



SEDGEFIELD NEWS

June 2017

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

Sedgefield Community College graded OUTSTANDING by OFSTED

Following an Ofsted inspection in March, Sedgefield Community College is delighted that the work of students and staff received the highest possible grading in all categories.

Quality of Teaching, learning and assessment; Leadership and Management; Student personal development, behaviour and welfare; Student outcomes; all were judged 'outstanding' - as was the 'overall effectiveness of the school.'

These judgements are based upon extremely rigorous and detailed scrutiny of all aspects of the work of the school over an extended period of time, by a team of six inspectors including two HMI (Her Majesty's Inspectors), so readers of the report can be confident that the judgements made accurately reflect the work of the school.

Although Ofsted has not released statistics relating to schools inspected nationally in the 2016/17 academic year, it is worth noting that of the inspections of secondary schools carried out during the previous year, only 5% were judged to be outstanding overall.



Headteacher David Davies, pictured with some of his 'outstanding' students, said; "This recognition by Ofsted is a fantastic and well deserved acknowledgement of the outstanding and sustained efforts of students, staff, governors and parents/carers over many years. However whilst this judgement is a significant landmark, it will not signal the end of the school's commitment to achieving ever improving standards in all aspects of its work. If anything I hope it will be the catalyst for further progress. I would like to congratulate everyone, on not only a hugely impressive OFSTED report but, also on their unrelenting commitment to the highest possible standards ... I hope that parents/carers take great pride in the achievements of their children, and feel confident knowing that their child is attending an 'officially' outstanding school."

Schoolchildren danced at the May Farmers' Market - and inspired poetry! See p 3.



SEDGEFIELD NEWS

Deadline for July: Wed 14th June

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If you are interested in helping with the news in any way, email the Editor at

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Steve's Nature Diary *The natural world month by month: June*

The Wildlife Trusts are again running the **30 Days Wild** challenge this June - it's all about nature - for everybody, everywhere, every day.

They are encouraging people to enjoy the nature on their doorstep, as well as the 'great outdoors', with inspiring 'Random Acts of Wildness': practical, fun and quirky ideas for connecting with the wild around us.

Why not: spend an evening star gazing; build a bughouse; become a stream sleuth; enjoy mindfulness in a meadow: or even sit in the garden, sipping a G&T whilst watching butterflies! People can spend a few minutes, or a few hours each day enjoying nature - how they do it is up to them. And its official - a daily dose of nature, even in bite size chunks, is good for you.

The impact of taking part in *30 Days Wild* has been tracked by academics at the University of Derby. Their study found that people who did something 'wild' **each day** for a month, felt happier, healthier and more connected to nature. From walking barefoot in the park to feeding garden birds, all sorts of activities proved positive for people – with added benefits for the natural world too. Their study showed that the impact of *30 Days Wild* adds to the compelling argument for bringing nature into our everyday lives. Two months after taking part in *30 Days Wild*, there was a 30 per cent increase in the number of people who reported their health as excellent. Last year's results also show people's happiness continued to improve after *30 Days Wild* ended, which illustrates its sustained impact. This is important as it is happiness and connecting with nature that influence improvements in health.

The study also shows that those who benefitted most were younger adults and those who weren't 'nature lovers'. You can apply for a **free** *30 Days Wild* pack, download the phone app or look online for those inspirational Random Acts of Wildness. *30 Days Wild* packs include a packet of wildflower seeds, activity sheets, a calendar to record adventures, stickers, and a poster.

Sign up now at <http://action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/7184/petition/1> and share the fun of #*30DaysWild* on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Both Durham and Tees Valley Wildlife Trusts have a number of events for you to include in your *30 Days Wild* with more details on their websites.

Photo top right copyright David Tipling - 2020 vision.



Sedgefield in Bloom's Open Gardens Day

Join us on Sunday July 9th between 1 & 5 pm when eighteen keen gardeners have agreed to open their gardens in various parts of the village.

Also open to visitors will be one very different garden at Wynyard Station, the Manor House Rose Garden and all the gardens created by the Bloomers in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall. Tickets, available on the day from a gazebo on the green, cost £4. Children go free.

Lol Crallan's Ukelele Band has kindly agreed to play throughout the day in the garden of Walter and Millie Howell in West Park Lane. Refreshments will be on offer at some of the open gardens and in Ceddesfeld Hall, where a display of photographs will give an insight into the work of the Bloom volunteers and council gardeners.

