

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

June 2020

Deadline for next edition: Monday 15th June

Not the usual "Merry Month of Maying," with the loss of many important national and local events, but Sedgefield streets saw some great efforts to celebrate 75 years since VE Day.



Rosedale Close enjoyed a street party organised by Heather, Rob & Jordanne. A quiz from Brian and a mix of songs old & new from Ciaran, Jordanne & Tim (keys) made for a lovely way for everyone to get to know their neighbours.

Below: The three Lines boys kick off events on White House Drive.



Our pooch of the month award goes to Stanley, so cute in his bow tie!



Above: Claremont Grove gets in the groove.

Left: Sue Archer and Neil Edmundson's initiative to get their neighbours out of their houses to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE day was a real success.

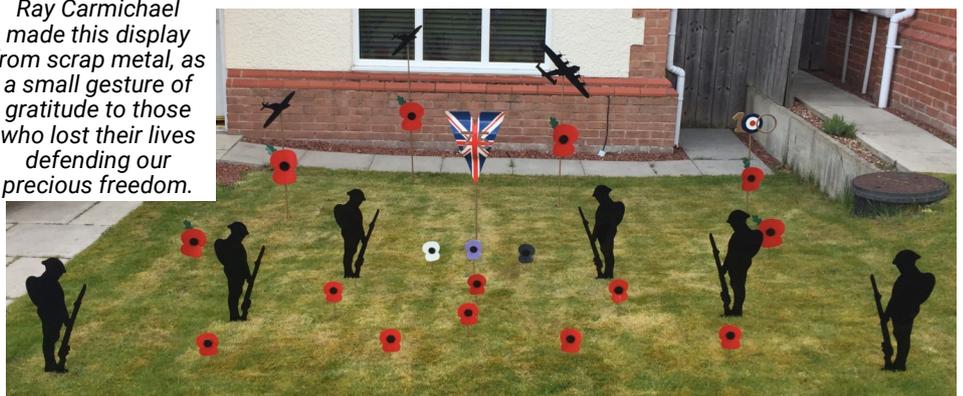
A flyer with details was delivered to each house with guidelines to decorate houses and enjoy a picnic in the safety of their front garden. Residents of Station Road were very receptive to the idea and all enjoyed the VE day celebrations while maintaining social distancing."



"Anything Goes" for Geoff & Helen Clifford Brown!

During the present time of lockdown and the loss of many of our loved ones, Ray Carmichael made this display from scrap metal, as a small gesture of gratitude to those who lost their lives defending our precious freedom.

The impact of lockdown on the SCA can be counted in events cancelled. See back page for Mediaeval Fayre's origins 49 years ago, researched by Sarah Guest. We had some fun!



GREENER SEDGFIELD



Filter tips: more harm than you think

On a recent walk through Sedgfield it was astonishing to see the number of dropped filter tips everywhere, especially by a particular bench on the village green, as seen on the photo. Apart from questions about people's own respiratory health and whether or not social distancing rules have been respected, why do people think it's ok to flick cigarette ends away instead of binning them? Is it laziness and lack of respect? Or is it plain ignorance? Perhaps they think it is harmless, biodegradable waste, whereas...

... cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate, a plastic which takes from 18 months to 10 years to degrade, and even then, only into small pieces of micro-plastic.

According to National Geographic, cigarette butts are the top plastic pollutants and one of the most common items picked up on beach cleans. Every year 6.5 trillion cigarettes are sold worldwide and it's estimated that only a meagre one third of cigarette filters are disposed of responsibly. The other two thirds are tossed into the environment, making their way into waterways and eventually into the oceans. Besides being plastic (which wildlife can mistakenly eat for food) the filters also contain toxins, arsenic, lead and nicotine, which contaminate the environment. Studies across the world have proved their harmful effect on both freshwater and marine fish.

Maybe a bigger surprise is that research has also proven that cigarette butts reduce significantly plant growth, as their presence in soil reduces the germination success and shoot length. This affects both the urban green areas which we all, including the filter flickers, like to enjoy, as well as the grass that livestock feeds on. There have been calls for cigarette filters to be banned but must we wait for the law to change before we can see cleaner streets and parks? Just do the decent thing - bin it.

Hardwick Main Park Archaeological Project: Update

In February's edition of Sedgfield News, an invitation was made by the Friends of Hardwick for local residents to become involved in archaeological investigations of both the Bath and Banqueting House sites which lie to the north of Hardwick's Main Park. At the time it was anticipated that work would occur, subject to funding, between late May and October this year and over twenty expressions of interest were received, but that was before the realisation that events in faraway China would quickly impact upon all of our lives in such a major way.

