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SEDGEFIELD NEWS

March 2016



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



Sedgefield ball game 2016
Playing to win!



Photography by Stephen Curry. See his full story of the game at <http://www.futureproofphotography.co.uk/blog>

Teaching with a difference!

Alexander Priestley-Leach, from Sedgefield, a 17 year-old pupil at Carmel College , has secured a place with Project Trust to teach maths, science and English at a secondary school in rural Zambia for a year. This follows a five-day assessment and selection process on the Scottish island of Coll in 2015.

Project Trust is a registered charity specialising in sending volunteers abroad to teach and help in social care projects. Since being set up in 1967 it has sent well over 6,000 people overseas. Their main aim is to allow young people to experience a new culture and be able to make a difference both abroad and following their return to the UK.

As part of his volunteering, Alex wishes to raise £6,000 for the work that Project Trust does in supporting children's education in developing countries. Zambia is one of the poorest countries in the world and is home to 6 million children under the age of 18. Although Zambia has in recent years made progress in increasing access and gender parity, more than a quarter of a million children remain out of school (UNICEF).

Alex has started the mammoth task of fundraising by selling jam, selling cards, collecting clothes to sell for recycling and writing to charitable trusts for support. Over the next months he hopes to be packing supermarket bags, doing a sponsored row, running raffles and organising quizzes.

So far he has raised £3000. His next fundraising endeavour is **Pie, Peas and Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall on Saturday 12th March at 7.30pm (tickets £6 available from Alex, as detailed below).**

Alex would appreciate any support such as raffle prizes, venues for events, or simply advice as well as, of course, direct financial contributions! He is more than happy to give talks to organisations either before or after his time volunteering.

To find out more about Project Trust visit their website: www.projecttrust.org.uk.

You can follow Alex's progress on Facebook: "Alex's year in Zambia" or contact him directly on **01740 238511** or alexanderpl@hotmail.co.uk



The honour of starting this year's Shrove Tuesday Ball Game went to Sedgefield's Peter Robinson (above).

Born and bred in the village, Peter has been coming to watch the game all his life and "will continue to do so for as long as I can - today was absolutely marvellous."

Daz Clemmet was declared the winner at 4:25pm, as the ball was finally passed back through the bull ring.

Hair Today ...

See p 3 for the story of this little girl's haircut.

Sophie's hopes

The chance of a lifetime for a Sedgefield teenager. P 11



March is a good time to visit woodlands; not only are there fewer leaves on the trees so that birds are more easily seen, it is also a terrific time for English wild flowers. After a quiet start to the year in January and February, spring flowers seem to appear daily in most types of habitats. This is particularly true of woodlands, where spring flowers such as Bluebells and Wood Anemone carpet the woodland floor, before the leaf canopy closes over. In hedgerows, Blackthorn gleams white in leafless hedges and Greater Stitchwort (poor man's buttonhole) colour the hedge banks.

Wood Anemone grows in deciduous woods, by streams and canals, on hedge banks, in grassland and under bracken. It spreads by underground rhizomes, forms large patches and grows up to 30cm tall. The flowers are white (2-2.5cm across) but when you look closely you can see grey veins on the petals. Anemones are also known as windflowers because they flower in windy March. Greek legend has this flower springing up where Aphrodite's tears fell, as she wept over the death of her lover, Adonis. "Where streams his blood there blushing springs a rose, and where a tear has dropped, a windflower blows."

Another characteristic spring flower of woodlands, hedgerows, graveyards and parks is Lesser Celandine; its shiny flowers can carpet area with gold between March and May. Despite its name it is not actually a close relative of Greater Celandine but is a member of the buttercup family. Lesser Celandine is a low-growing plant with dark green, shiny, heart-shaped leaves and bright yellow flowers about 3cm across that open in the sunlight. These flowers take advantage of deciduous woods by flowering before leaf burst and add a touch of colour to a walk in March.

