings outside in the sun and transforming work spaces into wildlife habitats. An impact study, by the University of Derby, of 30 Days Wild - revealed sustained increases in participants' happiness, health, connection to nature and positive environmental behaviours, such as feeding the birds or growing flowers for pollinators like bees.

You could get up early and experience the dawn chorus at Hardwick Park, spend some time watching the swifts reeling around Sedgefield, make a new bird feeder for the garden, plant a nectar rich flower to encourage butterflies and bees, make a bark boat and watch it set sail or even go barefoot in long grass. You could visit your local nature reserve, go star watching or even find your inner child and splash in a puddle with the kids. The list is endless. The Wildlife Trusts are aiming to inspire people to carry out one million Random Acts of Wildness, listing 101 fun and intriguing ideas online to get you started. It's all about making nature part of your life for 30 days - and it's free. Sign up at www.wildlifetrusts.org/30DaysWild. Share your 30 Days Wild with us on twitter, Instagram and facebook using #30DaysWild.

The research showed that people who do something 'wild' every day for a month change their attitude to nature and report improvements in their physical and mental wellbeing. Whatever your age, wherever you live, you can take part and join thousands of others making nature part of their life.

Delivering Sedgefield News

We would still appreciate extra help in the village centre, but also on the Winterton estate: the left hand side of Winterton Avenue (34 copies) and roads off it: Meadow Rise (6) Homestall (2) & Townend (2). If you can help, please contact Judith Edgoose. **01740 620244, Mobile 07899 984 464** or email mail@toddsousefarm.co.uk

Choral Evensong

Mrs Sue Snowden, Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham invites you to a special service in Durham Cathedral on Sunday 12th June at 3.30pm, to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday.

Featured in Sports Update on p 10 ...

Mason Lee, Paula Bayles, Roan Lee and the Sedgefield District RUFC. Congratulations to them and the many others who have had personal or club triumphs this season.



News in brief

A week-long crackdown on speeding drivers saw 404 drivers caught going too fast across the Cleveland and Durham police force areas. The total includes those recorded by officers on patrol and drivers caught on equipment used by the Camera Enforcement Unit. The unit's new cameras can operate in darkness, meaning they can now deploy to areas which have been the subject of local complaints regarding night-time speeding. Depending on how far they were exceeding the limit, the majority of offenders will either have been invited to go on a speed awareness course or issued with a fixed penalty fine. However, **seven** drivers were going so fast as to receive a court summons.

The Reverend Michael Gobbett

will give thanks for 25 years of priestly ministry at a Parish Eucharist at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29th June at St Michaels Church, Bishop Middleham. Father Michael will be celebrating his final service in the Parish on Sunday 3rd July at 10am at St Edmund's Church before he starts his new role in the United Parish of Whitby with Ruswarp. All are welcome to both services.

Bootcamp style exercise classes

have been launched in Hardwick Park. The free classes, which take place at 7pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Park, are held by personal trainer Gordon Hindson and sponsored by local gym Atom Health and Fitness.

Bike theft

PC Keith Todd appeals for information and/or witnesses to the theft of a BMX bike from outside the Post Office where the paperboy left the bike to collect his papers. CCTV shows a male wearing a black hoodie and cream baseball style cap riding the bike away.

If you can identify him or know where the Blue/Green coloured Hoffman 20"BMX bike is located, please contact the police. Call 101 ext 744670 or drop into Sedgefield police station.

Sedgefield Day on Saturday 11th June from 10am

This year's Sedgefield Day is set to be bigger and better than ever, with a wide variety of free attractions for all of the family. The event is based on the village green, in St. Edmund's Church, the Parish Hall and in and around Ceddesfeld Hall.

As part of its 2016 festival, Sedgefield Village Games will host a schedule of displays and 'have a go' sessions on the village green and surrounding area, featuring sport, a mobile climbing wall and the 'Jungle Obstacle Run'. There will be lots of sports equipment for everyone to use. St. Edmund's Church will serve morning tea and coffee and the green will be home to various craft stalls and gazebos with displays by local organisations. Meanwhile, in the Parish Hall, the talented toddlers from Wigglets will put on a display.