Like so many activities which have been severely disrupted by COVID-19, the project is now on hold and most unlikely to occur until at least the late Spring of 2021 at the earliest. Conservation Area consent has been received for the removal of a number of trees which have grown up over and immediately around the site of the Banqueting House, but such work will not take place until it is clear that the archaeology can proceed and funding has been secured.

Once we have better news to impart we will make a further announcement, but should anyone else wish eventually to be involved too, please contact Tony Smith, Chairman of the Friends, on either 07415 789 484 or by email at smithnfhntudhoe@gmail.com.



Members of Sedgfield Allsorts W.I have been busy!

Over a hundred scrub bags, pairs of made to measure scrubs and headbands have been sewn for staff at our local hospitals.

Some are made from recycled material, others with material paid for the group, using money saved from the cancellation of recent meetings. We're proud to contribute to the fantastic NHS in these challenging times.

We all look forward to meeting up but meantime we keep in touch virtually for support, friendship and recipes!



Sedgfield News from the past, with Martin F Peagam, Sedgfield Local History Society In June 1945, 75 years ago

Hustings were taking place ahead of the first General Election after the Second World War. The Conservative and National Party candidate, Lieut Colonel JES Walford MBE, made it clear he did not like socialism. He said that the Labour Party should be called the National Socialist Party, and it was them that we had been fighting in Germany for the past five years. He also stated that it would be foolish to change a winning team captain (Winston Churchill) before Japan had been defeated. In the subsequent election, the sitting Labour Party MP, John Leslie, was returned with a majority that had increased by almost 10,000 from the previous election, and Winston Churchill was replaced by Clement Atlee as Prime Minister, ushering in reforms to create the welfare state, the NHS, and nationalisation of key industries.

On 22 June 1920, 100 years ago

It was reported that the cost of the maintenance of inmates at the Sedgfield County Asylum had increased to 33s a week. The reason given was that staff were now paid on the new trade union hours and wages.

On 21 June 1820, 200 years ago

An advert appeared in several newspapers for a 'steady, sober person' to act as Overseer for the Poor. The advert stated that 'a liberal salary will be given.'

On 9 June 1870, 150 years ago

There was reported to be 'great excitement' at reports that the Medical Officer at the Lunatic Asylum, Dr Smith, had sustained fatal injuries when attacked whilst returning from chapel service, by an inmate wielding a stone. The injuries were not fatal.

For more about your local history, visit [Facebook/Sedgfield Local History Society](https://www.facebook.com/SedgfieldLocalHistorySociety)

Marc's before + after = £600 & counting!

Known for dark features & silver hair, key worker Marc Dickerson has good reason to look a bit worried on his before pic, but 'doing a Paddy McGuinness' as he puts it, seems to have paid off.



Marc knows the stress of worrying about contracting the virus or bringing it home to family members, but like all keyworkers he does this without hesitation.



His fundraising hairdo on behalf of frontline workers has made many people smile and raised money at the same time!

Marc sends thanks to everyone for donating - and if you would like to donate, here's the link you need.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/marc-dickerson>

Cycling

One of the joys of lockdown has been seeing the number of people on bikes, ranging from seasoned cyclists, to young children venturing out onto public spaces for the first time.

The benefits of cycling are well documented. It is cheap; there is the cost of buying a bike and ongoing maintenance, but when set against any other form of transport it is inexpensive. It is accessible; anyone who can ride can use a bike to get around, and it's good for the environment; cycling doesn't produce emissions, and a decent bike will last a long time.

Add in the health benefits of a great source of exercise and the reduction in pollution, and cycling becomes a plus for the whole population.

So what can be done to support cyclists locally and encourage cycling beyond the lockdown? The Sedgefield neighbourhood plan included plans for bike stands on Sedgefield High Street so that bikes can be stored securely while people visit the local businesses.

A local man, Neal McCarthy, has offered to repair or service bikes which haven't been used for a while. There are a number of cycle routes, including those in the National Cycle Network. Traffic calming measures are in place to reduce cars speed.

These are all good starting points, but surely we can do more. What would you like to see in place to encourage more people to cycle regularly?

Please send your ideas to news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk

Virus killing face masks

Local company Graphene Composites, based at NETPark in Sedgefield, has been developing a graphene ink that can be applied to face masks and other personal protective equipment. The ink helps to provide additional protection against coronavirus.