Another display will show off the vast array of lovely Sedgefield gardens which are not open to the public on this occasion. If you're very proud of your garden and would like to contribute to this display, please ring 01740 620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk

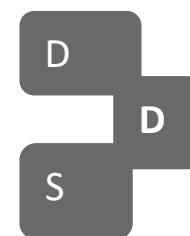
Sedgefield Open Gardens Days have proved very popular in the past, under the aegis of the town council and the National Gardens Scheme. This event is run independently, by Sedgefield in Bloom volunteers. Proceeds will be shared equally between Bloom projects and Cancer Research.

Durham Deafened Support

We are a small charity supporting deafened adults, covering County Durham and Darlington. We host a lip reading group every week in Ceddesfeld Hall - one of eleven such groups in County Durham.

We have also started a crafts / support group on Wednesdays in Ceddesfeld Hall from 1pm – 3pm.

For more information contact us on 0191 5183357
or text 07463 259216 or email admin@ddsupport.org.uk



GP retires

After 33 years as a GP in Sedgefield, Dr Peter Jones will retire on the 31st May.

Originally from Manchester, Dr Jones moved to Sedgefield in 1984. He studied medicine at Newcastle University and worked in Australia during a gap year, and ever since his return he has been at the heart of the community.

As Senior Partner for Skerne Medical Group (formerly Dr Jones and Partners) he has been at the forefront of many changes and developments within the practice.

Dr Jones is believed to be one of the longest serving GPs in County Durham and is respected throughout the medical fraternity for his knowledge, passion and commitment to Primary Care.

He is very much looking forward to his retirement in which he will spend time travelling, walking and cycling. After 33 years service to the community, he deserves a well-earned break!

Fellow Partners, staff and patients wish him a long and happy retirement

Pickled Parson gets in on new guidebook launch!



Kev Stevens (seated) during the illustration-signing with (l-r) Bill Hodgson, churchwarden Brian Mutch and Alison Hodgson. See article, right.

A new, quality guidebook for St Edmund's Church was launched at a special Coffee Morning on 6th May - with the added attraction of a signing session by the artist, of limited edition illustrations of the legendary Pickled Parson. Fishburn-based artist and designer, Kev Stevens was kept busy chatting to churchgoers and visitors about the publication and his research into the detail needed to produce the Pickled Parson graphic.

Copies of the new, full-colour guides proved very popular and most of the framed images of the clergyman were sold or ordered during the course of the morning. The book is filled with information about the Church and its history, and features some wonderful photographs.

During the Sunday morning service, members of the organizing team and helpers, including Friends of St Edmunds, the 'Inspired Futures' group, church volunteers and artist-designer Kev Stevens, were thanked for their sterling efforts by Friends' Chairman Ron Eyley. Though the accounts still had to be finalised, he said, the morning had clearly proved a "fantastic success."

One beneficiary of the event will be a Sedgefield baby who has undergone a series of serious heart operations and spent long periods in hospital before being allowed home. Ongoing treatment involves use of a piece of medical equipment which the NHS says it cannot afford to provide but which local well-wishers have agreed to fund.

Exhibit & sell your handicrafts: an invitation to craft people

I am a member of **Durham Rug Matters** - a local group of rug makers based at Bowburn Community Centre. We would like to invite other groups, shops and individuals who work with textiles to attend or run a stall at a craft open day we are organising on 7th October between 10am and 2pm.

There will be examples from a range of textiles work, such as knitting, crochet work, lace making, embroidery, sewing and quilting; in short, anything to do with textiles and fabrics.

The day is intended to give people a way to promote their own community craft group and for groups and individuals to display and sell crafts and materials to the public. Free tables are available for contributors who would like to demonstrate their craft and exhibit their work. People wishing to sell hand crafted articles, craft equipment, wool or material can hire up to two tables at £5/ table.

We currently have people demonstrating spinning, silk printing, rug making, quilting and Tunisian crochet but demonstrations of other crafts would be great.

If you are interested please don't hesitate to contact me.

Anne Smart, 07882 149 610 or 01740 629631

Around The Maypole

Around the Maypole danced
the May Queen,
Dressed in white - a sight to be seen.
Twisted ribbons of red and white
Welcomed the skies from dark to light.
Crops planted in winter start new lives,
Bees carry pollen back to their hives.
Gentler streams now start to flow,
And softer winds continue to blow.
Too late for tulips as they slowly die,
Bowing their heads as they say
goodbye.

The Unknown Poet 2011

Inspired by the dancing of Sedgefield Primary Schoolchildren. Photo page 1.