Like last year, NETPark and Business Durham have helped train 'science buskers' from Sedgefield Community College, who will entertain people on the village green. Children from Sedgefield's two primary schools have been hard at work inventing and drawing magic products that they think might be made in the future at NETPark's Centre for Process Innovation (CPI). The best creations will be presented with prizes by the Mayor of Sedgefield and later printed and displayed on boards around the NETPark construction site for CPI's new building.

Ceddesfeld Hall and its grounds will be buzzing with activity. The day will start with a performance on the terrace by the two primary school choirs and there will be music and entertainment throughout the day, courtesy of many local performers, including Lirica, a Ceddesfolk family ceilidh, Northumbrian pipers, Lol and Maxine and a ukulele group. There will be displays from several community groups who are based at the hall and upstairs, Cleveland and Darlington Astronomical Society will also be on hand with telescopes and other equipment for exploring the heavens above from the safety of the hall.

Sedgefield Day is organised by Sedgefield Town Council and the Sedgefield 700+ group. The event is supported by a wide range of organisations in the community, including Sedgefield Community Association, Sedgefield Local History Society, Sedgefield in Bloom, Sedgefield Twinning Association, The Lyric Singers, The Rotary Club, Sedgefield Civic Trust, Sedgefield Village Veterans, St. Edmund's Church, Sedgefield Village Games, Sedgefield NETPark and the Sedgefield Neighbourhood Policing Team. Funding for Sedgefield Day has been provided by Cllr John Robinson's neighbourhood budget.

Everyone from the community who is involved is volunteering their time to make this year's Sedgefield Day a big success. It's a celebration about all that is great in Sedgefield (and most of the attractions are free!), so get along and enjoy it!

"Taste and See" Pizza Face competition. For information about our cookery group please contact P Lamb on 01740 621251



Sedgefield Blues Club

The Blues Club scene is very strong in the North East and Sedgefield Blues Club is flying the live music flag at our stall on Sedgefield Day, June 11th, where you can find out what the local Blues scene is about.

On July 16th we up sticks for a special one-off acoustic gig at the Manor House. With the help of Ean Parsons, we are proud to present George Shovlin and George Lamb. This will be a fabulous night's entertainment. Both Georges come from Sunderland, where, for two years, they have run a regular 'Speak Easy' to showcase local talent. It seems only fair that the support at the Manor house will be from our local talent pool. Daily updates can be found on Facebook or please ring 077418430 for details. More details at www.sedgefieldblues.com

Butterwick Hospice fundraisers

Treasure trove Experts from 'The Medal Centre' return to Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland to run one of their popular coin and medal valuation days, on Saturday 18th June from 9.30 - 4.30. The entrance fee is £2 per person which includes a drink. There is ample free parking. Valuations are free, with no obligation to sell, but if a customer wishes to sell items after the valuation a cash payment will be available. Owner of The Medal Centre, Andrew Jukes, is an expert in all forms of British campaign and gallantry medals and says, "I never fail to be surprised at the treasures found in old tins and boxes that are brought along by the public.

Ladies Lunch is on Wednesday, June 8th in the tastefully refurbished dining suite at the Park Head Hotel, Bishop Auckland. Doors open at 11am for refreshments whilst browsing the retail and craft stalls. Lunch comprises a traditional roast beef dinner, Lemon Tart with Chantilly Cream and coffee and mints. A vegetarian option is available. Guest speakers are Maeve Nattress, on the struggle for women's rights, focusing on the life of Emily Wilding Davison, the woman who died after being hit by King George V's horse at the Derby of 1913; and Paul Stockdale on the "Kynren" project - a series of spectacular open air performances taking audiences on a journey through British history, with the majestic Auckland Castle as a stunning backdrop. **Places at the lunch are limited and tickets, at £22, must be purchased in advance. For information about both events call Butterwick Hospice on 01388 603003.**

New Plumbing and Gas Centre

The centre opened in Newton Aycliffe offers training and accreditation needed by domestic plumbers and gas engineers. **For information contact Darren Raby - draby@swdt.co.uk or 01325 313194.**

The Trusty

News from Sedgefield Development Trust



Farmers' Market Stray Aid joins us at the market on Sunday 5th June. A registered charity from Coxhoe, its mission is to rescue, re-unite and re-home abused, abandoned and unwanted dogs in the North East Region. Dogs over 6 months, resident in our area, can be micro chipped free of charge at the Stray Aid Rescue Centre, and dog training days are available. Come along and find out more about them.

