

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

March 2020

Deadline for next edition: Sunday 15th March

"Chocks Away!" Restoring vintage aircraft at Fishburn Airfield

As you travel on the busy A177 between Sedgefield and Coxhoe, you could be forgiven for missing a small white sign pointing the way to the Aviator Café. Follow this sign and it will take you down a narrow concrete road to Fishburn Airfield, one of the area's best kept secrets. As well as being a working airfield, it's also the home of the **Aircraft Restoration Group**. Stephen McGuire, an expert in aircraft electrical systems, took some time to explain.



The Aircraft Restoration Group restores civilian and ex-military aircraft and plans to open a small museum on the site. The three main aircraft currently being restored are a De Havilland Dove, a Sea Vampire and a Venom.

The Dove was built in 1952 for the German Aviation Authority. Its main role was to calibrate airfield landing aids and radio equipment. It's a wonderful example of British wartime engineering, with its bonded structure, fabric ailerons and variable pitch propeller.

The Sea Vampire is based around the 1946 De Havilland design. This particular aircraft was built for the Royal Navy as a pilot trainer for carrier operations. It is powered by a Rolls Royce Goblin mark 3 jet engine providing 3,500 pounds of thrust, giving a maximum speed of 540 mph.

The Venom is a single seat fighter-bomber and was retired from Swiss military service in 1984. It continued to fly in the UK in civilian hands until 1998.

Regular 'open cockpit' days give an the opportunity to view the aircraft, sit in the pilot's seat, and feel like a real air force pilot ready to patrol the skies. Along with military vehicle and vintage car enthusiasts, a Wings, Wheels and Nostalgia weekend will take place on Saturday 1st and 2nd August.

A Romney Hangar, gifted by a generous local benefactor, is currently being erected and will become a workshop and storage facility providing protection from the weather. This hangar was the last one used in County Durham by the Bevan Boys during World War Two. The group would be grateful if anyone can provide information about its history.

Looking to the future

There was an optimistic tone to the Chairman's report to the AGM of Sedgefield Development Trust at the end of a successful year. Most projects are ticking over nicely and others, both old and new, have seen astonishing growth. Also, with new trustees making their mark, some recent ventures are striking a chord with children and young people. For the future, ideas on sustainability are being developed. Why not join us? Project reports on p11.



Top, the cockpit of the De Havilland Dove. Below, the Sea Vampire



The volunteers, aged from early teens to ninety, have a range of experiences, from complete novices to experienced aircraft engineers. Four of the group are ex-RAF engineers, two experienced on airframe & mechanical systems, and one as an engine specialist. Another member of the group is an ex-RAF fighter pilot, Flight Lieutenant Paul Heasman, who has recently finished training RAF pilots on the Hawk T165 and is starting a new career with Cobham at Teesside Airport.

Would you like to get involved?

Volunteers don't need any specific skills just a willingness to learn and get stuck in. However, any DIY experience, especially carpentry (there is a surprising amount of wood on aircraft frames), would be a boon and a willingness to use a paint brush would definitely help. Stephen, who lives in

Sedgefield, served for 12 years in the RAF, looking after electrical systems such as flight and engine monitoring instruments.

Like all of the volunteers, he is keen to share his knowledge.

The Rallye light aircraft



Under expert guidance, the younger members of the group are working to restore a Rallye light aircraft - a great project to join for young people thinking of a career in engineering.

The group meets on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays throughout the year, from 10am until around 3 or 4pm. If you are interested in getting involved, or just curious and want to find out more, then please get in touch.

Email: arg@aircraftmail.com

Phone: 07812 406762

Facebook: Aircraft Restoration Group

Noah's Ark at St Edmunds

On Sunday 9th February children and parents weathered Storm Ciara to join Noah in his Ark. Dressing up as animals, making animal masks, dove puppets and paper rainbows, brought the story to life, as we climbed into the Ark to endure the flood. Thanks to Sedgefield Co-op for contributing to the rainbow of fruit we enjoyed. Photographs are displayed in church.



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GREENER SEDGEFIELD

We hear on a daily basis about climate change, but what is it and what can an individual do to make a difference, if anything?



Climate change or global warming, refers to the rise in the average temperatures of the Earth. The majority of the scientific community advocate that climate change is due to the use of fossil fuels which release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air. These gases trap heat in the atmosphere. The world is heating up at a much faster rate than previously thought by scientists, it is then thought this causes shifts in weather patterns, which can lead to severe conditions like those that lead to the bushfires experienced in Australia recently.

Many countries have signed up to reduce carbon emissions, however most pledges have targets set many years in the future, so leaving this to companies and the government isn't going to happen soon enough, it does require a bit of input and change by us all.

It's very unlikely that an individual household will solve climate change by adjusting their shopping or driving habits alone – although these are important. Of course most things are obvious and have been promoted for years. Switching off lights and devices not in use, drying clothes without a tumble dryer, flying less and taking public transport are just a few. Car share websites pull people together going the same way at the same time, this can save on fuel and money. Got a meeting? Is it possible to do this by video chat rather than several people driving to a location?

Where energy comes from, specifically the burning of fossil fuels, is one of the highest contributors to global warming. Could you switch your energy to a greener energy supplier, who invest in energy from natural means? This means that the energy in your home is made in a more environmentally friendly way before it even reaches you. Energy suppliers often run incentives to improve your insulation and it's worth checking if yours is up to the job, after all, keeping the heat in your home costs you less.