John Dale, Barbara Leo, David & Enid Hillerby, Richard Anderson remember the fallen... page 4

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

N/H/Watch reported last month that 22 crimes were recorded between 12th Feb & 11th April 2017 in our locality; this would appear to have been an underestimate as Police UK data issued on 8th May states that 26 crimes were recorded in February and 30 in March. We apologise for painting a rosy picture!

Regular readers may recall that in last month's issue the average number of recorded crimes per month for Sedgefield was stated as 26. These figures, whilst appearing to show a rise in crimes, are actually consistent with our monthly average.

Please Note: The date for the next N/H/Watch meeting has been changed. It will now be held on Tuesday 11th JULY - not 13th June.

Joe McKenna Secretary, Sedgefield Village N/H & Crime Watch Panel

To contact Local Police & report any concerns, seek advice or pass on information to them, call 101. For advice/assistance contact Police Community Liaison Officer Faye Callan. Tel 101 Extension 742317. Email Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk

The Herbert Protocol

Recently, the BBC documentary series "Reported Missing" followed Durham Police as they responded to alerts about missing people. Two important aspects of such situations came clearly to the fore. Firstly, people whose family members had gone missing spoke of their helplessness; not knowing who to turn to or what to do for the best. Secondly, police officers emphasised the extreme importance of a prompt response to these reports. "Losing time can be catastrophic," commented one of the featured officers.

The Herbert Protocol is a scheme which aims to see family, friends and care providers working together not only to prevent vulnerable adults going missing, but, also to improve responses for locating them if they do. If you care for, are related to or are a friend of an elderly or vulnerable adult who is at risk of going missing, you can now contribute to the process of putting a support plan around that person.

Pre-planning is essential! When you sign up to The Herbert Protocol the person at risk of going missing will be registered. You will then be contacted and given with a standardised document that you will need to complete. That document will then be held by someone close to the registered person. This person will need to ensure that the document can be accessed by police 24 hours a day, 7 days a week should it be needed. This document will include information about the person's favourite places, routes they take to get there, regular bus routes, local shops used, eateries etc. All of this information can be essential in helping police to locate the missing person as quickly as possible.

To find out more or register for the scheme please contact 101 or email Durham Police at: Herbertprotocol@durham.pnn.police.uk

Letter from PC Todd

Crimes reported this month include an attempted burglary on the Front Street. In their efforts to gain entry the culprit(s) tried to force open the patio doors but managed only to damage the glass. However, in Kerr Crescent nocturnal thieves succeeded in taking a quantity of lead from one of the houses. In The Garth, stone throwers damaged two panes of glass in a greenhouse. A window was damaged in Eden Drive by similar means. Two children's scooters were taken from the 'out of school club' in Rectory Row, one of which was later found abandoned near the pond. Vehicles were damaged in Rectory Row where a wing mirror was kicked off and in Station Road, two vehicles belonging to the same family had their windscreens damaged.

Youths continue to be a problem at the weekend. A quantity of alcohol has been confiscated from under-age drinkers. The Police will continue to monitor the areas in which youths gather and action will be taken against anyone committing acts of Anti-social behaviour.

Pub Watch: A meeting was held recently in Ceddesfeld Hall. No issues were raised that required further action from members.

Until next time, Keith.

WWI commemorations

On May 4th, members of Sedgefield Local History Society and Sedgefield Village Veterans came together to pay their respects to two Sedgefield men killed in action 100 years ago in very different theatres of war.

Able Seaman Peter Harkess, of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve was serving on the steamship Pilar de Larrinaga, a cargo ship of over 4,000 tonnes, when it was torpedoed and sunk in St George's Channel of the Irish Sea.

Born in Scotland in 1883, the son of a fisherman, by the age of 16 Peter was a joiner's apprentice in Leith. He later worked as an attendant at Winterton. At his death, he was 27 and had been married for six years.

Peter Harkness is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial in Kent and on the Winterton Memorial, now in St. Edmund's Church.

In contrast, Captain Frederick Hunton, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, was 48 and the father of five children when he was killed in action, and he is commemorated at the Deir El-Belah War Memorial Cemetery in Palestine, 16 km east of the Egyptian border and 20 km SW of Gaza.

An important member of the village community, Dr Hunton was Surgeon and Medical Officer to the RDC, the Fever Hospital and Sedgefield Guardians (of the Workhouse), serving also as Public Vaccinator.

Frederick Hunton's first wife, Maud, one of triplets, had three daughters before her early death in 1902. A few years later, Frederick married his first wife's sister, a second triplet, Eleanor, and had two more children – another daughter and a son. The family lived in Sedgefield at The Whins.