The company has experience in graphene 'doping' – attaching materials to the surface of graphene. They noticed that silver nano particles became more effective at killing off virus as they became smaller. By attaching the silver to graphene nanoplatelets, they hope to create an ink which can be applied to the face masks and personal protective equipment.

Once the firm has developed and tested the technology, they are looking to collaborate with existing manufacturers to integrate it into their products.

The Sedgefield COVID-19 Community Support Group

Almost immediately after the official lockdown was announced in mid-March, a COVID-19 support group for Sedgefield was formed by the community. Initially set up on Facebook (SedgefieldCovidSupport), the group quickly established a system for residents who needed assistance and recruited scores of volunteers. After close liaison with the Durham Police and the county council (through East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership), clear guidelines were agreed for dealing safely with requests for help.

On a daily basis, the team delivers prescriptions to residents who are housebound and also arranges for assistance with shopping for essentials. In addition, the group has arranged for some of its volunteers (including some who have experience of working for the Samaritans) to telephone people in Sedgefield who are feeling particularly lonely, and has delivered some books to keen readers who would usually borrow them from the library. The group is part of the wider support network across County Durham and has dealt with some referrals from the county council's social services team. If the group can't help direct, it can point people in the right direction for where they can get assistance.

If you need support, you can reach the Sedgefield COVID-19 Community Support Group on 07940 464529, sedgefieldlines@aol.com, or on the Facebook page, where the latest updates and information about coronavirus are posted on a regular basis.

Keep healthy and stay safe - Skerne Medical Practice

The past few weeks have been challenging and unsettling for many people and this will continue to be the case even though some restrictions have been lifted. Please contact the surgery team for advice and support if you are struggling with social isolation or notice a deterioration in your mental or physical health. A healthy lifestyle is more important than ever.

Exercise and fresh air, especially in open spaces, plays a vital part in our physical and mental well-being. Staying safe at home remains important, but we can now exercise and enjoy the outdoors as long as we follow social distancing guidelines - 2m or 6 feet away from anyone outside your household. 150 minutes of exercise per week is still recommended. Please keep yourself healthy by following this advice.

In recognition of the unprecedented challenges which the COVID-19 outbreak and extended periods of self-isolation have posed, Public Health England has published new online guidance setting out principles to follow to help people to manage their mental health (<https://tinyurl.com/u8x9fn9>) during this difficult time.

And please don't forget immunisations

As the search for a COVID-19 vaccine continues it can be easy to forget about keeping up-to-date with immunisations that give protection against other life threatening diseases. The practice operates immunisation clinics from the surgery at Fishburn on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings for childhood immunisations; please contact the surgery if you need a different appointment time or if you have any questions.

Please remember, the vast majority of parents in the local community ensure their children are safe by having them vaccinated.

There is no upper age limit for the MMR vaccine so please get in touch if you think you may have missed a vaccination. The meningitis ACWY vaccine is particularly important for young people up to their 25th birthday, and whilst we don't know if universities or colleges will be starting in a few months, it's better to be safe than sorry.

Other relevant information is available from www.gov.uk and www.nhs.uk. Please take care and stay safe.

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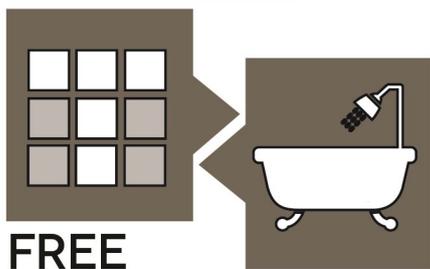
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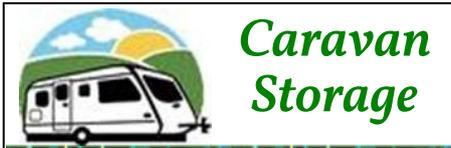


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ARTS UPDATE

Sedgefield in lockdown

Please accept a big thanks for the marvellous pictures & poems we have been sent after last month's request.

The weather has been mostly excellent during the lockdown & we have seen some really beautiful images like the sunset below, captured by Sharon Hodgson.

The reduction in noise and traffic has seen a marked increase in wildlife and Richard Jardine was kind enough to send us some of the pictures he has taken, like this friendly squirrel at Hardwick Park. We haven't had any paintings yet, but hopefully, as the colours continue to come out in the weeks ahead more of our readers will reach for the brushes!

