

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

November 2012



Free inside - a special supplement to celebrate Sedgefield's Market Charter

Bonfire Night Safety

Autumn! Our wet Summer and the Olympics fade into memory and Bonfire Night is upon us. Are you planning a fireworks party with friends and their kids; maybe some drinks and a few fireworks to celebrate?

In tough times will you be tempted to buy illegal fireworks to save money?

Robin Turnbull, District Manager for Sedgefield area says "County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service want you to enjoy yourselves on what should be a great night, but the only way that will happen is if everyone stays safe. It's no fun when the illegal fireworks you've bought blow up in your face, it's no fun sitting in hospital, it's no fun being scarred for life and it's no fun if your family and friends are injured."

The reason illegal fireworks are cheaper is that they don't meet safety standards. They are very dangerous. Why not have your friends round for drinks and snacks, then go to an organised display? It will be safer and you'll get much more for your money!

If you must buy your own fireworks, only do so from reputable dealers, otherwise it could end in tragedy.

Follow the Firework Code and the advice on each firework and never let someone who has been drinking alcohol set them off - alcohol and explosives don't mix!

Top tips for staying safe

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Carefully follow instructions on each firework
- Light them at arm's length with a taper
- Stand well back
- Never go back to a lit firework
- Never put fireworks in your pocket
- Never throw fireworks
- Light sparklers 1 at a time; wear gloves
- Never give sparklers to children under 5
- Keep pets indoors

Friends of Sedgefield Library

After the storm of protest which met the proposal to reduce opening times to 20 hours, an Open Meeting has been organised for Friday 2nd November at 7pm in the Parish Hall. The aim is to establish a Friends group which will be able to raise funds that are unavailable to local authorities. The aspiration is to enable the Library to open for 25 hours per week. **Please come - everyone is welcome!**

Historic evening for Sedgefield Squash Club

On 30th September, Sedgefield Squash Club was proud to host the current world number 1 ranked squash player, England's James Willstrop, to play an exhibition match at the club. In front of a crowded balcony, James initially took on various club members for 5 minute spells before playing a game each with our top 2 team players, Stephen Rowsby and Robert Pearce (with most spectators getting a certain amount of satisfaction from seeing these 2 being given the run-around for once!)

James then played his main exhibition match against top County players, Josh Harris and Chris Gillespie. The matches were followed by a question and answer session in Ceddesfeld Hall along with photo opportunities and a book signing, with James and former ladies' world champion, Vanessa Atkinson. James showed himself to be a really good sport, and had some great insights on keeping fit, training, and the bid to make squash an Olympic Sport in 2020. On court the spectators were amazed as to how quickly he was able to get to the ball, despite opponents' best efforts, and all learned much from watching his movement and positioning. However club veteran, Ken Turner, was able to teach James a trick or 2 by beating him in 2 consecutive rallies with cheeky drop shots from James's serve! We believe a call-up to the England coaching team may be on the way...

Below: James & ex ladies' world champion, Vanessa Atkinson, sign books in Ceddesfeld Hall



To contact Sedgefield News call or text 07572 502 904 or email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com



Friendship Day

DIDO held a Friendship Day on Monday 17 September, to celebrate 700 yrs of the Market Charter. Invitations were sent to friends and associates who have supported them in the past and members were really pleased that so many accepted, including Mr & Mrs Smith (Number 4), Derek Lofthouse (Sedgefield Charities), members of the Pop-In team, friends from Ferryhill DIDO, Mr & Mrs Sheppard and many more who have helped us in our fundraising efforts. Sedgefield Primary School Children entertained us wonderfully, as did professional entertainer, Jeff Wright with his little puppet friends. We also want to thank organisations and individuals who have given their support but couldn't be there, in particular, George Bolam, Geoff Rayner (the Dun Cow), Sedgefield Fisheries, Evolution, the Co-op, Cllr & Mrs Brown and Cllr Allan Blakemore, and many other village organisations who have been so generous in their support. Thank you all so much. We had a lovely day and hope that you did too.