For a time during the morning, there will be music from Lirica for all to enjoy, and the Sedgefield Games equipment will be there all morning, so young children can have some fun while you shop with our amazing traders.

Sedgefield Energy Switch: you can still register for the May auction!

Sedgefield Development Trust has been able to arrange a post auction registration period to allow more people the opportunity to benefit from our Energy Saving Scheme. This may be a 'one off' chance as it has not been available after the last two auctions. Over 60 households have already registered for this auction, so why not join them? You have nothing to lose and maybe something to gain. The new registration dates are: **before June 16th by post or before June 26th online.**

Online, go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk, open the ENERGY SWITCH section, click on the red 'REGISTER NOW' button and follow the links. To use the post, or if you need assistance, please call our Helpline; **07980 134 594**. We will be happy to assist or complete your registration for you. **REGISTERING COMMITS YOU TO NOTHING AND YOU WILL NEVER BE PESTERED WITH FOLLOW-UP PHONE CALLS OR EMAILS.**

Important note: people who registered and switched at this time last year need to register again to benefit from savings that may be achieved this year.

Ceddesfeld Hall



Home of Sedgefield Community Association

SCA has had a busy few weeks. Shakespeare Night was a sell out with over 60 guests attending the evening. Everyone enjoyed a celebration of which the man himself would have been proud. A drinks reception was followed by a delicious meal of broth, steak and ale pie, lemon posset, cheese and biscuits and coffee and mints. Thanks to Kit Fletcher, Sue and Phil Broomhead and Tony Guest for readings, Shakespearean quotes and a quiz, all of which were very well received.

The second Open Mic event provided varied entertainment of a very high standard. It was hosted by Richie Parry, who as well as performing with the Holkey Folkies, had everyone laughing, with poems and anecdotes between acts. Other performers were The Milliners, John Weighall, Andrew Darnton, Ean Parsons, Kristen Peacock, Joanne Dunn, Catherine Lines, Chloe Leavy and Anthony Robb. Special thanks must go to Anthony and Kristen for technical support.

At the time of writing, we're looking forward to the Mediaeval Fayre and Sedgefield Day followed by the Beer Festival on the first weekend in July. There will be a host of new beers as well as entertainment and BBQ to enjoy. It's a traditional summer event and we look forward to seeing you there. If you'd like to get involved with any of our events, please get in touch.

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

Laura Bashford

Many of you were moved by Laura's story to do something tangible to help her achieve greater independence, and during the months after publication, many kind donations to her wheelchair fund were made. We thought you might like to hear how things are now.

Laura found it necessary to leave Sedgefield this spring, and is now back home with her family, trying her best to deal with her changed circumstances and deteriorating health: "Taking it one day at a time" is how she put it in a recent email.

Because of the change in disability benefit, Laura hasn't yet been able to order the new car that will be able to accommodate an electric chair, but this month she will make a step forward by ordering the chair. Then she will know which vehicle is needed. She hopes to have the car by September, and if everything runs smoothly, the chair to go with it. Laura ended by saying how touched she is to be remembered in Sedgefield.

Sedgefield Village Action Group

Urgent Information

Sedgefield remains very vulnerable to large scale housing development which could completely alter its character, approach, appearance and rural aspect. There has been some success; large scale developments proposed for Eden Drive, A689/Stockton Road and the 3 cornered field were refused at Durham county Planning Committee, but developers are dogged in their determination to appeal and resubmit similar applications. The current situation is:

Three Cornered Field (agricultural land): Appeal refused by the Planning Inspectorate. New application for 34 dwellings submitted.

Eden Drive (agricultural land): second re-submitted application (300 houses) also refused, the main reason (same as the first) being harmful and significant incursion into open countryside. An appeal/public enquiry on the original proposal (315 houses) is due on August 9th at Sedgefield Racecourse. DCC officers will have every advantage of legal representation & planning expertise.

A689/Stockton Road –150 houses (agricultural land) - application rejected but an appeal is considered to be very likely.

Land behind Sainsburys/The Community College/Beacon Lane, 371 houses (agricultural land): application to DCC has been submitted. We await a date, probably within the next few weeks, for the Planning Committee hearing.