In November 1914, Frederick was commissioned as a full lieutenant in the Northumberland Hussars, before later joining the RAMC. After his death in May 1917, at a meeting of the Sedgefield Guardians, he was described as "a man so full of life that it is difficult to realise he will not be amongst us again."

Dr Hunton is commemorated on a shield near the font in St Edmund's Church, dedicated also to members of the Church Lad's Brigade who lost their lives in the Great War.



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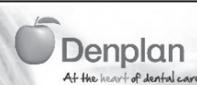
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Citizen of the Year 2017 - Angela Bannister



Angela Bannister likes to be active. "I've got to be on the move all the time and when you're retired you've got the time to do anything you like," she told me a week after being named as Sedgefield's Citizen of the Year 2017. Fortunately, what Angela likes to do mostly involves working with people, organising events or simply helping to get things done. As she says, "We have a lovely village, and if everybody does a little bit of something, well that just helps make things go round."

As is usual in these situations, Angela was the last to know what was really going on when she was invited to the Annual Town Meeting in May, ostensibly to accept a cheque from the Mayor on behalf of DIDO. Angela agreed, despite being a little reserved in such situations. She commented, "I'm a self conscious person; I'll do anything but I don't like the limelight." On the night, Angela walked into the crowded room and immediately felt that tingle of apprehension about appearing on the stage. Council matters sorted, the Citizen of the Year was revealed to be a woman. As Angela sat and considered who might be chosen, she heard her name spoken from the stage. "It didn't sound real," she said, "like time had stopped, almost - like an out of body experience". Husband Ronnie had to push her up and towards the stage before she began to regain hers wits. "I couldn't move, then I just couldn't say anything. I can usually talk underwater," she commented, "but the words just wouldn't come out!" It was only when the initial shock began to wear off that she saw family and friends who had been in the hall all the time without her noticing. Angela grew up in Sedgefield, lived for some time in Trimdon, then moved back to Sedgefield in 1971, after deciding to train as a nurse. She worked as an auxiliary nurse on the wards and operating theatre in the then General Hospital. Eventually she moved to Occupational Therapy, which she loved, and finished her career at The Community Hospital. As the longest serving staff member, Angela was chosen to place the last ridge tile on the roof of the new hospital. She reckons that there must be photographs of her up a ladder, in the snow, performing the ceremonial task. Music and dancing have been a passion for as long as Angela can remember. Her interest in country music led her to become involved in organising monthly country weekends of performance, dancing, cooking etc at Stillington Club. The event grew in popularity and people travelled from far and wide to attend. Angela realised that there was no opportunity locally to go and just sit and listen to Country music, so she started a live music event to focus on that more intimate type of performance, in the upstairs room of the social club once a month on Mondays (see diary page).

Angela has also used her experience to help others. When The Bloomers decided to hold fundraising dances, Angela used her contacts to help book performers. She also organises occasional charity dances, raising money for James Cook Hospital and the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle. With a long career in the National Health Service behind her, Angela sees this as way to give back to hospitals. She also runs a line dancing class in conjunction with DIDO, walks with a local group and helps out in the church. When I asked why she thought she was nominated for Citizen of the Year she replied modestly, "I don't know..." but continued with a chuckle, "Probably because I shout at them a lot at dance class" and more seriously, "I do think it's a lovely honour, though." Later she commented, "I would do anything for anybody. You don't want any praise for it or anything and an awful lot of people do a lot more than I do! I've no doubt which of those sentiments led people to nominate Angela as Citizen of the year, but if I were to suggest my opinion to her, I suspect she might be left speechless once again.

Interview by Tony Magee.

Ceddesfeld Hall

Home of Sedgefield Community Association

It was great to see so many youngsters enjoying the Easter Egg Hunt. All of the children managed to find eggs and collect prizes. Special awards were also given to the winners (in different age categories) of the Easter bonnet competition and for the best decorated egg. Following a raffle draw, Emily Kime was selected as this year's Flower Queen with her attendants, Emilia McGirr, Kiera Quinn and Eva Young.

The St George Dinner was another enjoyable evening shared by friends, and a delicious meal was followed by fantastic entertainment from Lirica. The event helped raise funds for the Mediaeval Fayre.

There is no doubt that Sedgefield is blessed to have such a vibrant and varied community life. To celebrate, on Saturday 10th June from 10am to 4pm, Ceddesfeld Hall hosts a special day, showcasing the activities of several groups. Sedgefield's Ladies' Escape, Bloomers, Players, Civic Trust, Harriers, Squash Club, Blues Club, Sedgefield Scouts, Sedgefield Lyric Singers, Durham Deafened Support (DDS) and U3A will be present, providing information and some taster sessions. There will be Sedgefield Village games equipment on the lawns and face painting for youngsters.