There are several good examples of reserves to see spring flowers, including Tees Valley Wildlife Trust's Saltburn Gill www.teeswildlife.org/nature-reserve/saltburn-gill and National Trust's Newton Wood at Newton under Roseberry. Durham Wildlife Trust's Hesleden Dene is another. This name derives from 'hesle', a corruption of hazel, in abundance there alongside ash and wych elm along with the spring flowers. The reserve also has exceptional natural exposures of Magnesian limestone eroded to produce impressive outcrops with many caves and fissures. Other woodland wildlife thrives with regular sightings of roe deer, fox, woodpeckers and tawny owl. To get to the reserve from the A19, take the B1281 towards Blackhall Rocks and turn right at the sign for Hesleden Village. Cross the Hart to Haswell cycleway and enter the reserve. Situated south of Hesleden Village, there is a small amount of parking in the lay-by at Station House at the south end of Station Road. For more information go to <http://www.durhamwt.com/reserves/dwt-reserves-list/hesleden-dene/>

Hardwick Park volunteer news *by David Hall*

As a recent volunteer at Sedgefield's Hardwick Park I have been asked to write giving my impressions. There are about 36 volunteers totalling an average of 522 hours per month (or 70 working days) which surprised and impressed me. The work seems to fall into three areas:

1. Gift shop and exhibition area. The item that sells the most is the bird food for the many wildfowl and other birds in the Park. The exhibition area describes the development of the Park over the last 260 years and volunteers are on hand to answer any questions.
2. Assisting education assistants in preparing for, and helping with, school visits; about 550 children, even in the wintry weather between November and January! They also helped prepare Santa's Grotto which attracted about 250 children and their parents.
3. Most volunteers, including myself, help the Park Rangers with outside maintenance. Since November this has taken many forms: erecting fencing and gates in East Park to improve grassland management; hedge laying and coppicing; painting memorial seats; ongoing maintenance of shrub beds; and litter picking, which enabled the Park to receive the Keep Britain Tidy Green Flag Award last October - the only North East tourist attraction in the country's top 20 awards.

The latest initiative has been to help Rangers to create a bird hide and feeding station. All the following have been seen recently: kingfisher, long-tailed tit, reed bunting, nuthatch, tree creeper, goldfinch, bullfinch, sparrow hawk, siskin, great spotted woodpecker and lesser redpoll (in addition to the more common birds) as well as goosanders, cormorants, tufted duck etc on the lakes. I also enjoyed the end of year buffet in the wonderful Cafe and the fish & chip lunch around the bonfire which enabled me to meet other volunteers who work on different days and in different roles to myself. I find the Park a beautiful and interesting place in which to volunteer. I see fascinating birds, squirrels and spring flowers and enjoy a friendly chat to visitors. I can recommend a visit or to get involved as a volunteer.

Views sought on church development plan

Organisations in and around Sedgefield are invited to consider if they could benefit from a project to make greater use of St Edmund's Church.



Invitations will be sent out shortly to a meeting, held to identify the extent of interest, establish the feasibility of implementing suggestions and to agree a timetable for action.

The church team leading the 'Inspired Futures' project also plans to have an information presence at major events in the town during the coming months.

'Several local educational and social activity groups have already expressed interest in exploring whether parts of the church could be used to accommodate activities, highlight their work or stage displays,' said churchwarden, Brian Mutch.

There are various ways in which the building could be used to benefit local people, not just church members, and Brian would like to hear all suggestions.

He can be contacted by post at 6 Hasledon Grove, Sedgefield, by telephone on **01740 622302** or at **b.mutch@btconnect.com**



*Thanks to park volunteer, **Ben Lyons**, for the photographs of the nuthatch and hide entrance.*



(cont. from p 1)

... gone tomorrow

"Are you nervous?" I ask 6 year old Nieve Nuttall. Her response? A violent headshake; "I'm really excited." Nieve and her family invited me into their beautiful home along with family and friends to raise money and see Nieve donate 7 inches of her hair to The Little Princess Trust. The coffee morning had a lovely spread, in which scones provided by Toshach's Tea Shop sat amongst cakes and bread baked for the day.

Nieve was inspired to donate to this charity when she saw her teacher do the same thing last year. Ten years old this year, the Little Princess Trust provides real hair wigs to children suffering with hair loss. Nieve's hair will go towards making a wig and, being brave as ever, with the help of her mam and dad, Julie and Steve, she pushed to raise the £350 it costs to do so. Within 9 hours £415 had been raised! Surely this is enough for a Blue Peter badge? Nieve's mam, Julie Nuttall tells me how her daughter records each Blue Peter episode to watch it three times over and is in hope of receiving a badge when they write to the show about her thoughtful and brave act.