Sedgefield Pop in Club: 20th anniversary

Members of the pop in club and guests from Sedgefield Town Council, Rotary Club and the SCA, marked their 20th anniversary in September with a splendid tea party, with decorated cake supplied by No 4, and entertainment by Basil Watson and Mel Broadbelt of the rotary club, and Dave Lee Michaels. Also present was Ian Lavery who, with Derrick Lofthouse had jointly been involved in forming the club. In his address Derrick Lofthouse paid tribute to all who had contributed to the club's success since its inception in September 1992. These included the trustees of Sedgefield charities, members of the pop in club committee, not forgetting Roy Smeeton, our first secretary, ably succeeded by John Hannon, who have administered our affairs; and in particular our present supervisor, Wendy Rowley and her predecessors, Norma Hissett and the late Sheila Garnet along with their respective voluntary helpers, present and past.



Photo courtesy of Geoff Hill

Derrick Lofthouse

Retirement of long-serving Trustee

In October Derrick Lofthouse retired after an association of over 48 years with Sedgefield Charities. During this time Derrick has filled the roles of Clerk, Trustee and vice-Chairman and at his final meeting, fellow Trustees expressed gratitude for his valuable contribution and made a presentation of a picture of Hardwick Hall. During his 48 years Derrick played his part in granting thousands of pounds to Sedgefield residents who have needed support in times of sickness, infirmity and poverty and contributed to the development of others seeking to improve their lives through education and training.



You could say that Derrick created Sedgefield Charities as we know them now, drawing together the many trusts and bequests serving residents of Sedgefield and its surrounding villages, during his time as Clerk. In doing this he consolidated a tradition of aid and support for this community which goes back almost 400 years. For further information about the work of Sedgefield Charities contact the Clerk, John Hannon, on 622512 or at east.house@btinternet.com



The Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, Hartlepool, invite you to a presentation on

'The Life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad'

(may peace and blessings be upon him)

Parish Hall, Sedgefield

Monday 12th November at 7pm

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions, and refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Association founded in 1889, aims to promote peace, respect and understanding to people of all faiths and outlooks.

Sedgefield blues club

When the Northern Echo heard that our Blues Club had Buddy Whittington coming in November they asked for an interview (the article has already appeared if you missed it). They wanted to know how a name of international standing was coming to a place like Sedgefield! Well, those of you who come regularly know the answer.

It is true! The Texan star is on a UK tour with his amazing band and we booked him for Saturday 17th. The online tickets went immediately so we then managed to negotiate a second night on Friday 16th! This man is in the top rank of guitarists in the world not just the UK, standing up there with the likes of Eric Clapton (check u-tube to see them together) and regularly appears in various guitarist magazines as an icon to be emulated.

We are able to attract this level of talent due to the reputation we are gaining in the music world (and Eric's skill as our negotiator of contracts). Artists love the intimacy, the quality of the hall and equipment and the warm welcome and hospitality, plus of course, a receptive, appreciative audience. The secret has spread through the music grapevine over the last three years.

Support is provided by Lawrence Jones Band - worth the £12 ticket price in their own right. If you haven't given it a try, I would urge you to make this the one. Tickets are available online from Sedgefield blues club and from the post office. As usual, silly bar prices and two lovely volunteer barmaids, Judith and Helen (thank you girls). It's on your doorstep. It can't get any better!

Salute our Heroes Concert

**Saturday 17th November
at Sedgefield Racecourse**

This spectacular show has received rave reviews at the Sage Gateshead and other venues throughout the Northeast for over five years. The cast includes military bands, pipes and drums, outstanding singers and dancers who provide a spectacular and colourful show. The show has something for everyone, popular songs, military pomp and ceremony and touch of proms. It will be compered by Alasdair Hutton, who has written and narrated the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo for over 20 years.