Next time we'll continue this exploration, looking at food choices, clothing and fashion. Meanwhile, it's worth remembering that by implementing small changes we can make an immediate impact on our carbon footprint. If you would like to test your household's footprint, visit www.footprint.wwf.org.uk. For more ideas and chat on greener and eco friendly living visit Greener Sedgefield on Facebook.

Groups merge to safeguard Sedgefield's ancient Church

Two organisations dedicated to preserving and developing Sedgefield's ancient parish church are to amalgamate so they are 'better able to face the great challenges that lie ahead'.

In a joint statement, the Friends of St Edmund's and the church's Inspired Futures development project team say that this move will be in the best interests of those who want to ensure that the 900-year-old building is preserved for future generations, as well as those who would like to see greater use of its facilities by present-day community groups.



Dr Alistair Irvine, chairman of the Friends, and Mr Brian Mutch, who chairs the Inspired Futures group, say that the amalgamation is 'an obvious step since the two committees already work closely together and have many of the same people in their leadership teams'.

The primary role of the Friends of St Edmund's is to preserve the fabric of the building. In the past 20 years, group members have raised over £160,000 for preservation work and improvements to both the interior and exterior of the church.

The Inspired Futures team was formed three years ago in response to a Diocesan-inspired initiative devised to safeguard ancient buildings and make them more readily available for wider community use. Its members are currently working with Sedgefield Local History Society to establish a local heritage centre in the North transept at St Edmund's.

Sedgefield News: from the past

by Martin F Peagam, The Time Traveller, for Sedgefield Local History Society.

In March 1920: 100 years ago

There were a lot of cases of Scarlet Fever in the district, many of them children. Robert Harle, a miner, was admitted to the Sedgefield Isolation Hospital. However, he did not like being around children, and went home. He was arrested and fined £3 for leaving the hospital without permission.

In March 1919: 101 years ago

The Durham Winter Assizes held before Mr Justice Bray heard twenty cases. 10 of the cases involved charges of bigamy.

One of those charged with bigamy was William Morris, aged 35, a miner who had served in the army during the First World War. Morris pleaded guilty to a charge of bigamy with Elizabeth Dixon at Sedgefield.

Having been described as a being 'of good character', Morris was sentenced to eight months in prison. Cases of bigamy were common after both the First and Second World Wars, when people, having married on the understanding that their previous partners were 'missing, believed killed', only for those partners to return.

In March 1870: 150 years ago

For stealing a piece of mutton valued at 1s 1d from a stall at Stockton market, John Dawson was sentenced to 'only 14 days imprisonment'. Mr Dawson, although now a hay and straw dealer living in Carlton, had previously been a 'respectable farmer' from Sedgefield. The court took into account the fact that Mr Dawson had pleaded guilty and his previous good character.

In the same month, an inquest was convened to consider the death of Thomas Urwin, a 'criminal patient' at the Sedgefield Asylum who had been admitted to the asylum in April 1868. The inquest heard that Urwin had retired to bed at his usual time, but was found dead the next morning. The inquest concluded that he had suffered a fit during the night and suffocated. He was 41 years old.

VE Celebrations 8th/9th May

Sedgefield Local History group is holding an exhibition in Ceddesfeld Hall to commemorate VE Day. It has a considerable collection of archive material but would love to hear from anyone who would like to loan or donate photos, documents, newspaper articles or to share family memories and stories. Please contact Norma Neal on 620091 or norma@neal.myzen.co.uk

Important for all Women aged from 24 1/2 - 64 THIS ARTICLE COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

A colleague of mine recently attended a funeral for a close friend who died after being diagnosed with cervical cancer. She had first visited the doctors just a few weeks before, and she was only 36 years old.

Cervical cancer takes many years to develop, so if it's discovered early, the survival rates are high. This is where screening comes in.

The introduction of the smear test has dramatically reduced the number of deaths from cervical cancer. It's estimated that screening saves around 2,000 lives every year.

Many find the test embarrassing and, let's be honest, it's uncomfortable. It would be a lot better if we could find an easier way, but until that happens, cervical screening via a smear test is the best way you can protect yourself.

Most of the tests find nothing, but early diagnosis means there is a wide range of treatment options available.

The nurses at Skerne Medical Group are running a clinic on Saturday 7th March between 9am and 12 noon at Sedgefield Surgery.

Bookable appointments are available (call 01740 620 300) but you can also turn up on the day. You will be able to have a test, but you can also just pop in and talk to someone about any concerns you might have.

All the nurses at the clinic will be female and are really committed to making the experience as pleasant as possible.

Remember, if you have any symptoms (unusual vaginal bleeding, pain in the lower back or pelvis) please don't wait for a screening letter, but contact the surgery immediately.

Nearly 8 in 10 eligible women do have a regular smear test – so what's stopping you? If you feel you would like more information, please visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-cancer.

Sedgefield company makes a splash

Demeter Water Solutions Limited has been shortlisted for the Company of the Year Award (Durham / Sunderland & South Tyneside region) at the prestigious North East Business Awards. It's a great achievement to be nominated and the winner will be revealed on 12 March.

Founder and director, Andy Smedley is passionate about saving water and after a long career in the water industry he wanted to use his experience to help customers.

Appropriately named after the Greek goddess of water, Demeter was set up in 2008 and moved to Sedgefield in 2014, where it now employs ten people, including Andy's wife, Liz. The company installs and monitors data loggers (see photos) to measure water flow rate and transmit the data for analysis. The company software makes it easy to spot anomalies in the supply - anything from a running tap to a serious leak. A running tap can use between 500 and 600 litres of water per hour and the small hole pictured right cost over £6,000 per year in leaking water.