In the main hall, the music programme begins at 10 am with a performance from the children from Sedgefield Primary and Sedgefield Hardwick School combined choirs, followed by Rising Stars Dance Academy. Lol and Maxine Crallan, Ceddesfeld Ukulele Group, Sedgefield Hand Bell Ringers and Ceddesfeld Acoustic Group (Leo McCormack and WD60); Sedgefield Lyric Singers with Rob Guest and Kristen Peacock continue the entertainment until 4 pm. Sedgefield Twinning Association will provide refreshments throughout the day and the bar will be open from 11 am. Look out for posters around the village for more details. It's a free event and all are welcome. We're looking forward to a busy, informative and fun packed day!

The Sedgefield Community Association AGM is on Thursday June 22nd at 8 pm at Ceddesfeld. SCA members, sections and groups are invited to attend.

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

Lyrics and Lirica Summer Concert

As usual this summer will be a busy one for Sedgefield's local choirs so you may need to get your diaries ready to take advantage of these 'easy on the ear' delights. There is sure to be something for all ages and for all tastes of music. Please come along and let us entertain you for an hour or so.

The Sedgefield Lyric Singers give their summer concert, in the Parish Hall, on Friday 30th June and Saturday 1st July starting at 7.30pm. The senior choir will also be joined by the fabulous 'Lirica'. You're promised an evening of fantastic entertainment with a variety of music from a wide range of sources. There's beautiful gospel and choral music, traditional pieces and popular music - something for everyone. The summer concerts will also provide you with an opportunity to appreciate our contemporary new look!

Both the youth choir (for young people aged 8 to 18 years) and the adult choir welcome newcomers who enjoy singing. No auditions are required and it is not essential to be able to read music. Anyone interested can contact choir director, Rob Guest or secretary Avril Hannon (01740 622512), or simply come along to a rehearsal at Ceddesfeld Hall on a Friday evening: 6pm for the youth choir and 7.30pm for the adult choir.

Meanwhile, the Youth Choir...

SLYC's offering this summer is the much loved musical drama 'Yanomamo' by Peter Rose and Anne Conlon. The musical investigates the Rainforest, deforestation and the impact of mass production on the natural world and its inhabitants.

The show is being performed in the Parish Hall on the 24th June at 7pm.

Get your tickets while you can as they are sure to go quickly.

Over in Bishop Auckland

A large audience came to the fine St Andrew's Church in South Church for the second concert in the 2017 season given by Bishop Auckland Music Society. The performers were 4 Girls 4 Harps, a cheerful, attractive ensemble who were not just very proficient players individually, but also superb as a team, showing great interaction with each other. Introductions to the pieces were entertaining as well as instructive. The concert revealed the wide range of sounds possible from harps: deep sounds from the opening of Prokofiev's March of the Montagues and Capulets, gong-like effects from the bass strings in Ravel's Mother Goose; tinkling treble notes of Edward Longstaff's mesmerising Saraswati.

The quartet also transported us to the atmospheric sound worlds of Harriet Adie, Monika Stadler, Piazzolla, Falla and Shostakovich, as well as the lively baroque style of Handel. This was a delightful evening of music.

The next in the series will be given by the Alauda String Quartet on June 16th. Don't miss out on this excellent season of music.



To contact BAMS, tel: 01388 606075. Tickets £13.50 in advance, £15 on the door, from Brotherton's Music Shop in Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland.



Open Farm Sunday

Hopper House Farm is one of the venues for this year's big get together for the public and the people who grow their food. The events are free and suitable for all the family. Sharon and Stephen Brown's dairy farm will be open to all on Sunday 11th June from 11am - 4pm. Hopper House Farm is situated a mile past the Racecourse on Racecourse Road.

Also taking part, though further afield, is **Broom House Farm** at Witton Gilbert. Regular visitors to Sedgefield Farmers' Market will know about Broom House Farm's organic meats. The Gray family also sell from their farm shop and cater for children with many fun activities.

<http://www.broomhousedurham.co.uk>

Players Success in Saltburn

The Sedgefield Players recently competed in the Northern Final of the All England Theatre Festival with their production of 'The Regina Monologues' and though they didn't win the main prize, they received awards for Best Decor, and for Best Actress (Sarah Legender as Annie).