Please come and show your support. All proceeds will go to help soldiers at the Personnel Recovery Unit at Catterick Garrison, which helps soldiers from the Northeast who have been wounded or injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. During the interval, a curry supper, with vegetarian option, will be served.

**Tickets: £17 per person
(including supper) are on sale now
Call 01740 621925 to book**

With a target of £20k, Sedgefield Racecourse has raised over £13k so far for the Soldiers' Charity, with our Cycle Challenge & Salute our Heroes Raceday.



Free membership offer to Listening Books

This charity runs a postal and online audiobook library, catering for adults and children with a variety of problems, including visual impairment, physical disability and learning difficulty. Now it can offer a number of free membership places to people who live in Sedgefield but would find the usual membership fees (from £20 to £45 per year) a barrier to joining.

If you or someone you care for struggles to read in the usual way, audiobooks can provide a fantastic experience. Listening Books boasts a huge library of over 7,000 titles to suit all tastes, including the latest bestsellers and classics across a range of genres as well as many non-fiction titles.

Listening Books can also be an extremely useful educational resource for children and young people who struggle to find school books in an accessible format. The charity stocks titles which support the National Curriculum, with set texts and subject guides, many of which are not available on audio elsewhere. To take advantage of this fantastic offer, please contact

Jennifer Ades on 020 7407 9417 or at jades@listening-books.org.uk

More Events

Fireworks at Ceddesheld

Saturday 3rd November, 6.30pm

Tickets in advance from Sedgefield Town Council £2 adult £1 child

"Halloween Howler" competition at 6pm. Bring your carved pumpkin & win a prize

Sedgefield Town Council trip

to Heighley Gate/Newcastle

Wednesday 7th November

Coach leaves Parish Hall at 9am
£8.50. Call 01740 621273 to book

Sedgefield Players present...

Statement Drama Group in two award winning productions from Sedgefield Drama Festival:

Here I Am by Joyce Carol Oates

and The Devil and Billy Markham

by Shel Silverstein

Saturday 10th November,

7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Tickets £6 (concs £5) to include first drink & light buffet, from Tickety-Boo, the council office or call 621771 or 620091

SEDFIELD 700 "BIG SING"

Come and hear **Handel's MESSIAH**

Saturday 17th November at 7pm

St. Edmund's Parish Church

Directed by Arthur Kay, performed by a choir of over 80 singers, accompanied by a string orchestra, with Alex Ord, organ & harpsichord **Admission £5**

Proceeds to Church Lighting Appeal fund

Sedgefield Snow Party

1st December, 1 -5.30pm. Free event on the village green

Santa & his reindeers in the Parish Hall - tickets £2

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

Notes from October 2012 AGM & subsequent Panel Meeting

At the AGM C/man Ken Saiger thanked members for their continuous support during the year and the organisations that help keep N/Hood Watch viable. The Officers from 2011 had *all volunteered* to continue for another year and in the absence of any new *volunteers* were all duly re-elected.

Crime Prevention Officer: Mark Pheasant had been very active in our community, providing weekly talks and advice at the Community Hospital covering Bogus Callers, Doorstep Callers, Personal/Home Security and Crime prevention in general. Mark gave details about the Durham (for over 60's) Handy Man Scheme (costs etc.) and also DCC's Registered Trader Scheme; emphasising ***no-one needs to buy at the door.***

Yet again Mark pointed out that 3 of the 10 reported crimes in the past two months were ***entirely avoidable***, if the victims had secured their vehicles these would not have occurred!

PC Keith Todd circulated his report for the past two months, giving detail for each crime and other content. There were 219 calls, 16 ASB, 31 Suspicious Behaviour, 12 Domestic incidents (none became crime reports) and 10 actual Crimes.

Members & residents present expressed their concern over some undesirable behaviour in Sedgefield – some fights seem to go unrecorded and also drugs abuse in the village. There was useful open discussion and Keith is to follow up on these matters.