Hairdresser, Leanne Gillespie of Reef Salons cut Nieve's plaits. It appeared everyone watching, including me, was much more nervous than Miss Nuttall! Even Leanne even looked a little apprehensive at the 7 inches, but sure enough Nieve looked like a princess, just as the girl she is donating to will. Once they surpassed the £350 target, they set a new one of £500 for the Little Princess Trust. This has also been reached and any additional donations are now going to the Lullaby Trust in memory of Alice Robinson. **Kelly Aitkin**



Nieve with hairdresser, Leanne Gillespie and below, the sacrificed hair!
You can donate to Nieve's chosen charities at www.justgiving.com/Steve-Nuttall5



The Friends of Sedgefield Harriers

thank everyone who supported the winter beer festival, through sponsorship, music, pulling pints or drinking beer! £1200 was raised towards the Sedgefield track.



Great leadership in Sedgefield Guides

1st Sedgefield girl guide leader, **Julie Towler** (pictured) was recently presented with her 30 years service to guiding by division commissioner, Joanne Lazenby. Julie started her guiding life as a brownie aged 7, progressed into guides as a patrol leader and at 16 she became a young leader. She gained her Queens Guide Award - the highest achievement in guiding. Since then, as a leader, Julie has represented Sedgefield numerous times at world jamborees and camps. She took over leadership of the group 7 years ago and they currently have 32 girl guides.

Sedgefield division trefoil guild members Linda Johnson and Jackie Postgate MBE, attended Westminster Abbey recently, along with 4000 scouters and guiders, for a service of thanks and recognition for 50 years service as volunteers to the organisation.



Would you like to visit our Twin Town?

It's not too late to come to Germany this June with Sedgefield Twinning Association.

We are travelling over to our friends in Hamminkeln on Sunday June 5th and return the following Sunday (12th). We are always made very welcome and have a most enjoyable week. Most of the Germans speak some English, some speak excellent English! Accommodation is with host families or, if you prefer you can stay in a guesthouse.

We always have a full programme of interesting activities but also free time to spend with our hosts and explore the area.

If you think you could be interested, please contact Judith Edgoose for a chat and further details.

Call 01740 620244 / 07899 984464 or email mail@toddsousefarm.co.uk



At 1pm on Wednesday 23rd March Sedgefield Post Office re-opens at The Corner Shop, on the corner of Durham Road and White House Drive.

SEDGEFIELD NEWS INFO

The deadline for the April edition is Tuesday 15th March

Please send copy to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com
call/text **07572 502 904** or write to **55 White House Drive, TS21 3BU**

For SedgefieldWeb go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk
email sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk
Sports editor: chrisjlines@aol.com
Diary & Events, email diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Sedgefield News is on Facebook, Twitter @sedgefieldnews & Instagram at #sedgynews.

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Watch meeting held on Tuesday 9th Feb are posted in the notice board outside the Police Station and in the Town Council notice board.

Business Telephone Scam

Durham Constabulary is warning businesses of a telephone scam being operated in recent weeks which targets a company's telephone system using it to make numerous international premium rate calls costing the firm thousands of pounds.

The fraudsters usually strike when businesses are closed but their telephone systems are not. DC Jonathan Stoker from Durham Constabulary Cyber Crime team said, "The police are investigating the sources of the hacking," but in the meantime businesses should take the following precautions.

- Use strong pin/passwords for your voicemail system, ensuring they are changed regularly.
- Where possible, disable access to your voice mail system from outside lines
- If you do not need to call international numbers/premium rate numbers, ask your telecoms provider to place a restriction on your telephone line.
- Ask your network provider to block outbound calls at certain times e.g. when your business is closed.
- Ensure you regularly review available call logging and call reporting options.
- Regularly monitor for increased or suspect call traffic.

To report a fraud call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit the Action Fraud website. North East business can also take advantage of free national and local support by joining CISP –CERT UK (Cyber-security Information Sharing Partnership)

Your letters

The Isles Wind Farm - two responses to the recent decision

1. Your readers will by now have heard that E.on have formally withdrawn their planning application for the 24 turbine wind farm on the Bradbury, Mordon and Preston le Skerne Carrs. There has been a long and concerted effort by many people from the wider area to achieve the required result, a huge shadow has been removed from the lives of the local community.

Whilst the success has been a team effort utilizing the skills of many of the local community, we know that the success would not have been achieved without the determination, persistence and calm doggedness of Bradbury resident Sue Fox, or the ferret like activities of Mordon resident Nigel Juggins. Thanks are also due to our MP Phil Wilson whose constant support has been much appreciated.

On behalf of everyone whose lives would have been blighted by this scheme we wish to place on record our grateful thanks.