Of course these are grave as well as hopeful times & Maureen Legender has captured what a lot of us are feeling in her composition 'A Jewel so Rare'.

We are anthologising our collected responses to the epidemic on our Facebook page. Please visit www.facebook.com/sedgefieldnews for more poetry & beautiful images of the local area. And of course, please keep sending in your work & brightening up our days.

Sedgefield Players

While the players remain unable to perform together, they are keeping their skills & spirits up with Zoom read-throughs. They hope to be able to publish a date soon for their next venture, but it all hinges on the next announcement from Downing Street. Keep checking Sedgefield News for updates(!)



Stars in their Eyes For NHS

A GROUP of friends have raised more than £1,000 for the NHS recreating performances by global music stars while they self-isolate at home during the coronavirus crisis. The 11 friends, 8 of whom live in Sedgefield, dressed and performed as international stars, including Justin Timberlake, Boy George, Tina Turner & Jennifer Lopez, as part of a Stars In Their Eyes night over Zoom.

Former England international cricketer Ryan Sidebottom and make-up artist Amanda Bell were among those to record and share their music videos to raise funds for NHS Charities Together, which launched a Covid-19 urgent appeal to support NHS staff, volunteers and patients impacted by coronavirus.

See the full story on www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk from June 1st.

The videos have been viewed hundreds of times on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. To view and donate visit: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/1621671114665360/103227701371125/>

Kate Stanley performed This is Me as bearded-lady Keala Settle from 'The Greatest Showman' with daughters Grace & Florence, while husband Richard Stanley was Tina Turner, singing Proud Mary.



with Geoff Millichap email: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Poet's Corner A Jewel So Rare

We all fall victim to the newest trends
At the press of a key we access our finds
The latest fashion and man made wants
But Covid 19 has cleared our minds.

An eye opener of a Springtime
Depleted of freedom of choice
Knowing now what's important
Let everyone hear our voice.

Rid the oceans of plastic
Marine life are suffering neglect
Ban pollutants from the air
Conserve, clean up, protect.

Hoping we don't take for granted
Our family, friends and good health
And the wonderful nature around us
That can't be acquired through wealth.

In the years following twenty twenty
Be kind to each other and care
For this beautiful world we inhabit
Is a precious jewel so rare.

Maureen Legender

Norman Cornish online

Fans of the world-famous son of Spennymoor can now take a virtual tour of a recent exhibition entitled 'Norman Cornish: The Definitive Collection'.

Due to museum closures, the artworks and Cornish's sketchbooks have been made available in films narrated by Norman's family free here:

www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/Exhibitions/2019/Norman-Cornish-The-Definitive-Collection.

Cornish took his sketchbooks everywhere, directly capturing the daily life of his community to take back to his studio & produce finished pieces. They illuminate the detailed process that Cornish followed and the compositional changes that went into each finished work.

The exhibition showcases the wide breadth of styles in which he worked, from vibrant views of bustling streets, reminiscent of Bruegel the Elder, to intimate family portraits and larger-than-life bar-room scenes.

Hearing the work described by those who knew the man, with extra biographical details, offers an additional insight even to those already familiar with his output, and makes both films a must-watch for those of us who enjoy Norman's work.



SEDGEFIELD VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Members of the public are being reminded to social distance and follow the latest government guidance when visiting County Durham's parks, beaches and open spaces.

Under the new guidance, people can drive to parks, beaches and open spaces irrespective of distance as long as they respect social distancing guidelines to remain two metres (six feet) away from people outside their household.

The new guidelines also allow people to meet up with one person from outside their household, as long as they observe social distancing. However, the cafe and visitor centre at the Council's Hardwick Park will remain closed until further notice.



Holiday Refunds

If you have had a holiday cancelled by your tour operator then you are legally entitled to a refund. Having said that, all departures are currently cancelled and if everyone were to receive an immediate refund most companies would go under. Holiday companies are currently offering vouchers or credit notes. If you are offered these then please ensure that they are protected by an ATOL Certificate in the same way as your holiday, otherwise you are at risk if the company subsequently goes into liquidation.

Durham County Carer's Support

If you are a Carer of an elderly or disabled person, please remember that Durham County Carer's Support are there to support you and you can contact them on the general number 0300 005 1213 or email on admin@dccarers.org or through the live chat on the website between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday for any help, advice or support during this difficult time.

If you are caring for someone living with dementia who needs to go into hospital during the current pandemic, you will not be able to be with them. It is really important that medical staff have contact with you, the Carer.