Demeter's equipment monitors the water usage and their staff alert customers when there is a problem and will arrange repairs if required.

While many customers are in the North East, the company works extensively further afield, from Thurso to Penzance.

Demeter monitors supplies for organisations in sectors such as social care, health, education and manufacturing, as well as supporting well-known customers including

Newcastle United, the Baltic, the Theatre Royal, and Durham University.

Increasingly their customers are concerned about the environmental impact of water use with significant amounts of energy required for the transport and treatment of the water supply.

Newcastle University presented the company with their Contribution to Ethical, Social and Environmental Responsibility Award in 2019, after they identified a significant leak in one of the halls of residences that happened on Christmas Day. Without monitoring, this would have wasted significant amounts of water and cost many thousands of pounds in charges.

To mark the 2020 Olympics, Demeter Water Solutions Ltd is trying save customers the equivalent of 100 Olympic size swimming pools - around 250 million litres of water. It has made a significant contribution already, with enough water saved in January alone to fill 18 pools.

A recent contract with a large water provider to supply monitoring for public sector organisations in Scotland promises a bright future for this local company.

When asked for a tip for domestic customers, Andy warned that

Citizen of the Year 2019

It's time for you to help us to find the unsung heroes of Sedgefield.

This award celebrates people who go the extra mile to serve the community and is open to anyone who lives or works in the town.

Sedgefield Town Council, Sedgefield Development Trust and the Rotary Club of Sedgefield invite residents of Sedgefield to nominate friends, colleagues or acquaintances who they believe deserve recognition for exceptional contributions during 2019. The successful nominee is chosen by a panel drawn from these three partners plus the previous year's winner, who last year was Sarah Guest.

Young Citizen of the Year

2019 will be the second year in which we recognise the contribution that our young people make to their community. Victoria Sirrell was the inaugural winner for her contribution to Girlguiding.

A nomination form should be enclosed in your copy of Sedgefield News; extra copies are available at the town council offices on Front Street or can be downloaded from www.sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk

The deadline for entries is Thursday, 26th March 2020.

The winner will receive their award at the annual town meeting on Tuesday 5th May.

modern toilets often leak, trickling water into the bowl, and use large amounts of water without you noticing. Keep an eye on your meter readings and you could save **£££s**.



Andy & Liz Smedley of Demeter Water Solutions Ltd

The Data Logger

A very expensive hole in a pipe!



ARTS UPDATE

sedgefieldartsandevents@hotmail.com

The Manor House now on national music venue map
Independent Venue Weekend supported by BBC Sounds and BBC 6 Music took place in the last week in January with The Manor House taking part over the final weekend, staging three great gigs and spotlighting local performers.

The weekend got off to a hugely successful start with two of the current members of North East legends, Lindisfarne performing previously unreleased songs by the late frontman of the band, Alan Hull. Dave Hull-Denholm (Alan's son-in-law) with a voice uncannily resonant of Alan's own, and bassist Ian Thomson interpreted Alan's lyrics in a memorable and thought-provoking performance, and of course they performed many Lindisfarne classics including memorable versions of *Run For Home* & *Clear White Light*. Alan Hull is surely still underrated as a song-writer and North East legend who has left a massive legacy and enduring influence on North East music. Much of the music performed is available on the Album 'The Alan Hull Songbook'.

On Saturday evening Michael and Gary Chaplin gave an early performance of *The Bird Scarers*, regaling the audience with fascinating, wide-ranging anecdotes from the Chaplin family history. Michael is son of North East writer and poet, Sid Chaplin, born in Shildon and lived in Ferryhill and Gary is his nephew. The show is surely destined to go out to a wider audience.

Promoter John Tate brought along three talented local songwriters for a performance on Sunday afternoon, of original material for *The Manor House Songwriters Afternoon*. Dave Needham (Whitby), Hayley McKay (Darlington) and veteran Phil Cafferty (Wallsend) entertained in turn to introduce and perform their own songs to the appreciative audience. Phil has a long pedigree with The Caffreys and in his own right, Dave is an excellent guitarist and talented singer/songwriter and Hayley, whose voice has country influences, has performed by invitation in Nashville. All three are up-and-coming on the North East music circuit.

The ambience of the historic Manor House was enjoyed by an audience that included many new visitors and the Pineapple Bar in the cellars was well stocked with good beers and wines for the weekend!

Independent Venue Week is a growing annual event and we can look forward to it coming round again in 2021.

Ean Parsons



Dave Hull-Denholm



Ian Thomson



Hayley McKay & Dave Needham



The Bird Scarers at The Manor House

Concert for a Changing World Saturday 7th March

**Keith James returns with
 A Concert for a Changing World'**

Including songs by Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell and Nina Simone as well as by Keith himself, expect a powerful & thought-provoking performance.

**Tickets are £15 from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/>
 keithjamesconcerts or as above from
 The Manor House
 01740 629264 or
 enquiries@manorhousesedgefield.co.uk**



At the blues club anniversary gig on March 6th (details in the Diary) we'll be supporting the Youth Club, another volunteer run club.

All proceeds from the raffle will go to this community fund. Prizes include, 2 tickets to the next gig, artist CDs, t-shirts, wine & beer tokens. So if you're coming along it would be great if you could buy tickets.



We are still looking for someone to write the Arts page.
 It's a great chance for anyone interested in the arts to report on local events, activities & groups or to write about local artists. No publishing skills required - just the ability to type something up in an email. **Please get in touch - Sedgefield News needs you!**
 Contact details are on the front page. Thanks.