Next Panel Meeting (Xmas) - Tuesday 4th Dec at 7pm in Parish Hall

Telephone numbers for advice/assistance: Police 101

Police Crime Prevention Officer Mark Pheasant, 01325 742714

Police Community Liaison Officer Neil Langthorne, 01325 742755

Jottings

There was no meeting in October but the usual PACT (Police & Communities Together) meeting took place at the Neighbourhood Watch meeting.

The meeting on the County Durham Plan and proposed housing development in Sedgefield was held on October 9th and was organised by the Town Council and Partnership Group. Unfortunately, once again, attendance from the community was very low, considering it is such an important issue here. It is really surprising that people who currently have views across open countryside are not commenting on the fact they could, in the not too distant future, have those views filled with a housing estate twice the size of Winterton estate (circa 450 houses). Are you one of those households?

Not only will some residents have the immediate impact of houses in their view. Do you find the village increasingly busy with traffic and parking to be extremely difficult at times? Well imagine what it might be like with a further 750 residences in the village i.e. the proposed 450 housed and the already agreed 300 plus caravan site (people will be able to be resident in the caravans for 11 months of the year and probable the whole year). So think about the impact not only on traffic and parking but schools, doctors and other services in the village. We are running out of time to make views heard on this issue.

On the issue of noise disturbance problems experienced across the village. There has been changes to the structure of Noise control Dept at the local authority. All notifications of upcoming events and any complaints/concerns from residents should be addressed to the Noise Action Team.

Tel: 03000 260995 / 261152 E-mail Pollution.Control@durham.gov.uk

Please do report any noise disturbance you experience. Having incidents reported is the only way the problems can be addressed.

The next Forum meeting is on November 5th at 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome.



PC Todd

Recently properties on the edge of the village have become targets of the more determined criminals. Hardwick Country Park became a victim when its storage containers were forced open and £6000 worth of tools and equipment taken. Two farms on Spring Lane have also become victims. Barbed wire fencing and a farmer's field were no obstacles when these nocturnal lowlife forced their way into barns and sheds to gain access to their booty. One farm suffered the loss of a quad bike, mountain bike and a trials bike (see photo).

The other farm had items moved but left behind. If you would like some advice on providing extra



security for your premises/property please call me on 101 ext 6614670. Dog owners are normally responsible people, who love and adore their animals. These same people should know if their dog is an obedient friend or an aggressive killer. You could be breaking the law by allowing your dog to be dangerously out of control. Recently a lone female was walking her dog when, without warning, another larger dog which was not on a lead attacked her smaller dog. The male owner of the larger dog did not appear overly concerned at the distress caused to the animal or female owner or care about the substantial vet's bills for injuries sustained. If you were this person, do the right thing and contact me.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently at the Crosshill. A number of items were discussed including a disturbance outside the Crosshill over a taxi fare. Also, there was an incident at the Hope Inn after which a male has been given a written warning because of his unacceptable behaviour inside the premises.

P.A.C.T. meeting

At a recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting it was agreed that the local police Beat team would focus their attentions for the next month on parking issues/concerns outside Hardwick and Sedgefield primary schools. Parents please assist us to make these areas a safer place for parents and children to cross the road. If you are travelling by car please do not park close to the entrance to the school and do not cause an obstruction to other road users. This is a gentle reminder before a £30 fine hurts the pocket!

Until next month

Keith

Success again for Sedgefield in Bloom

From Norma Neal: The Royal Horticultural Society awarded Sedgefield a gold medal at the recent Britain in Bloom presentation ceremony on Guernsey. Judges commended the remarkable transformation that has taken place in the two years since Sedgefield won silver in the small town category in this national event. A fine application of horticultural knowledge and technique coupled with exceptional commitment to community created an entry which came within a whisker of winning its class. National judges Rae Beckwith and Jon Wheatley concluded that many new and proposed initiatives assure continued progress in future. Sedgefield in Bloom chairman Howard Smith and town council representative Ian Sutherland collected the award from TV presenter Matt Baker, who sends his love to everyone in Sedgefield! Originally from County Durham, now well known nationally for Countryfile and The One Show, as well as Blue Peter and Strictly, Matt scored a big hit with the audience of over 400 people from all parts of the UK. Sedgefield's success follows the award of a gold medal and Best Small Town in the Northumbria in Bloom awards, announced in September.