The COVID 19 - HOSPITAL ADMISSION CARD AND HOSPITAL PASSPORT FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS are designed to give NHS staff supporting the person you care for relevant, key information, if the person you are caring for is not able to do so for themselves. The Card and Passport can be obtained from the contacts above and downloaded.

Police Report

Incident - Police were called to Hardwick Park, shortly before 6pm on 30th April after members of the public reported a group of men attacking ducks with sticks near to the visitor centre. One man was arrested at the scene and a further two were arrested nearby following a brief search.

Officers discovered one dead mallard and a second injured bird, which was taken to vets and is hoped to make a recovery. Three men, one aged 32 and the others both aged 26, were charged with killing a wild bird and a second offence of breaching COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Scams - Police are always receiving reports of people receiving suspicious/scam emails and texts. Please remain vigilant when checking emails so that you do not fall foul of a scam or cybercrime. Examples have included fake HMRC texts, fake EE messages, fake NatWest texts, and also fake Amazon emails. Check the sender, never click on any links or attachments within the emails, and never reply to the sender. Check the spelling or grammar, as this is often incorrect. Legitimate companies would never ask for your information via text or email, and would not direct you to follow a link to input your information. Never send personal or financial information via these emails. Forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk.

Report to Action Fraud via their website at www.actionfraud.police.uk and forward suspicious text messages to 7726. Remember to stay safe, and make others aware.

Are you willing to keep an eye out in your street?

If you spot suspicious behaviour, contact the Police or Crimestoppers quickly with accurate information. This provides the best chance of successfully apprehending criminals.

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CPO Rona Stocks rona.stocks@durham.pnn.police.uk

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Crime isn't as common as you think... but don't be a victim. Please lock up, stay safe, and sleep well.

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY

JUNE 2020

You can certainly say that our lives have been changed by COVID-19 and one thing that has happened is that it has given people a reason to reflect on their relationship with nature, the way they live their lives and how they spend their free time.

Precious moments outside on a daily walk, help us relax and feel happier.

Even watching wildlife from a window, or on a webcam, connects us to that sense of being a part of nature, not apart from it. I have noticed local paths have become busier as people go on their exercise walk. Not only do these walks benefit people physically, they can have a positive effect on mental well-being.

This June, The Wildlife Trust will again run their mass participation campaign, 30 Days Wild.

Last year over 440,000 took on the challenge to do one wild thing a day throughout the whole month: for your health, well-being and for the planet. That's 30 simple, fun and exciting Random Acts of Wildness.

You'll get a free, downloadable pack of goodies to help you plan your wild month, plus lots of ideas to inspire you to stay wild all throughout June - and beyond!

For extra 'bonus' items, keep an eye on your emails for additional, fun activities, from instructions for baking hedgehog cupcakes to a beginner's guide to wildlife photography. Sign up at www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild and don't forget to share what you do using #30DaysWild.

Certificates of Achievement for pupils

POLICE in County Durham & Darlington have drawn up colourful Certificates of Achievement for school pupils to thank them for playing their part in keeping people safe during lockdown.

For details of how to download the bright certificates for your children, please visit the constabulary Facebook page.


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YOUR LETTERS

Sedgefield Beavers

I am Winston, I am 7 years old and I have been going to Beavers since September 2019. The best thing I like about Beavers is working towards different challenges and earning the badges. The most fun tasks that I have enjoyed are writing a letter for a time capsule, pumping up the bicycle tire to earn a cycling badge and looking after my friend's dog for six weeks to earn a pet badge.

On April the 30th we took part in the world record of the biggest indoor camp. It's brilliant that they still set challenges for us to complete during the lockdown. I am looking forward to finding out about the next challenges.
Winston Marshall

Taste and See Cookery Group



The young peoples "taste and See" cookery group have been joining in an on-line cookery challenge, during our lockdown, trying out new recipes at home.



We recently had a Sponge Cake competition and our winner was Lucy Hassan with this lovely NHS cake. It was hard to choose the winner, because they were all brilliant. If any young people want to join in the group, please ring me on 07950671607 and I will include them in my email list.
Pam Lamb

Aircraft Restoration Group

With continued uncertainty of the duration for lockdown/social distancing, regretfully we have decided to cancel the Wings, Wheels and Nostalgia 2020 event planned for Sat 1st/Sun 2nd August and the Open Cockpit days planned for Sun 12th July & Mon 31st August. Should restrictions be lifted early and is safe to do so ARG will try to hold a limited event in the autumn.