DIARY MARCH 2020

Submit events to diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

- Fri 27th** **Sedgefield in Bloom Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10-11.30am. Refreshments, home-made cakes and scones, book stall, tombola, and raffle.
- Mon 2nd** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm. 'History of Mining in the Northeast of England' by Peter Sagar. Contact Suzanne Hopper 01429 888250.
- Sedgefield Methodist Wives & Friends**. Rainbow Singers. Contact Margaret Dickerson 01740 621093 or Jennifer Mason 01740 620296.
- Tue 3rd** **Sedgefield Tea Dance**, Sedgefield Parish Hall 1-3pm, £2.50 including refreshments. Joyce 01740 622601 or Ann 01740 629070 for details.
- Wed 4th** **Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch Meeting**, Sedgefield Social Club (Upstairs Room) from 7pm.
- Sedgefield Women's Institute**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7.15pm. 'History of the National Garden Scheme' by Iain Anderson, Fairtrade Fortnight Display, competition: home-grown bulbs in a small pot/bowl
- Fri 6th** **Veterans Coffee morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-12pm.
- Sedgefield & District U3A** Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Peter Barron, 'Grandad at Large on'. Guests welcome, £3 at the door.
- World of Prayer Service**, prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe. St. Edmund's Church at 2pm.
- Quiz night**, Sedgefield Cricket Club. 8.30pm with John Bryant.
- Blues Club** 10th Anniversary gig, Gerry Jablonski + Paul Cowley, tickets from www.sedgefieldblues.com
- Tue 10th** **Ladies Club**, Ceddesfeld Hall, Medieval Fayre Fundraiser
- Thu 12th** **Sedgefield Show Committee Meeting**, Sedgefield Social Club at 8pm. All meetings are open to everyone who would like to get involved.
- Fri 13th** **Country Market**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10-11.30am. Cakes, crafts, plants, refreshments, everyone welcome.
- Mon 16th** **Sedgefield Family History Group**, Methodist Church Hall at 7.15pm. 'Old Stockton—Part 2' with Lynn Lamport.
- Tue 17th** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7.30pm. 'The Art of Simplicity' with Sue Waring. Members free, £5 non-members.
- Sedgefield Tea Dance**, details as Tuesday 3rd.
- Thu 19th** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Fire Station, 10.30-12pm. For dementia clients and their carers only.
- Fri 20th** **Sedgefield Women's Institute**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-11.30am. Raffle, cakes, all welcome.
- Live Music Night** at Sedgefield Cricket Club, 7.45pm. Fund raiser for the Folk Festival with local performers. Admission £10, call 01740 621347 for more details.
- Tue 24th** **Mordon & District Ladies Circle**, Mordon Village Hall, 7.30pm. Talk by Mel Gray.
- Fri 27th** **Sedgefield in Bloom Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10-11.30am. Refreshments, home made cakes and scones, book stall, tombola, and raffle.

Playgroup Mix-Up

The **DIARY** has incorrectly referred to the **Sedgefield Playgroup** as the **Sedgefield Methodist Hall Non-Profit Playgroup**. Whilst the group is based in the Methodist Hall and is non-profit, it is not affiliated with the Methodist Church. The group is for children over the age of 2 to be left by parents and carers under supervision for two hours.

Sedgefield Baby and Toddler Group is for parents and carers who stay with their children during the session. Apologies for any confusion.

Forward dates

Fri 8th & Sat 9th May
VE Day Bank Holiday
weekend celebrations
Local History Society
Exhibition

from 10am - 4pm in
Ceddesfeld Hall

VE Night Dance

Saturday 9th May, in the Parish Hall, hosted by Sedgefield in Bloom.

Further details of both events from Norma Neal on 620091 or norma@neal.myzen.co.uk



Sedgefield Library
Tel: 03000 269521 Opening Hours:
Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm
Thursdays: 10am - 6pm
Fridays: 1pm - 7pm
Saturdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm
Digital Support : 1st & 3rd Thursdays:
10.30am - 12.30pm
'Boogie Beat' pre-school session:
Thursdays 2pm: Booking essential
Craft Group: 1.30pm 2nd & 4th Friday
Book Circle: 3rd Friday 2pm: new members always welcome.

The Hub

@Sedgefield Community College
New Dance Generation - Mon
U9s 5-5.45pm. Over 9s 5.45-6.30pm
Clubercise: Tues 6pm
Zumba: Tues 6.30pm & Thurs 7pm
Blade Taekwondo: Sat 10.30am
Call 01740 617882 for all enquiries.

Sedgefield Social Club

Entertainment every Saturday

Sew Easy Sessions

Mon 6.30-9pm: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th
Wed 1-4pm: 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
Venue: Parish Hall Boardroom.

Ceddesfeld Acoustic Group

2nd Fri & last Wed of every month.
All instruments welcome.

St John Fisher Catholic Church Weekly Mass Times

Weds & Fri mornings, 9.45am
Sunday 10.45am. Thurs 7pm Adoration
Friday am after Mass, Legion of Mary
parishsecretary1961@btconnect.com

New Generation Church

Every Sunday in March
Bethany Centre, Newton Aycliffe.