The June production this year is the wonderful 'Ladies in Lavender', based on the film starring Judi Dench and Maggie Smith about a young violinist who gets washed up on the shore of their home in Cornwall. Details below.

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Your Letters

Sheep worrying

One of the great reasons to live in Sedgefield is the close proximity to the countryside and being able to walk through the Showfield and over to Hardwick Park. Everyone wants everyone to enjoy local walks, and as local farmers, we appreciate that lots of people like their dog to enjoy the countryside with them. However whilst people love to see the rural countryside and grazing sheep, lambs running and jumping, there are real dangers to sheep and their lambs when crossing the Showfield with your dog when it's not on a lead.

It is every dog's instinct to chase, even if they are usually obedient and good with other animals. Chasing by dogs can do **serious damage** to sheep, even if the dog doesn't catch them.

The stress can cause sheep to die and pregnant ewes to miscarry their lambs. Dogs chasing ewes and lambs can cause mis-mothering issues, with lambs dying from starvation or hypothermia when they become separated from their mother and fail to find her again.

This might sound rather dramatic but over the last 6 months we have lost 3 ewes and 1 lamb had its ear bitten off, and died. These were all preventable.

It is an offence to allow a dog to worry sheep. Worrying includes attacking or chasing sheep and farmers are legally entitled to shoot dogs if they are endangering their sheep. Obviously we don't wish to take such drastic action, but please keep your dog on the lead around livestock, even if you can usually trust it to come to call.

In the meantime sincere thanks to all the walkers and dog owners who look after the sheep and their lambs and act as their 'guardian angels'!

Anthony Swinbank

Thanks for support

We would like to thank everyone who supported our breakfast event.

It was a lovely morning, good weather & food and great company.

We raised £704 for Alzheimer's and Dementia charities.

Mel & Ann Carr and the Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield

Air quality

So we now find out our wonderful eyesores known as traffic calmers or chicanes cause massive amounts of air pollution, with the stopping and starting of vehicles. I feel sorry for the people in the houses close to the chicanes, as their houses are filled with fumes and hooting of horns and the loud music of the vehicles starting and stopping outside their homes.

Isn't it time we got rid of these eyesores and maybe replaced them with a speed camera or a speed check device?

*Yours hopefully,
Bob Workman*

Rubbish

On Sunday May 14th, readers may have seen the picturesque sight of dozens of horses and carts on the village green. Not so picturesque once they had left. Please don't be deluded into thinking that they tidied up after themselves. As well as numerous cans, bottles and crisp packets, I picked up at least 15 empty pint glasses, many dumped in the flower tubs. One of the dedicated benches near the church was surrounded by polystyrene boxes, paper bags and cans, casually chucked over the back of the bench. Needless to say, there is a litter bin close to hand.

On such a lovely summer Sunday, there were lots of visitors and locals out and about enjoying this delightful place. As everyone is aware, the council gardeners and Bloom volunteers work very hard to make Sedgefield look so beautiful. Support and encouragement from residents and visitors who appreciate our efforts really spurs us on. A thoughtless minority should not be allowed to detract from the outstanding results achieved over many years.

Norma Neal (Sedgefield Bloomer)

Below: Pint glasses in a flower tub



Election reflections

by Kelly Aitkin

Labour remains in control of Durham County Council after the recent local elections, with Sedgefield electing Labour's John Robinson and the Conservative's David Brown as its councillors. David Brown narrowly received more votes than his fellow Labour councillor and replaced Rachel Lumsdon, the Labour councillor for Sedgefield since 2013.

The local election results came as a shock to many, with the national Labour defeat and snap General Election coming up. But with as little as 28.6% of Sedgefield turning out in the local elections and 31.45% for Durham in total, turnout may be a bigger factor regarding results.

Politics is currently very unpredictable, with factors such as Brexit and party leaders playing a part in the results.

Many feel that their vote may not count but as a young voter myself, turning out to her first General and local elections, your cross in the box couldn't matter more. Results changed significantly for Sedgefield in recent local elections and which party you support couldn't count more than it does at this volatile time.

Don't forget to turn out and vote in the General Election on the 8th June 2017.