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District

Flower Club announce with regret that the full 2020 programme has been cancelled. The committee feel that this is the safest course of action in the present uncertainty. Any paid subscriptions will be carried over to 2021. Apologies if any member has not been contacted.

We sorely missed Mediaeval Fayre, but how did it begin?



Sedgefield Community Association was inaugurated at a meeting in the Parish Hall on October 8th 1970. According to the Evening Dispatch, 200 people attended the meeting and Arthur Kell was chairman. The first fayre (a Victorian Christmas Fayre with Father Christmas) was held in the Parish Hall on 4th December 1971. Walter Howell remembers a suggestion of a 'Jumble Sale' to raise funds for the fledgling SCA but then his proposal of a fayre to take place in the Parish Hall was accepted. Everyone agreed to wear costume for the event. Walter used his artistic skills to produce banners and murals to decorate the hall.

The subsequent Mediaeval Fayre was held on the Village Green on May 20th 1972, starting at 11 am. The programme advertised Stocks, Ducking Stools, Games & Competitions, Balloon Race, Steam Roller and Country Dance. Old stalls donated by Stockton Council were decorated to the theme and erected the night before. The introduction of Section Floats, with weeks of preparation, created a competitive community spirit and excitement. Floats were constructed at



various locations all over the village and the fayre started when all floats met on Queen's Drive, marshalled by Ray Barron and led by a rousing brass band all around the streets, to cheering crowds, then to the Green. 'Section Games' included Chariot and Sedan Chair Races (everyone wanted to carry petite Sheila Archer), Caterpillar and Comic Horse Races and the Cannon Race (cannons constructed by a very enthusiastic Mac MacChesney. Shots were powered by strong rubber and a pyrotechnic (making a bang for authenticity) which fired a ball over the road into the bus stop at the CO-OP!) Entertainment came from 'Dark Ages', a Viking group, the 'Sealed Knot', Traction Engine rides, Maypole & Morris Dancing, Potto Organ, Jazz Bands, Stocks & Ducking Stool. The tug of war was always a great event with teams from pubs and societies; the Caravan Club and Golden Lion won often. Durham Rams Morris Dancers, between sets on the green, would indulge in beer, performing outside the Dun Cow. Tony Blair once opened the event so it was his job to judge the best floats - always made with great creativity. Mort Spalding built the coconut shy and shields for mounting on stalls and the Round Table ducking stool attracted great attention and a pantomime horse race round the village stopped in each pub for a pint with the inevitable result! Once David Bowles was woken at 3am by Pip Turner with news that the organisers tent (sponsors McCarthy & Stone) had burnt down. Credit to the marquee firm that a new tent was up and working by 9am!

The Mediaeval Fayre Banquet, held in the Parish Hall in the early days, was organised by Sedgefield Players. People sat at long trestle tables, consuming copious amounts of ale served in jugs from barrels in the entrance. on one occasion the theme was 'The Canterbury Tales' set in the 'Tabard Inn'. The cast, liberally supplied with beer from a barrel on stage, provided what must have been one of the most hilarious evenings ever.

It has been great fun collecting these stories. The Fayre holds fond memories for many, and SCA is proud that it remains a highlight. One can only wonder at a world without excessive insurance costs, litigation and stringent Health and Safety regulations! Visit www.yorkshirefilmarchive.com Film ID: NEFA19934 Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre 1976. More pictures at www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Post of Clerk to the Sedgefield Charities: Applications invited

The Trustees invite you to play an important role in delivering support to individuals and families in need in Sedgefield and the local villages.

The Clerk is the contact point for Social Workers and other professionals seeking the Charities' assistance for their clients, and also for university students from lower income families applying for grants.

The Clerk also acts as secretary for the Trustees' meetings, preparing papers and keeping account of income and expenditure. Almost all the work can be carried out at home and at times of the post-holder's choosing. The total commitment amounts to a few hours in an average week.

This is a voluntary role but the Trustees are willing to negotiate an allowance in recognition of facilities such as telephone, computer and printing which the successful applicant will need to provide.

For further information please contact the retiring Clerk, John Hannon, on 01740 622512 or at east.house@btinternet.com

Applications, by brief CV and a statement of reasons for interest in the role and relevant abilities, should be sent to John by email (as above) or by post to East House, Mordon, Sedgefield, TS21 2EY by **20th June, 2020**.