John Burrows, Chairman - Bradbury and the Isles Parish Meeting

2. It is with great delight that I can confirm that Eon have withdrawn their application to build wind turbines on the Isles. We have been battling this for many years and for a lot of that time, it felt like a hopeless task. On behalf of TICTAC I would like to thank the residents of Sedgefield as well as the parish council, John Robinson, Rachel Lumsden and Phil Wilson MP for their constant support. If you came to one of our meetings, stuck a poster up in your window, attended an exhibition, gave us money or wrote an objection letter, thank you. It was your support along with that of many other communities that meant we were able run a campaign that highlighted the complete unsuitability of the Carrs for this kind of development. Eon's original timetable would have seen the turbines built 2 years ago so the recent changes in subsidies would have come too late for us. Our success in delaying the application was only possible because of the work and support of so many people in our community as well as further afield.

With heartfelt thanks,

Susan Fox (on behalf of TICTAC)

Useful Telephone numbers Local Police 101

Police Community Liaison Officer,
Lauren Wray 01325 732020
Parking Shop 0191 3846633

Citizens Advice Please could the person who contacted us recently with corrected information, do so again at their earliest convenience

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PC Todd's report

Anti-social behaviour remains a problem in the village and some of the youths responsible are just not getting the message. Please, can parents of young teenagers point out the dangers of throwing stones/mud at passing vehicles and unsuspecting persons walking along the pavement. Recently, a lady was hit in the thigh area by an object which gave her a shock and left a red mark. The main area of concern is youths hiding in the church grounds from where the missiles are launched. Other crimes that have been reported include a House window in Wykes Close smashed by a lump of ice which had been thrown at it, and in Woodland Mews a car was forced open. causing damage to the window allowing entry where a small amount of loose change was taken.

Pub Watch.

A meeting was held recently at the Hardwick Arms. Two females and a male received 3 month bans each from all premises for separate incidents which had occurred between the New Year period and more recently. Another female received a Final Warning for her behaviour over a similar timescale. Pub Watch members will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour in any member premises and will take positive action against offenders.

Pact Priorities.

A meeting was held directly after the Neighbourhood Watch meeting. It was decided that the parking issues at the entrance to Salters Lane industrial estate have increased since the police cones have been removed. Members felt that the police should continue to monitor the area for the coming month. Please park responsibly and not on the road or verge which causes frustration to other road users. Action will be taken against offenders.

Until next time, Keith

House of Eden



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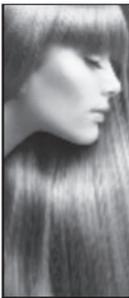


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STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST



Annual report

sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk

Chairman, Roger Clubley was able to report on a successful year which saw two new projects launched (Sew Easy and Beekeeping) and others gain in terms of the service the Trust provides. He also noted the great success of Sedgefield Energy Switch, largely due to Peter Burnip's commitment, both to the scheme and to its clients. Treasurer, Mike Ashwell was able to report the best financial situation the Trust has ever known, putting this success down to the change made in how we invoice Sedgefield News and SedgefieldWeb advertising customers. Full reports can be found at www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Existing Trustees were confirmed or re-appointed, and one new Trustee appointed. She is Dawn Seymour, known to Farmers' Market customers for her cake business, "Simply Yummy." Dawn has a lot of business experience and has also worked as an Events Organiser, so her input is very much welcomed.

The aftermath of an AGM has always been fertile territory, and this was no exception. A quiet ferment of ideas brewed over a glass or two of wine; no doubt this page will report on one or two of them in the year to come.

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

farmersmarket@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

We're delighted to say that **there will be bread** at the market again from this month. We have tracked down Mel Hull, the wonderful baker who previously worked with Rise Artisan and is now in charge at The Clervaux Bakery. She will also bring some seasonal, organic vegetables from the Clervaux Trust Farm. and she is looking forward to her first market here on **Sunday 6th March**.

Ibbotson's Plants will be back with fresh stock in time for the growing season, alongside Simply Yummy, Charlie's Kitchen, Rosalind's Larder, Mellanby's Winter Veg, Broom House Farm & Wrayford Farm for meats and sausages; Oakdene Woodcraft, Spicy Monkey, Parlour Made Cheese, Durham Honey and Patterson's Fish.

Sedgefield News

The News Team is working really well and have many skills between them; however, there is still room for one more very important volunteer to take over the job of designing and laying out the publication. If you have **graphic design skills** and a little time on your hands, do please get in touch with any of the team. You can email the Editor at sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com.