The old General Hospital Site, 125 houses (brownfield land): an application has been submitted to DCC. Our Neighbourhood Plan states that this brownfield site should be used as a preference; the majority of residents support development on this area. Please make your views heard when the opportunity to comment on comes up: this should be quite soon.

So Sedgefield continues to be inundated with applications, appeals and re-submissions. SVAG are committed to keeping you informed but it feels that the powers that be try hard to wear us down; odds are stacked against those in this community who wish to see the green, agricultural land around the town protected, so watch out for information and do 'your bit' to help protect the character of our village.

The Sedgefield Plan: An inspector has been appointed to begin work in June. DCC can then begin their 3 month run up to a public referendum, hopefully to take place in autumn.

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Sedgefield Village Games 2016 FESTIVAL

The Sedgefield Village Games 2016 Festival is almost upon us and in this Olympic year, the festival will have a 'Rio' theme to it.

The programme was launched recently with a coffee morning in the Manor House, where a display of artwork created by pupils from Sedgefield's two primary schools gave the festival an extremely colourful start! Even our MP, Phil Wilson, was impressed.

Sedgefield Village Games was launched in 2012, inspired by the London Olympic and Paralympic Games, and has since continued to promote sport and active lifestyles in Sedgefield with events, bursaries and the provision of equipment for community use.

A fortnight of free taster activities will be hosted by some of our many sports clubs, groups & individuals. The fun begins on Monday 6th June and includes 16 separate events for young people (adults welcome too!) Attendance cards will be given to primary school children and distributed through the community college and other locations. As an incentive to take part (in case the fun isn't enough!) a young person attending at least five events will be rewarded with a free SVG 2016 Festival beanie hat which can be collected from the Parish Hall on Saturday 18th June, from 10am – 12 noon. Don't worry if you can't make it - just contact the SVG team to arrange collection at a different time.

This Festival is possible thanks to a County Durham Community Foundation grant, *many* wonderful volunteers and fantastic support from: Sedgefield Community College, Wigglets, Sedgefield Harriers, Sedgefield Youth FC, Sedgefield District RUFC, Sedgefield Cricket Club, Sedgefield 700+, Sedgefield Town Council, Sedgefield junior parkrun, Tom Guest, Sedgefield Squash Club, Gary Hetherington, Clubbercise, Edmundson Design, Sedgefield Web Design, Manor House 1707 & Sedgefield Ladies Escape. Thanks also to Sedgefield Hardwick and Sedgefield Primary Schools, the community college and Sedgefield Development Trust for helping to promote the festival.

June 6th	Community College Sports	Sedgefield Community College	3.15 - 5.30pm
	Junior strength and conditioning	Sedgefield Community College	6.00 - 7.00pm
7th	Olympic Wigglets (for ages 2-4)	Parish Hall	10.45 - 11.30am
	Rackets and balls skills (ages 3-7)	Sedgefield Squash Club	6.30 - 7.30pm
8th	Athletics (ages 8-16)	Community College sports field	6.30 - 8.00pm
9th	Football	Community College sports field	6.00 - 7.00pm
	Rugby	Sedgefield RUFC pitch	7.00 - 8.00pm
10th	Cricket	Sedgefield Cricket Club	6.00 - 7.30pm
11th	SEDFIELD DAY - climbing wall	Village Green	10am - 4.30pm
12th	Junior parkrun	Hardwick Park	9.00am
13th	Tap dancing	Parish Hall	6.00 - 7.00pm
14th	Squash	Sedgefield Squash Club	6.00 - 8.00pm
15th	Archery	Sedgefield Cricket Club	6.30 - 8.00pm
16th	Clubbercise (ages 11-17)	The Hub, Sedgefield Community College	6.00 - 7.00pm
	Mini fun duathlon (run-bike-run) time trial – bring your own bicycle	Winterton field (near St. Luke's Church and the play area)	6.30 - 8.00pm
17th	Orienteering	East Park (meet at the cricket club)	6.30 - 8.00pm



Please keep an eye on SVG Facebook page - www.facebook.com/SedgefieldVillageGames,

www.sedgefieldgames.com and @SedgefieldGames on Twitter for late changes or extra information.