St. Edmund's Church

Weekly service times:
Mon 8.30am: Morning Prayer
Wed 10am: Eucharist
1st & 3rd Sun 8am: Eucharist
1st, 3rd & 5th Sun: 10am Eucharist
2nd Sun: Morning Worship
4th Sun: Team Eucharist

Sedgefield Playgroup

Mon, Wed & Thursday 9.30-11.30am in
term time at the Methodist Hall
For children aged 2 to 4. Contact Barbara
Smith 01740 620923 or Jane Jones
01740 620893

S'field Baby & Toddler Group

Tuesdays in term time 9.30-11.30am
at Ceddesfeld Hall.
Facebook: [sedgefieldplaygroup](https://www.facebook.com/sedgefieldplaygroup)

Wiggles & Wobbles

Term time on Wednesdays, 10-10.45am &
11.00-11.45am in the Parish Hall.
For children 0 to 4

Breastfeeding Cafe

Wed: 1.30-3.00pm
Fishburn Education Centre

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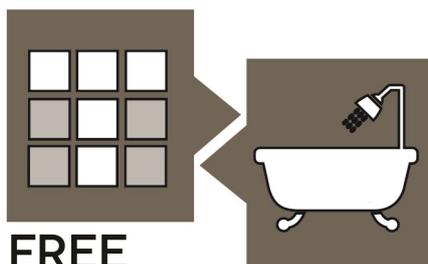
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Callan 101 Extension 742317:

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Confidential email address:

John.lamb@durham.pnn.police.uk

SEDGEFIELD VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We Want to Give You Some Money

Residents in Sedgefield are being contacted by organisations who have telephoned or e-mailed to say that they are owed some money and they would like to pay you as soon as possible.

Great news? Not likely! In 99.9% of cases it is a scam, unless you have a dead relative or have won the lottery and in each case you will probably already be aware prior to any official notifications.

However, don't be surprised if you find it convincing, as these are some very sophisticated scams. One recent example is a Sedgefield man who had owned shares in the past which he had sold but was told he had been given 'bonus shares which he could now cash in'. A lot of correct data had been acquired about his previous shares, which gave the scam enormous credibility. Thankfully in this case he did not hand over his bank details or he could have found his account emptied very quickly.

If someone wants to give you money, there is always a catch. Stick to the principles we have regularly repeated here and never give your bank details to anyone who has contacted you until you have done your own research and even taken independent advice to check their credibility. Take your time. Nothing is so urgent that it needs an answer immediately. If in any doubt whatsoever, reject it.

Our next NHW Meeting is on 4th March. On Sunday 1st March you can come and see us at the Community Stall at the Farmers Market, where you can meet Police Community Officers and we'll have free security items to give away.



Police Report

Contact details this month are at the foot of column 3 on the previous page. Most of you will be aware of the ram raid on the Premier Store in January where a transit van was reversed into the shopfront during the night. The same vehicle was used in other robberies the same evening. Police have made good progress with the investigation.

Following a previous unrelated robbery at the same store a few weeks earlier, the perpetrator was arrested and has been given a four-year jail sentence. Also, a man from Horden pleaded guilty to a series of burglaries at the Co-op and was sentenced to three years and four months in prison.

In addition to some other minor incidents, there have been two traffic related incidents where a man was narrowly missed by a speeding car (Police have located the driver) and separately, a six year old boy was knocked down. Both occurred in the village centre and the boy's mum has set up a Petition with Durham County Council demanding an urgent review of pedestrian safety, traffic calming and road crossings in Sedgefield. Action is needed BEFORE there is a fatality.

We are asking all residents to sign this Petition. To do so please go to: <https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay> or search Democracy.Durham.gov.uk and select ePetitions in the menu.

Crimestoppers

Thanks to Crimestoppers Regional Manager, Ruth McNee who gave a presentation at the last NHW Meeting and covered the following:

The organisation is an independent charity funded partly by the Home Office, set up in 1988 following the Broadwater Farm riots in which PC Keith Blakelock was murdered.

The telephone line is an anonymous reporting line. The identity of callers is not known to Crimestoppers and no information is held which will identify a caller. The telephone line is open every day of the year for 24 hours per day and is always manned by trained volunteers.

Crimestoppers has partnerships with all police forces in the country, as well as other law enforcement agencies and the commercial sector.

Rewards for information are sometimes offered – usually up to £1000. Campaigns are also run on crime to raise public awareness.

People tend to contact Crimestoppers instead of the police for a number of reasons: fear of retribution; they don't like to talk to the police; they don't want to bother the police; it is a delicate family related issue.

Fearless.org also exists as a Crimestoppers Youth Service and has 15 outreach workers in the UK. The aim is to educate and empower young people to talk about crime. If you are under 18 why not take a look and find out more? You never know when it will be useful.

SPEAK UP. STOP CRIME is Crimestoppers strap line.

Call 0800 555111 if you see anything suspicious or have any information at all about an incident, or if something just doesn't seem right.

When is Easter?

This year the date of Easter Sunday is April 12. Last year it was April 21 and next year it will fall on April 4.

In fact, the date of Easter Sunday can be as early as March 22, which last occurred in the year 1818 (the next one being in 2285) or as late as April 25. You'll have to wait until 2038 for that one and it last occurred in 1943. So why? Well the answer is very complicated!

A simplified definition is "Easter is the first Sunday following the first full moon occurring on or after March 21" - but lurking behind that definition is a minefield of astronomical & religious complexity, involving the date March 21 and the definition of a full moon!

Our Gregorian calendar is based on the movement of Earth around the sun (our planet's orbit) i.e. the time taken for one orbit = one year.

Christmas has a fixed date because it is simply defined as occurring on a specific day in the solar calendar.