Sedgefield Energy Switch:

THE NEXT AUCTION IS IN MAY

Key dates

Registration opens Tuesday 22nd March & closes on Monday 16th May.

Auction day is 17th May with Personal Offers issued from 27th May. Offer acceptance closes on 27th June.

If you are happy to register on line yourself, go to

www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk, open the ENERGY SWITCH section, simply click on the RED 'REGISTER NOW' button and then follow the links and fill out your details. If you prefer to register and receive information through the post, or need any assistance, please call the Sedgefield Development Trust Helpline on **07980 134 594** and we will be happy to assist you or complete your registration for you.

Sedgefield News sends heartfelt sympathy to the family, friends and many supporters of Amy Stockill, who passed away on February 8th.

Sedgefield Town Council

Experienced Gardener Required

STC wish to appoint a gardener with good all round skills, NVQ Level 2 or similar in horticulture and at least 2 years professional experience. Applicants should be aware of Health & Safety, be fit and able to work in all conditions, be self-motivated and competent in the use of a wide range of garden equipment.

Working from Sedgefield Cemetery the Council's Gardening Team delivers a high quality open spaces service. Reporting to the Gardening Supervisor, you will contribute to maintenance and development of all garden areas around the Town with prime responsibility for watering and feeding during the growing season. Weekend watering will be needed at times. You should be prepared to work flexibly at busy times to maintain our high standard of work.

To apply call 01740 621273 or email town.clerk@sedgefield.net
Closing date: Friday 11th March
 The appointment is for 6 months



Home of Sedgefield Community Association

In January we held our 17th Traditional Burns' Supper. Held since Millennium year, this traditional evening of Scottish Fayre, entertainment and local talent (the highlight being 'Bruce's Address to the Haggis') has raised funds for various organisations & charities, and the SCA. The traditional menu, Mrs Sutherland's Scotch broth, Haggis, Neeps & Tatties, roast beef and vegetables, desserts, cheese board, whisky or port and to finish, coffee and mints, was prepared by Elaine Swift and team. It was all absolutely delicious. Piper, Paul Cook invited people to their seats. Ian Sutherland welcomed everyone and said the Selkirk Grace. The Address to the Haggis was made by Bruce Cunningham and the Toast to the Immortal Memory by John Robinson. Len Partridge made the Toast to the Lassies, Maxine Robinson replying on their behalf. A magnificent rendition of Tam o' Shanter was made by Jamie Sutherland, followed by 'A Man's a Man For a 'That'. Everyone joined in with Auld Lang Syne. It was a great evening of fun, friendship, songs and 'clatter'; a sell out event that the man himself would truly have enjoyed. Special thanks to Pat, Wendy, Ian and other SCA members for their continued work in organising a fabulous event.

Our next main event is the Easter Egg Hunt and selection of the May Queen on Easter Monday (28th March). Children (12 years & under) are invited to hunt for Easter Eggs hidden in the grounds of Ceddesfeld. There are prizes for different age groups and families are welcome to bring a picnic. The bar and the main hall are also open. During the afternoon, the May Queen and her attendants (who will lead the Mediaeval Fayre Parade) are selected by way of a raffle ticket draw. Following that on Saturday April 23rd, we have the Mediaeval Fayre Dinner, this year marking 400 years since the death of Shakespeare. It will be a fun evening, based around his life, times and works. Including a delicious 4 course buffet, tickets cost £18, from Pat or Wendy. The SCA now has a completely re-designed website, with information about all that goes on at Ceddesfeld Hall and how to get involved. Please have a look, using the address below.

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

SPYS and Players Sweep the Boards

The Sedgefield Players and SPYS entries into this year's 1st round of the All England Theatre Festival at Richmond in February were a resounding success, with a grand total of 5 awards between the two groups. The Players production of Anthony Nielson's hilarious comedy 'The night before Christmas', won awards for Supporting Character Performance for Terry West as the Elf, and Best Actress for Sarah Legender as the less than savoury Cherry. Nominations abound for the production, including for Best Set, Best Actor (Alan Holcroft) and the Adjudicators award for the courage to choose such a demanding piece.