Celebrating 50 years of 1st Sedgefield Scout Group

Back in 1966 on the old army camp, 1st Sedgefield Scout Group met for the first time. In the intervening 50 years, thousands of young people in our community have benefitted in many ways by getting involved in the Scout movement. A huge number of them have gone on to use the skills and attitudes that they developed at 1st Sedgefield in a wide variety of walks of life, both near and far, and the group continues to thrive.

From its first base, the group moved to Rectory Row Primary School before finally settling down in its own hall on West End. As youthful and vibrant as ever today, the group isn't showing its age (unlike some of its former members and leaders!).

To celebrate 1st Sedgefield's 50th birthday, the group is holding a series of events from Friday 24th to Sunday 26th June. Hardwick Park has kindly agreed to host the celebrations, which will include a camp over the weekend for current members. On **Saturday 25th June**, members of the public are being invited to go and see the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers in action, demonstrating some of the skills and activities that the group has excelled in over five decades. This will all be happening in the temple field and surrounding area. Everyone is welcome!

On the evening of the same day, the group will hold a celebration barbeque and traditional camp fire for members, former members and their families, with the usual singing and entertainment. Anyone who has been involved in 1st Sedgefield over the years is invited to attend. To book tickets for the barbeque (£5 each), contact Gary Hetherington on 01740 621214 (40 Spring Lane) or Chris Lines on 07971 868329 (41 Whitehouse Drive), or email sedgefieldscouts50@gmail.com.

The group is also keen to track down 1st Sedgefield memorabilia from over the years. If you have anything that you can share, please get in touch with Gary or Chris. If you use social media, you can also find Sedgefield Scouts on Facebook and follow @SedgeScouts50 on Twitter. The group needs to recruit more volunteers to sustain its success, so please get in touch.



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SPORTS UPDATE

email chrisjlines@aol.com

Every month I report on fantastic sporting achievements by Sedgefield's individuals and clubs, taking it for granted that I'll receive a nugget of great news from someone. I've never yet been disappointed - impressive, taking into account the size of our community and (for some sports) the lack of good local facilities. However, we can't take for granted that this production line of talent and endeavour will go on indefinitely, so it is important that we inspire young people to get active and take up sport. I urge parents to encourage their children to participate in June's Sedgefield Village Games 2016 Festival; 2 weeks of free taster events arranged by volunteers from our many great clubs and others. Full details, p6.

Rugby Union Congratulations to Sedgefield District RUFC on two major achievements, recently winning the Durham county plate cup and swiftly following up with a comprehensive 88-7 victory against Hartlepool B.B.O.B. in the final league game of the season, which should secure promotion for Sedgefield. Not too long ago this sports update included an urgent plea for new players to keep the club going so progress since then has been remarkable. *Full end of season report next month.*

Squash Sedgefield Squash Club member and over 35s England team captain, Chris Gillespie, enjoyed a successful tournament at Nottingham Squash Centre last month, competing in the home internationals. England emerged victorious after defeating Ireland on the first day of the tournament, completing their success by defeating both Scotland and Wales on the final day.

There was success too at the National College Championships, held in Newcastle. Sedgefield's double county champion, Oliver Walls, won a silver medal representing Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College at the tournament. He recorded four victories before competing in his final match, where he defeated his opponent from the South East to secure his silver medal.

At only 11 years of age, Jessica Weatherspoon has had an incredible season, which culminated in her winning Junior County Player of the Year. Jessica was ranked third in the U11s England rankings earlier this year, one of the phenomenal achievements that helped her gain this award. She was also part of the U11s Sedgefield team which won the County Cup plate competition.

Swimming Roan Lee, aged 11, is in Year 6 at Sedgefield Primary School. As chair of the school fitness group, he suggested that children took on personal challenges for Sport Relief. Roan's own personal challenge was to individually swim 200 lengths (5k) continuously. Due to a broken finger, he wasn't able to do it during Sport Relief week in March, but he recently completed the 5k (without stopping) in a time of 1hour 40mins. Well done Roan.

Taekwondo In April, 9 year old Mason Lee from Year 4 at Sedgefield Primary School, achieved a 1st Poom black belt from British Taekwondo. Mason has attended Chi Taekwondo Sedgefield since he was five and his black belt is reward for the dedication and determination he has shown during this time. As well as achieving his black belt, Mason has been asked to fight in the national championships this year in London, in the under 11s category. Chi Taekwondo Sedgefield meets on Saturday mornings from 10:30am at the community college and everyone is welcome, from all ability levels.