The candidates for Sedgefield are:

DAVISON Dehenna Sheridan, The Conservative and Unionist Party

GRANT John William, UK Independence Party (UKIP)

PSALLIDAS Stephen Anthony, Liberal Democrats

WILSON Melissa, The Green Party

WILSON Phil, Labour Party

Kelly Aitkin is a student of Journalism at Teesside University. She has just completed her first year of study and has been working with Sedgefield News since her final year at 6th form College. If we can help other young people to gain experience in this field, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

SPORTS UPDATE

email chrisjlines@aol.com

Squash

It's been an extremely busy month at Sedgefield Squash Club and the season came to a perfect end when the club was presented with the prestigious Club of the Year award at the Durham & Cleveland County Squash Presentation Evening. This followed hot on the heels of the club's own end of season event and the marking of its 40th anniversary of playing at Ceddesfeld Hall. Members past and present turned up to the Parish Hall to celebrate and a few of the originals managed sprightly leaps up the steps to the stage for the photographs. Anecdotes and stories were plentiful, starting with the club's beginnings on the unheated court at Sands Hall in the early 1970s, through to a round-up of the current teams' performances. The evening also saw awards presented to all senior and junior players who had succeeded in club competitions since last autumn...

Club Closed Champion - Olly Walls

Ladies' Champion - Emma Allen

Men's Player of the Year - Peter Redshaw

Ladies' Player of the Year - Marie Priest

Junior Boys' Champion - Dan Toas

Junior Girls' Champion -

Jess Weatherspoon

Club Member of the Year - Jane Skilbeck. A full list of award winners is available at www.sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk, where you can read about the continued success story of Sedgefield Squash Club. The AGM was the best attended in living memory, meaning that the committee had no difficulties filling all of its positions. It is testament to the whole membership that the club continues to thrive and the committee thanks everyone for their support, no matter how great or small. Although the competitive season is over until autumn, members and potential new members are reminded that on Thursday evenings from 6 - 8pm there's a club evening, a chance to play with members of all standards. No booking required - just bring £3 and get started.

Rugby Union

Sedgefield District RUFC completed the season in style with a 22-5 victory over Bishop Auckland. The match concluded a successful first season in Division 2 of the Durham & Northumberland League, which included notable victories against more established teams such as Bishop, Sunderland and Redcar. The club now fields two teams most weekends, and will be looking to make further progress when the next season starts.



Original Sedgefield Squash Club members reunited

Athletics

The middle weekend of May saw the North East Athletics Association Championships take place at Gateshead Stadium. This competition is attended by all of the top athletes in the region and there were some great performances from Sedgefield Harriers, and other Sedgefield residents, who brought home a total of five medals. Sedgefield under 15s were represented by Jess Hall and Peta Collins, who both ran in the 1,500m final. Jess came seventh with a personal best time of 5 minutes and 12.34 seconds and Peta came 12th with another PB of 5:20.6.

In the under 17 age group, Sedgefield was represented by Aimee Barlow. Aimee competed in the 80m hurdles and gained a bronze medal and new PB of 13.32 seconds. Aimee also competed in the high jump, where she came fifth, and she gained another bronze medal in the 300m.

Three athletes from Sedgefield competed in the under 20 age group events. Joseph Dredge, who now competes for Darlington Harriers, came 7th in the 200m final, and won bronze in the discus and a silver medal in the hammer. Kate Carmichael, who competes for Mandale Harriers, won a silver medal in the shot with a huge throw of 9 metres and 85 centimetres, while Sedgefield Harrier Kieran Walker competed in the 5,000m and won a gold medal with an impressive time of 16:22.96. Overall, it was a great weekend for Sedgefield at a very high profile regional athletics event.

Water Polo

Sedgefield Water Polo Club has won the U19 boys' national water polo title after a dramatic penalty shootout against defending champions Exeter. Both teams were in great form during the final game of the championships, and the scores were level for most of the match.

A goal from Arthur Davis gave Exeter the lead during the closing stages of the game, and at one minute to go they looked a safe bet for the win. However, just 57 seconds before the end of the match, a cracking shot from Michael Cousins put Sedgefield back in the game. At full time, the scores were level at 8-8.

Sedgefield found the back of the net with every penalty, with goals from Ben Stephenson, John Pratt, Michael Kelly and Finlay Parnell. Two misses from the Exeter side saw Sedgefield claim the crown, with a final score of 12-10.

Sedgefield team captain, John Pratt, commented on the team's performance: "It feels amazing. We won the under 17 title last year, so we're ecstatic. To win a final on penalty shootouts is nerve-wracking. My heart was in my mouth and I just couldn't watch, but it is great to win on penalties – it makes it more exciting. We were expecting to make it to the final, but we knew it was going to be hard. We worked well as a team and we were 7-4 down going into the final quarter, so to come back and win shows great character from the whole team."