The Players, SPYS and their awards. Picture by Sarah Atkinson

The SPYS however, well and truly outdid the competition, with nominations for Best Actress (Lucy Atkinson), Adjudicators Award and Best Set. The SPYS won awards in Technical Presentation, the Youth Award, and were overall winners of the festival, winning £50, and the opportunity to take the play onto the Northern Round of the All England Festival, which will be taking place at the end of April in Port Sunlight, Liverpool. It really was a fantastic success all round and we are incredibly proud of our young people, who represented both the Players and Sedgefield itself so well, as I'm certain they will do at the Northern Final.

dirty dusting

Meanwhile, back in Sedgefield, the Players have been preparing for their March production of Trevor Wood and Ed Waugh's comedy 'Dirty Dusting'. Walter Howell, who last year stepped down as Productions Director of the Players, has taken the helm once more with this local, hilarious comedy which we be taking place at the Parish Hall from the 17th—19th March. Tickets are on sale now from Tickety Boo, sedgefieldplayers.co.uk or by telephoning 621771. TG

Request for information

I am writing in the hopes to stir people's memories! Brafferton & Coatham Mundeville Village Hall Association are trying to find people who used to live or visit the area around the time that the new village hall was being built, or indeed at any time; or who may be interested in our history. Our wonderful village hall was built 45 years ago this year by the community that lived here at the time following years of fundraising; this needs to be celebrated! I am holding two separate sessions on Thursday 18th February at the Village Hall, the first 2-4pm and the second 7-9pm. These will be a chance for people to catch up and have a bit of a metaphoric walk down memory lane. These will be informal events, with light refreshments and are open to everyone. I am hoping that this will become the first of a regular monthly gathering, akin to a local history group. So I am inviting your readers who have any connection with Brafferton or Coatham Mundeville to please come along and share their memories, and to share this with anyone else who may be interested. For further information please contact me on 07710 478583 or find us at [Facebook.com/BraffertonVHA](https://www.facebook.com/BraffertonVHA). *Samantha McCormick.*

Mother's Day Family Service at St. Edmund's

Sunday 6th March 2016 @ 10.00am. Join us for the family service on Mother's Day, a day when we celebrate the life of the Church and recognise the contribution of Mothers the world over to family life throughout the ages. This will be a less formal act of worship with members of the church taking part. We are grateful to Sainsbury's for their donation of daffodils to be distributed to women in the congregation. There will be refreshments after the service and time to continue the fellowship.

New Weight Watchers Class

A new class will be taking place on Wednesdays at 11.45 at Willowdene Care Home. For more information ☎771310.

The Creation Station arrives

A new class for young children has started on term time Tuesday mornings at Sedgefield Methodist Church.

Baby Discover (babies aged 6-18 months) from 10 - 10.45am.

Little Explorers (18 months - preschool) from 11.15 - 12.00.

The benefits of children sharing creative play with their parent or key carer are well documented. However, it can be tricky providing babies, toddlers or preschool child with hands-on arts and crafts activities at home. The Creation Station aims to give parents and children quality, fun, creative experiences in a safe, nurturing and friendly environment without the stress of mess at home! Sessions are based around early years development, 'discovering and exploring', focusing on the process of being creative although each child gets to take home what they have made each week.

For me personally, it is a joy to see children, particularly those who may be shy or wary, come into the sessions and grow in confidence, forgetting everything else and just enjoying what we are doing.

Booking is essential. Please email sarahmartin@thecreationstation.co.uk or ring 01642 984165.

There will also be Family Fun sessions for children aged 2-11 during school holidays. If you need any more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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SPORTS UPDATE

email chrisjlines@aol.com

A few months ago, Sedgefield News published its first 'young people's edition'. It was great to read so much in the way of positive news and views from the younger generation of Sedgefield. As it happened, on that particular month, most of the sports update was dominated by achievements by older folk. However, this page regularly features great sports news from the young people of Sedgefield and we only have to look around us to understand that we have a very active community. It won't be long now before the cricket season is upon us and Sedgefield Cricket Club's impressive junior section will be as busy as ever, while talented young cyclists like Ben Hetherington seem to be working hard in the saddle all year round and Sedgefield Youth FC continues to field competitive U11 and U15 teams in the TJFA League.

Meanwhile, the junior section of Sedgefield Harriers is making great strides (literally and figuratively) and the recently launched **Sedgefield junior parkrun** has already succeeded in helping hundreds of youngsters to get active on a Sunday morning (which in turn has motivated their parents to get out of bed early!)

Like the senior event, junior parkrun is a fantastic, welcoming – and free – phenomenon that gives 5-14 year olds an opportunity to run, jog or walk around a route around Hardwick Park in a very safe environment, at the same time every Sunday (9:00am). The Sedgefield event is one of only two in our region and attracts children from near and far, including boys and girls who compete in other sports and use parkrun as part of their fitness training.