However, the definition of the date of Easter is determined by an attempt to relate the motion of the moon around the earth (the lunar calendar defined by the phases of the moon) to the solar calendar. If the motion of the moon around the earth was synchronised with the motion of the earth around the sun, then relating a phase of the moon to a specific date in the solar year would be predictable.

But the moon orbits the earth about 29.53 times in a solar year. Similarly, there are not a whole number of rotations of the earth 365.242 days. This results in any attempt to nominate the date of an event, in terms of harmonising the solar and lunar calendars, is destined for trouble! The date of that event is inevitably going to wobble around from year to year! So the dates of Easter, the Chinese New Year and other religious festivals, change each year.

So why not use a set date in the solar calendar as we do for Christmas? The quick answer is religious history. Firstly, it has to occur on a Sunday; according to Christian teaching, Jesus rose from the dead on the first Sunday after the Feast of the Passover. Secondly, March 21 was chosen as it is the date of the Spring (Vernal) Equinox, significant in several religious festivals. How much simpler if the **Easter Act (1928)** were to be enforced! This Act of Parliament was introduced as a Private Members Bill, defining the date of Easter as "the first Sunday occurring after the second Saturday in April" but though the Bill successfully passed through Parliament and received the Royal Assent, it has never been activated. Perhaps it should? *Allan Fletcher*

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY MARCH 2020

In between meetings recently, I had a lunchtime walk in Middlesbrough and I heard the familiar sound "chik chik" and there again "chik". This was followed by a drumming sound - I was listening to the sounds of a Great spotted woodpecker setting up their territory. The "chik chik chik" is a good call to learn, because invariably, if when you hear it you check the tops of the trees, you have a chance of seeing this woodland bird.

At about the size of a blackbird, black and white with white shoulder patches and red under the tail, it is often seen perching high at the top of trees that look too flimsy to hold the bird. Males have a red patch at the back of the head. The only thing you might confuse it with is the Lesser spotted woodpecker, which is much smaller (about the size of a sparrow) and not very common in this area.



Great spotted woodpeckers eat insects and larvae, probing tree trunks with their extremely sticky tongues to extract them from their nests. In autumn and winter, they will switch to eating berries and nuts, and will visit peanut feeders in gardens. Sometimes you will even get family groups visiting gardens together. It nests in holes that it excavates in trees in broadleaved woodlands, large parks and gardens. The drumming noise you hear is made by the woodpecker hitting its beak against the tree trunk at around 20 times a second. Woodpeckers don't get headaches from pecking. They have reinforced skulls structured to spread the impact force, and their brains are highly cushioned and protected from repeated impacts and jostling. Up until 1926 it was thought that they made this sound vocally until a sound recordist put a microphone in a tree and watched the woodpecker and they synchronised the bill contact with the sound.

Watch one for a while and you will see it has a distinctive, bouncy up & down flight. You can sometimes see them chasing each other, especially in spring when they are setting up territories. If you're really lucky you might be able to follow them back to their nest site where you can watch

from a distance and follow their progress.

The walk I had taken was in Linthorpe Cemetery, one of the largest green spaces in the borough of Middlesbrough, so these were really urban woodpeckers. This is one of Middlesbrough's oldest graveyards and consists of 52 acres. The cemetery is a repository of the town's civic heritage, charting the rise of the town's industrial growth in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The cemetery is a designated Local Nature Reserve and the Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery regularly hold history, nature and environmental events throughout the year.

The group has worked with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust and other organisations to produce a management plan and because parts of the cemetery are a designated nature reserve, it does appear a little wild in places; this is deliberate, and important for our local environment.

You are likely to hear great spotted woodpeckers in many woodlands. Some of the best local sites include Hardwick Hall Country Park, Houghall, Sunderland Bridge and Durham Botanic Gardens. So next time you are out and about, listen for that "chik chik" call.

Do you have an interest in shaping the education of the children of Sedgefield, and skills you could offer?

Sedgefield Primary School is looking for a new member of our Governing Body who has skills to contribute (an interest in finance would be of particular benefit). Training and support will be provided.

Our Governors are friendly, welcoming and dedicated. They thoroughly enjoy their role and find it interesting and rewarding.

If you are interested in finding out more, please ring the Headteacher, Andrea Cox, on 01740 620359 or send an email to

sedgefield.primary@durhamlearning.net and she will be happy to discuss the role in more detail.

Online Safety

by Hardwick Primary School

Recently we celebrated Online Safety Day in school, where the focus was on our 'Online Identity'. We explored the theme of 'Free to be me!' and considered all of the ways we can express ourselves on the internet safely. We discussed what is safe to share online, such as our hobbies, interests and experiences, whilst ensuring that we keep our private information, such as names, addresses and contact details, private.

We participated in activities such as creating our own avatars online, and explained how those avatars can have the same features as us, such as glasses or brown hair, the same colour eyes or the same colour clothes, and are much safer than using a picture of ourselves!

This has tied in neatly with our school's Computing lessons this term, which have been focussed on Computer Science - specifically coding! We have been learning to put together algorithms through sequences of code, and also how to debug them when things go wrong! We have used exciting apps on our iPads in order to do this, and learnt the vital coding skills ready for when we use physical coding to code robots in the summer term! Here we will be using the Sphero robot to complete tasks that we have created on our iPads! We are also considering other exciting activities and hardware that we can add to our curriculum in the future!

Technology is awesome - when it's used safely!