Duathlon Sedgefield resident, Paula Bayles recently tackled her first duathlon during the annual Stockton Duathlon Festival. She competed in the novice race, which consisted of a 2k run, followed by a 1k cycle and a 1k run. In her debut race, Paula won the ladies' race and finished 4th overall.

Congratulations to Paula and the other Sedgefield competitors who took part.

Athletics Recently, several Sedgefield Harriers have run marathons and ultra-marathons. Runners have travelled to Manchester, London and Blackpool to tackle the classic marathon distance, recording some great performances. All were notable for different reasons and there were personal bests aplenty. Well done to Ray Carmichael, Paula Warwick, Jane Spink, Lisa-Maria Thwaites, Andrew Corfield, Deborah

Tom Guest's ARTS & EVENTS UPDATE email diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Festival Success and Mr Shakespeare's 400th

The SPYS trip to Port Sunlight as part of the All England Theatre Festival on the 31st May was a resounding success. The team left Sedgefield with their version of Celeste Raspanti's 'I never saw another butterfly' and spent the day at the Gladstone Theatre, competing against teams from all over the North of England. Although they didn't bring any silverware back, there were nominations for Best Actress for Lucy Atkinson, and for the Adjudicators Award, which was awarded for Ensemble Playing and Team Work. Adjudicator Sue Doherty praised the SPYS' strong sense of discipline, team work and professionalism throughout the trip.

The SPYS are now preparing for their July Production of Rudyard Kipling's 'The Jungle Book' in an adaptation for the stage by Stuart Patterson. The well known story of the Boy Wolf Mowgli will be brought to life by 60 SPYS and countless puppets. Tickets are available now.

The adult section meanwhile have been very busy preparing for their next production 'Will Power'. A celebration of 400 since the death of the Bard, the Players will present an evening of plays, sonnets, music and dance inspired by the works of William Shakespeare.

Tickets for the two nights cost £10 and include a Hog Roast Sandwich. Available now from Tickety Boo, sedgefieldplayers.co.uk or ☎ 621771.



The SPYS at Port Sunlight, photograph by Sarah Atkinson

Some easy on the ear delights!

Sedgefield Lyric Singers, Lirica & SLYC entertain on Fri 1st & Sat 2nd July in the Parish Hall, with some beautiful Latin, traditional and popular choral music, alongside the ever-appealing story of the 'Mighty Mississippi'.

Tickets £5 / £4 under16 from Tickety Boo, by calling 01740 621196 or from members of the choirs.

Sports Update continued

Pennick, David Sawyer, Justin Cox, Andrew Featherstone, Gary Thwaites, Paul Glaister, Chris Lines, Tony Wilson and Bob Gratton.

However, even these great performances have been eclipsed by the efforts of the four Harriers, who took on the Hardmoors 110 ultra-marathon a week after the London Marathon. Gary Thwaites, Justin Cox, Diane Baines and Doreen Huxley all completed the brutal 110 mile event that followed the route of the Cleveland Way in North Yorkshire – an amazing achievement!

That's all for this month. Please send any sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com.

Your Letters

Grateful thanks for support

Laura Ducker, a 23 year old Sedgefield girl, accompanied by her partner Michael, will fly to America very soon for Proton Beam therapy. Lauren is the first person to be sponsored for this treatment by the Freeman Hospital. Her family and friends have been fundraising to support the trip and would like to say a massive thank you to all the individuals and businesses in Sedgefield and the surrounding area, who have been so kind in donating raffle prizes.



Special thanks go to Geoff Rayner and all the staff at the Dun Cow; Azatom's Mike Armstrong and everyone who bought raffle tickets.

There was a massive turnout at our fundraising event at the Durham Boat Club in May. A great time was had by all and we raised whopping £8000 towards Lauren's trip to America. We have been blown away by everyone's generosity.

Heartfelt thanks from Lauren, Michael & their families.

Dog-walker with a drink problem?

Over two Wednesdays recently, the volunteers at Hardwick Park did a post-winter litter pick in the East Park. Amongst the usual crisp packets, sweet wrappers and dog poo bags, we picked up 1000 Strongbow Cider cans!

We are led to believe that one person is mainly responsible for many of these, and, apart from worrying about the state of his liver, would like to ask him to take his cans home and recycle them. We are very grateful to the majority, who do take their litter home.