All of the sports I have mentioned above take place outside and are very visible to dedicated supporters and passers-by alike, but the achievements of Sedgefield's sporting youngsters aren't limited to fresh air pursuits.

This month, I'm going to put the focus on one of our community's most talented young stars who is making huge progress with racket and ball ...

Squash

Budding local squash player, Jessica Weatherspoon has just graduated from the girls under 11 age category as reigning county and regional U11 champion, and officially ranked number three in the country. Jess, who plays at Sedgefield Squash Club and attends Sedgefield Primary School, started playing at the age of six at the club's Saturday morning junior sessions. Having got a taste for the game through coaching and internal club competitions, she entered her first County Closed Competition at the age of seven, in the U9 mixed category. Despite having to play against a large number of boys, her spirited approach to the game was acknowledged by those watching. The next year she was able to compete in the U11 girls competition, again not being daunted playing against older competitors. In 2014, at the age of just nine, she became the County Closed Champion in this age category and started regularly entering national competitions.

Last year, Jess retained her U11 county title, in addition to winning the girls U13 title, and in what she describes as her squash highlight to date, she won the North East & Yorkshire regional U11 title in November. This, along with her competition successes saw her achieve her current ranking of number three in the country. These achievements have also led to a sponsorship from racket manufacturer, Harrow.

Jess has represented both her county and the region. In addition to playing for Sedgefield's junior club teams, she recently made her debut for the ladies team in the Durham & Cleveland County leagues.

Jess now moves on to the U13 category, an age group in which she has already played a number of competitions. As she continues to develop, it's a very good bet that there will be much more silverware to come. Watch this space!



Jess Weatherspoon with the U11 Girls Regional Trophy

Sedgefield Ball Game

Sedgefield Ball Game is covered elsewhere in this issue of Sedgefield News, so I will be brief. It was lively!

Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers were out in force for the second event in the club's Grand Prix series of races, the Absent Friends Trail Race (formerly the Ann Johnson Absent Friends Trail Race), organised by Billingham Marsh House Harriers. The race followed a route of almost five miles in and around Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park, with a challenging climb towards the end providing a real sting in the tail. This year, the course was particularly muddy in places and simply staying upright proved to be a challenge. The 22 Harriers who competed recorded some excellent results, with James Oldfield (second overall) and Paul Weir (fifth and first V40 runner) leading the way home, with Chris Lines also squeezing into the top 10, soon followed by Ray Carmichael (20th), Gary Thwaites (24th) and Simon Cavey (25th).

Sedgefield's ladies performed particularly well on the day, with Tracy Henderson (35th overall), Lisa Darby (60th), Helen Parsons (73rd) and Tracy Glaister (78th) taking home first prize in the team competition, while Tracy Henderson and Tracy Glaister also picked up individual prizes, as first and second in their respective categories.

That's all for this month. As always, if you have any sports news, please send it to chrisjlines@aol.com.

High Hopes for Sophie



In just under six months time Sophie Smart will set out on what she describes as a "once in a lifetime opportunity". Sophie, ex pupil of Sedgefield Community College and currently studying for a B.A. in Illustration at Sheffield Hallam University, will set out on an expedition to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania to raise money to help Children throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America and the UK.

The challenge to climb Kilimanjaro is one of a number of fund raising activities promoted by the Charity 'Childreach'. The charity seeks to empower children by working to improve health care in their communities and schools. And it seeks to strengthen children's rights by working to counter the effects of child trafficking, sexual abuse, gender discrimination etc.

Sophie first came into contact with Childreach through her student union which has a partnership with the charity. Having quickly decided to become involved in the Climb Kilimanjaro project she and her fellow students have organised fund raising events in Sheffield. Closer to home, Sophie confesses that she is known to many in Sedgefield as 'The Chip Shop Girl' having worked at Sedgefield Fisheries for about 18 months before she left for university; she still does the occasional shift when released from her term-time university commitments. Some of you may have seen her collecting tin on the fish shop counter just as you enter – *all donations gratefully received!* She also acknowledges that many will know her as the granddaughter of one of Sedgefield's best known senior citizens, Allan Smart.

If all goes to plan, Sophie will leave for Tanzania on August 29th for a sixteen day stay. The first days of the trip will be spent visiting local schools that have benefited from Childreach projects while the last few days will give Sophie the opportunity to undertake some (personally funded) independent travel. The rest of the time will be spent on or around the mountain.