***** Can you spare an hour or two? Do you like being outdoors? *****

* Sedgefield in Bloom is a voluntary group working in partnership with Sedgefield Town Council and their gardeners.

* Throughout the year, the Bloomers carry out a wide variety of activities – gardening and otherwise - to keep our small town looking blooming beautiful.

* New Bloomers are very welcome. No specialist knowledge is required, just enthusiasm and a desire to keep Sedgefield looking its best for everyone.

* For more information or to join us, contact Bloom Secretary, Norma Neal on **01740 620091** or norma@neal.myzen.co.uk or the Bloom Chairman, Howard Smith smithhb17695@yahoo.co.uk



CEDESSELD HALL

Home of Sedgefield Community Association

SCA are very pleased to welcome **Sedgefield baby & toddler group**. It runs every Tuesday from 9.15 am to 11.15am in term time. All preschool children, parents and carers are welcome. It is £3 per family and refreshments, as well as lots of good fun, are provided. Enquiries can be made via Facebook or email sedgefieldplaygroup@gmail.com

On Saturday March 7th at 7.30 pm, Ceddesfeld Ukulele Band will hold their **Spring Kanikapila**. The event is free and all are welcome to join us in a happy evening of popular songs and tunes.

The annual **Egg Hunt** (under 12's) takes place on **Easter Monday** 13th April. As well as a hunt for Easter eggs hidden in the grounds, there are prizes for different age groups and an Easter bonnet and decorated egg competition. The afternoon begins at 1.45 pm in the main hall with the selection of the **Mediaeval Fayre May Queen** and her attendants (raffle ticket draw). The egg hunt begins at 2 pm. This is a free event, sponsored by SCA and the Mediaeval Fayre Committee. The bar is also open.

St George's Dinner, a fund raiser for the Mediaeval Fayre takes place on Saturday 25th April. The evening starts with a drinks reception at 7 pm, followed by soup, chicken casserole & vegetables, dessert, cheese board and coffee or tea and mints to finish. Entertainment is provided by the very popular Lirica. At a very reasonable price of just £20, tickets are going fast. To book a place please contact Pat on 01740 620607 or John on 01740 620042.

SCA welcomes **Northern Creators Wedding Fair** on Sunday 3rd May from 1 pm to 4 pm A wide range of fabulous displays and exhibits are planned for the main hall, upstairs and in a marquee on the lawns, including a donkey and an alpaca! All enquiries to Amie Davies. Email diy-a-wedding@hotmail.com.

On Friday 8th May, a special **VE Day 75th Anniversary** community event will take place at Ceddesfeld. A day of entertainment for all the family is planned. Much more on this next month but put the date in your diary!

Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre is on Saturday 16th May and SCA are keen to hear from local companies who wish to offer sponsorship.

For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, contact Wendy, 01740 620206; Pat 01740 620607 or Sarah 01740 622185. Follow us on Facebook or visit our website, www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk.

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST NEWS

Working for the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Fishburn



It has been a very busy year for the project which has seen an increase in interest from the community, resulting in the number of Facebook followers rising to 88, many of whom have volunteered onsite, as either one off or regular volunteers - as well as others who like to follow the project's news.

The work carried out on site has included planting around 400 more native trees in March 2019, totalling around 1200 since the project began. This has involved our hardy and valuable volunteers in many hours of maintenance jobs.

Then, as well as looking after what existed prior to planting, we have created a variety of habitats such as scrapes and log piles to encourage greater biodiversity.

Notable species on site this year include buzzard, kestrel, marsh harrier, smooth newts, pipistrelle & noctule bats and voles, plus the many different wildflowers, insects, butterflies and moths. A visual record of flora and fauna is kept on our Facebook page.

In February we started spending the funding from the AAP East Durham Rural Corridor. This was spent on a shipping container and a selection of tools. More recently funding was secured from Discover Brightwater, spending has only just begun, but it is hoped that the money will open up new opportunities and allow us to promote the project to the community, as well as give us some more practical resources.

Other positives this year were seeing the site from the eyes of a drone and Inspiring North East TV making a short film of the project.

Spring is on its way!

To mark the Spring Equinox we are having an open event. Join our friendly volunteers for a morning to spot the signs of spring, make some bug homes or get stuck in and give the Woodland & Wildlife site some essential tender loving care.

When? Saturday 21st March

Time? 10am - 12 noon

Where? NETPark, TS21 3FH
(follow green sign/arrows from Discovery 1 and 2 car park)

Sedgefield Farmers Market

Sunday 1st March, 8.30am - @12.30

We have double Charity Stalls this month, with both Neighbourhood Watch and Sedgefield Scouts putting in an appearance. The Scouts are fundraising to send local scouts to Eurojam in Poland later this year.

For the rest we simply hope it can match last month's buzz!

farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk
charitystall@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk

The Bees at Hardwick

There may be space here for more beekeepers, subject to you having undertaken beginners training with a recognised association.

Aycliffe Beekeepers Association is running a beekeeping course for beginners at Moore Lane Eco Centre in Newton Aycliffe on the 16th/17th May.

It covers the history of beekeeping, the beekeeping year, how a hive is put together, how to spot & control pests & diseases, what to do when bees swarm, how to stop them, and further education & literature.

Open to all ages, the cost is £50 for an individual, £75 for a couple.

All equipment provided + a cup of coffee. Bring your own lunch.

To discuss further/reserve a place please call Chris Barker on **07421 471581** or email

training.aycliffbeeka@gmail.com.

For an informal chat about the Bees at Hardwick, call Ian or Clare Midgeley on 01325 308283.