Alison Hodgson.

Sedgefield Squash Club thanks

After nearly 40 years of service, long serving members Margaret and Alan Hayhurst are retiring from their long and supportive duties ensuring that facilities were in safe and pristine condition for regular and new members at the local sports facility. Originally, Alan had played an important role in the construction of the Squash Club in the mid 70s. At our recent presentation night, the club rewarded them with several retirement gifts, while Margaret performed a sentimental speech that will long be remembered by all members that attended. The club thanks them for all their help and hard work, and wish them well in their retirement.

George Peden.

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JUNE 2016 DIARY

email diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Wed 1st	WI 7.15pm Parish Hall. The life & times of Christopher Dresser of Linthorpe Pottery, by Gill Moore. Members' Competition - a small piece of pottery. Visitors always welcome
Fri 3rd	U3A Parish Hall 2pm. 'From Puppy Dog to Guide Dog' by Ethne Brown. All members welcome, guests £3 ☎ 629574
Sun 5th	Farmers' Market on the Green from 8.30am.
Mon 6th	Methodist Wives and Friends AGM at the usual time. Local History Society 7.45pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. 'Weardale Railway Update' by John Askwith
Tue 7th	Tea Dance Parish Hall, 1 - 3pm Sedgefield Gardening Club 7.30pm Ceddesfeld Hall. Carnivorous Plants by Peter Waller
Thu 9th	Sedgefield Show Meeting 8pm at Sedgefield Social Club
Fri 10th	Country Market 10 - 11.30am Parish Hall. Home baking, plants, crafts, refreshments. A warm welcome awaits. Sedgefield Folk Festival Fundraising Concert 7.30pm, Parish Hall. Flossie Malavialle, Paul Donnelly, Jester B & John Wrightson Band. Tickets £10 ☎ 621347
Sun 12th	Choral Evensong at Durham Cathedral. Details on front page
Mon 13th	Really Easy Bridge Lessons at Ceddesfeld Hall. 1.30 - 4pm. ☎ 620607
Tue 14th	Ladies' Club 7.30pm Ceddesfeld Hall. Mrs Cupcake - Caroline Wiffed Neighbourhood Watch Panel Meeting. Fletcher Room, Parish Hall 7pm
Wed 15th	Deadline for Sedgefield News July edition
Fri 17th & Sat 18th	Sedgefield Players 'Will Power' 7.30pm, Parish Hall. £10 inc Hog Roast sandwich from Tickety Boo, sedgefieldplayers.co.uk ☎ 621771
Mon 20th	Methodist Wives and Friends - Summer Outing Sedgefield Family History Group Ceddesfeld Hall 7.15pm 'Eddie Chapman—North East WW2 Double Agent' by Bernard Hope
Tue 21st	Tea Dance Parish Hall 1 - 3pm F'hill, S'field & District Flower Club Parish Hall 7.30pm. Nicola Davies-Murray £5.50/ £8 non members
Tue 28th	Ladies' Club 7.30pm Ceddesfeld Hall - Summer Outing
Thu 30th - Fri 1st July	Local History Society and Village Veterans Somme Commemoration 11am Thursday at the War Memorial. Exhibition at Ceddesfeld Hall, both days, 10am - 4pm. Donations for the exhibition welcome. Contact Norma Neal ☎ 620091

New Generation Church Update: The next few meetings of the church will take place as follows: Community College on Sunday 5th, 12th and 19th and at the Parish Hall on Sunday 26th. All services start at 11am.

Looking ahead to July

SPYS present 'The Jungle Book' 9th/10th July Tickets: sedgefieldplayers.co.uk or Tickety Boo ☎ 621771

Sedgefield Lyric Singers, SLYC & Lirica Summer Concert 1st & 2nd July. See page 10.

Sedgefield Hardwick School Summer Carnival, Friday 8th July after sports day.

Everyone from the village is invited! Star guests include Star Wars characters, Mr Winbags & police interceptors - there will be lots of fun for children, including face painting, games, hook a duck and craft stalls, all whilst enjoying music from a steel band and a singer! All proceeds will help Sedgefield Hardwick PTA provide extra facilities and treats such as Panto visit, playground equipment & books! Please come along, have some fun and support your local children.

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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