So, how hard is it to climb Kilimanjaro? Whilst it does not provide the technical challenges of an Everest or Matterhorn, at 5895m it is unarguably a very big mountain. Simon Mtuy, an experienced Kilimanjaro guide is clear about the dangers, "Altitude is the key. It is a very high mountain and climbing too quickly can bring on altitude sickness." Sophie is training by walking in the Peak District. Anyone wishing to support Sophie in her fund raising can do so at: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/sophiesmart1> - or simply donate to her collection tin when you are picking up your next fish supper at the chip shop!

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MARCH 2016 DIARY

email diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Tue 1st	Sedgefield Gardening Club 7.30pm Ceddesfeld Hall. AGM; Pie & Peas Tea Dance Parish Hall 1pm – 3pm Sequence, Ballroom & Rock. All welcome. Ann ☎629070 Joyce ☎ 622601
Wed 2nd	WI 7.15pm, Parish Hall "With Easter in Mind." Julie Clarke's Cookery Demonstration. Members' Competition; a home made Easter Card (extra comp. a limerick for County AGM see Newsletter for details)
Fri 4th	Annual Civic Ball Hardwick Hall Hotel. Tickets £28.50 from STC office. In aid of local groups & organizations & Alzheimer's Society. U3A Parish Hall, 2pm. "Shafts of Light - Mining Art of the North East Coalfields" All members welcome - guest £3 at the door ☎ 620526
Sat 5th	Sedgefield Cricket Club Quiz. 8pm Sedgefield Library National Libraries' Day, Councillor Rachel Lumsdon Drop in from 10 - 11.30am. Story session for younger children 10.30am
Sun 6th	Farmers' Market on the Green from 8.30am.
Mon 7th	Methodist Wives & Friends 7.30pm. Durham Rug Makers Really Easy Bridge Lessons at Ceddesfeld Hall. 1.30 - 4pm. For more info: ☎620607 - Pat Buckley Sedgefield Local History Group 7.45 Ceddesfeld Hall 1940s talk, song, memorabilia. Can come in 1940s costume
Tue 8th	Sedgefield Ladies' Club 7.30pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Mediaeval Fayre Fundraiser
Thu 10th	Sedgefield Show Meeting 8pm at Sedgefield Social Club
Fri 11th	Country Market 10 - 11.30am Parish Hall. Home baking, plants, crafts, refreshments. A warm welcome awaits.
Sat 12th	St. Edmund's Church Coffee Morning. 10.00am to 11.30am. Please join us and help raise funds for the church. Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall Coffee Morning 10 - 12 Bring and Buy, Cakes, Preserves and Bric a Brac (Plants, weather permitting)
Mon 14th	Deadline for Sedgefield News April edition
Tue 15th	Tea Dance Parish Hall 1pm – 3pm Sequence, Ballroom & Rock. All welcome. Ann ☎629070 Joyce ☎ 622601 Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club Parish Hall 7.30pm. Jean McClure 'Strictly Jeanious'
Fri 18th	Sedgefield in Bloom Coffee Morning, Parish Hall 10 - 11.30 Home made cakes, raffle, tombola, book stall, gifts and cards. Sedgefield Cricket Club Live Music Night, 7.45 Performers include Whisky Dogs, Old Age Travellers, John Weighell & John Wrightson Band £11 inc Buffet ☎ 621347
Thu 17th - Sat 19th	Dirty Dusting - hilarious comedy from Sedgefield Players. Tickets from Tickety Boo, www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk, or ☎ 621771
Mon 21st	Sedgefield Family History Group 7.15pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. "An evening with Jane Austen" by Maeve Nattrass Methodist Wives and Friends 7.30pm 'Binchester' Gordon Henderson
Mon 28th	SCA Easter Egg Hunt & May Queen selection. 2pm Ceddesfeld Hall & grounds

Looking ahead

Sat 23rd April: Mediaeval Fayre Dinner marking 400 years since Shakespeare's birth. Hosted by the SCA in Ceddesfeld Hall.

29th April: Inner Wheel Club. Queen's Birthday Celebration, Flower Demonstration by Val Guest, followed by scones, cakes tea/coffee. Proceeds to Breast Cancer & other Charities £10 ☎ 629070 ☎ 620172

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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The Last Word A little space left;
the perfect size to say "Happy Easter"
from the Sedgefield News team