Duathlon

Sedgefield athlete James Oldfield has qualified for the 2017 Duathlon World Championships, which will take place in Penticton, Canada, in August. More about this next month.

Wow, what a month for sport in Sedgefield, and believe me, there was plenty more! As always, if you have any sports news, send it to chrisjlines@aol.com.

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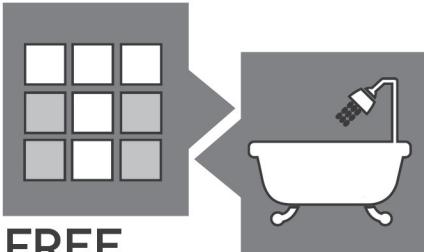
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June 2017 DIARY

email diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Thu 1st	Bright Water Walk. Barmpton and Ketton. 3½ mile walk. Meet in Barmpton Village @ 1pm. For further information visit www.discoverbrightwater.org
Fri 2nd	U3A - Ceddesfeld Hall at 2pm (Note change of venue) David Rodway on Northern Gardens through the Seasons, with music. Members free. Guests welcome, £3 at the door. Further details from 01740 629276
Sun 4th	Sedgefield Farmers' Market on the Village Green from 8.30 am
Mon 5th	Methodist Wives and Friends. AGM 7.30pm Local History Society. Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45: Wonder Factory. The Story of Paton & Baldwins by Chris Lloyd
Tue 6th	Sedgefield Gardening Club. Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.30pm; Breeding Chrysanthemums by Gordon Dowson.
Wed 7th	Sedgefield WI. 7.15pm Parish Hall. PCSO Faye Callan on The Herbert Protocol. Members' competition; a pretty pebble or stone'. Guests welcome.
Thu 8th	General Election. Polling station open 7am - 10pm Sedgefield Show Meeting. Social Club 8pm. Sew Easy. Parish Hall Boardroom 7pm to 9pm. Gloria Wills 622447 for info.
Fri 9th	Sedgefield Country Market. Parish Hall 10 to 11.30am. Home baked produce, Crafts , Jams, Cards, Plants, Refreshments. For information call 01740 629441.
Sat 10th	Sedgefield Library. 10 -11am. Drop in surgery with Cllr John Robinson
Sun 11th	Open Farm Sunday Hopper House Farm from 11am to 4pm
Thu 15th	Bright Water Walk. Hardwick Park to Bishop Middleham. 3 mile walk. Meet at Hardwick Park Visitors Centre (Parking Charge in force) @ 10.30am. For further
Fri 16th	Willowdene Care Home. Coffee Morning and Elevenses. 10am to 12noon. Open day featuring refreshments and a selection of sandwiches, cakes, snacks
Mon 19th	Sedgefield Family History Group. 7.15pm at Ceddesfeld Hall. Stepping Back to Stockton on Tees, with Julie Allinson
Tue 20th	Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club. Parish Hall, 7.30pm. Julie Cook demonstrates Colliding Colours. Members free; Non Members £5.
Thu 22nd	Sew Easy. Parish Hall Boardroom 7pm to 9pm. Call 622447 for information.
Fri 23rd	The Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield. Flower Demonstration by Val Guest followed by Afternoon Tea from 1pm to 4pm at Sedgefield Parish Hall. Proceeds to South Cleveland Heart Fund. Tickets £10: Ann Carr 01740 629070
Sat 24th	Yanomamo. Musical performed by SLYC. Parish Hall at 7pm. Details on p7.
Sun 25th	Bright Water Walk. Great Aycliffe Way. 6 mile walk. Meet in Oakleaf Sports Complex @11am. For further information visit www.discoverbrightwater.org
Tue 27th	Bright Water Walk. Barmpton and Ketton. 3½ mile walk. Meet in Barmpton Village @ 1pm. For further information visit www.discoverbrightwater.org
Fri 30/Sat 1st July	Sedgefield Lyric Singers Summer Concert, Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets from Ticky Boo or members of the choir

News in brief from Sedgefield Development Trust.

Sedgefield Farmers' Market Email farmersmarket@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

The Community Stall at the June Farmers' Market will be taken by Sedgefield Harriers and we'll have music from The Hokey Folkies.

Sedgefield Energy Switch

If you registered for Energy Switch recently, your offer letters will be sent out from 5th June. Acceptance closes on 4th July and shortly afterwards we will bring news of the next registration period.

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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Sedgefield Social Club

Saturday 3rd June: Steve Ramsay

Saturday 10th June: Brad Stevens

Saturday 17th June: Bobby Joe

Monday 19th June: Country Night

Saturday 24th June: Ryan King

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