A project of Sedgefield Development Trust

Homework Help warmly welcomes its latest kind volunteer, who already has a pretty full schedule of sessions! Many thanks to the generous soul who donated some maths course books at the library for our use - they are already proving helpful. I don't know your name, but you are much appreciated.

Katie, Gary and the library team are, as ever, being very helpful and they accommodate our growing numbers creatively. We're hoping to branch out into sessions on Tuesdays, if we can find a suitable venue.

Students and helpers are working hard - we hope that Homework Help helps! That's our simple goal.

CONTACTING SEDGEFIELD NEWS

Our email address is changing to bring it into line with other SDT projects. Please contact us at news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk

SPORTS UPDATE

Email your reports to chrisjlines@aol.com

The horrible weather that we've been enduring lately isn't deterring the sportspeople of Sedgefield, although it has caused the postponement or cancellation of one or two outdoor events. Meanwhile, preparations for a glorious summer(!) are already underway and it won't be long before sports like cricket and outdoor bowls start their seasons. Talking of bowls, this month's update includes a profile of Fishburn Bowls Club, which is keen to engage with potential new members of all ages.

Youth Football

The Sedgefield Youth FC U10 Saturday team is celebrating after claiming yet another title.

For the third year running, they have finished top of their division in the Russel Foster Winter League. This means that Sedgefield have moved up eight divisions in the 27 months since the team started competing.

The Sunday team is proving just as successful, currently sitting on top of their division in the Teesside Junior Football Alliance with an astonishing 15 wins out of 15.

The management, parents and players would like to thank Bradley Saunders and his company SLS road maintenance for vital sponsorship that has supported the club.



CLUB PROFILE An introduction to Fishburn Bowls Club

Bowls is a sport that is enjoyed by players of all ages. A minimum level of fitness is required, together with an enjoyment of gentle exercise, fresh air and friendly company. Fishburn Bowls Club welcomes anyone, male or female, and of any age (young children have to be accompanied by a responsible adult) and membership is not restricted to Fishburn residents.

Annual membership for 2020 is £17 per person and provides access to the bowling green and clubhouse.

The green is generally available for play between the end of April and the beginning of September, subject to the agreement of the green keeper. Between those dates, members can use the green as frequently as they choose without further charge.

There is no dress code beyond the wearing of shoes with flat soles, though if a member wishes to play in the leagues in which the club competes then those leagues' dress codes must be adhered to. This is generally grey trousers/skirt and white shirt/blouse.

The clubhouse consists of three structures, a kitchen with water and electricity, a changing room, and toilets. There are a number of sets of bowls at the club which can be used by potential members to help them decide if the sport is to their liking before they incur any expense.

Currently the club plays in 4 leagues:

- The Durham and District Bowling league on Saturday afternoons
- The South West Durham Bowling league on Monday evenings
- The South West Durham Veterans Bowling league on Wednesday afternoons
- The Cleveland & Teesside Bowling league on Thursday evenings.

Members who wish to represent the club in any of these leagues inform

the Selection Committee of the dates they are available.

The club meets times each month in May, June, July and August for its own internal competition/practice/coaching. The dates for these popular occasions are announced at the Spring Meeting (details below) and guests are welcome to go along and watch or join.

For league games played away from Fishburn, the club currently hires a 12-seater taxi to transport the members. A charge of £3 per player per game is collected on the taxi for this service. For league games played at home a charge of £1 per player per game is collected before the start of the games.

Fishburn Bowls Club will hold its Spring Meeting at Fishburn Working Men's Club on Thursday 9th April, starting at 6.30pm.

Potential new members are invited to attend to see how the club operates and to meet the 20+ current members who keep it going over 60 years after its formation.

For further details please contact the secretary, Mrs Carol Mason on **07446 032450** or **01740 238443** or the treasurer, Terry Graham on **01740 621627**.

Location. You will find Fishburn Bowls Club between the football pitches and the Fishburn Youth & Community Centre, off Butterwick Road in Fishburn.

Cricket

There are fewer bigger names in the world of cricket than Sir Ian Botham, so it is no wonder that there's much anticipation ahead of his appearance for a special event at Sedgefield Cricket Club.

On Thursday 26th March, 'Beefy' will host an evening at the club, when he will be entertaining the audience with tales from his remarkable career as a world class all rounder, charity fundraiser and broadcaster, as well as sharing insights from his current role at Durham CCC.

Tickets, at £25 including a bottle from Sir Ian's wine range, have been selling extremely well, but there are a few left at the time of writing. To book a ticket, visit the clubhouse - the best times for this probably being Wednesday to Friday evenings or Saturday afternoon.

Meanwhile indoor winter training is well underway, with cricketers of all ages from Sedgefield preparing for the summer season ahead.

While the weather is wild outside, players and coaches have been making good use of indoor facilities in locations such as Coxhoe and Durham University's Sports and Wellbeing Park at Maiden Castle.

Squash

As we move into March, we are reaching the business end of the squash season, and this year there really might be a lot to celebrate at Sedgefield Squash Club.

After winning all 11 of their opening fixtures Sedgefield Ladies have put themselves in with a tremendous chance of winning the Durham & Cleveland League Championship for the very first time. The final match is scheduled for 3rd March so watch this space for news of the final outcome.

Internally, the annual Club Championships are getting underway, including all of the junior age categories and the veteran age groups for those whose odds of winning the main event have somewhat lengthened. Finals week isn't until late April, but with so many matches needed to determine the winners the competition gets started in plenty of time!

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