Above: Barbara & Howard Smith, Ian Sutherland, Haydn & Norma Neal with the gold medal award .

From Ian Spring: I would like to take this opportunity to thank Graham and Julie Newbold for providing the plants (which we all know are not cheap) to create the displays at The Golden Lion. Not mentioned in last month's report, The Golden Lion gained a Gold Medal in their class, one of 8 awarded. Then at the Civic Trust Awards the Golden Lion gained a Gold Medal, which we were informed was equivalent to the same class at the Chelsea Flower Show, the George Robinson Cup for Best Commercial Premises Class (5th time in the 8 years Graham has been here, although one year was joint with good friends and rivals Geoff and Bill at the Dun Cow); the Albert Blakey Trophy for Overall Winner, Non Premier classes, and finally 3rd Prize in Hanging Basket Class. Graham always says that I do it all and he has nothing to do with it, but previous to his tenure, only once had the Golden Lion wrestled the cup from Geoff (Dun Cow). Graham and Julie put a lot into enhancing our village, helping in the Northumbria and Britain in Bloom competitions. Thank you both for that, and for giving me a therapeutic way back after a few health hiccups, not provided by the N.H.S.

Below: A reminder of the lovely display at the Golden Lion



S.O.S. Missing photos

Months ago, a Sedgefield stalwart posted me some precious family photos taken at the time of the Coronation. Sadly, they never reached me and investigations have failed to bring them to light. If they were, by any chance, posted through your letter box, please call 620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk.

From Howard Allenson

Sedgefield Civic Trust Floral Awards, 2012

The annual awards ceremony took place at The Parish Hall on Friday evening the 12th October. Residents from approximately 90 properties were invited to attend the event. Those attending were treated to a colourful photographic display. I feel it is appropriate to mention that the quality of all these gardens was excellent and as a result this helped Sedgefield to triumph in the Britain in Bloom national competition. Not only were the gardens superb but the photographic presentation was also spectacular and worthy of a "gold medal". The time taken by those putting the photo presentation together was greatly appreciated and they should be congratulated.

SPORTS UPDATE

with Sports Editor, **Chris Lines**

2012 is turning out to be a year of sustained sporting highlights for the UK. After the Tour de France, Olympics and Paralympics, amazing moments have kept on coming. Andy Murray became the first men's Grand Slam singles champion for over 70 years, winning the US Open, then towards the end of September, the European Ryder Cup team completed the most remarkable comeback in the event's history, inspired by the likes of Ian Poulter, Justin Rose, Luke Donald and Paul Lawrie. Meanwhile, here in Sedgefield, this lively sporting year shows no sign of slowing down as we head towards 2013.

Cycling

Cyclo cross returns to Sedgefield on Sunday 25th November. Ferryhill Wheelers Cycling Club is again promoting a round of the North East Cyclo Cross League, using land at Hardwick East Park for three races. This follows the successful event that was held in the previous season. The races are open to anyone - from experts to novice, and from young to old. Cyclo cross is an excellent introduction to cycle racing, as it is held off road on open parkland, with only a reliable mountain bike and helmet needed to get involved. Entrants of all abilities will be riding on the day, so local newcomers are particularly welcome.

The events start at 10.30am with the Under 12s, on a shortened course so parents can encourage children all the way around. The under 16s/novice ladies race will be at 11.15am, using the full course (approximately 1.25mile), and lasting 30 minutes. The seniors, veterans and junior event starts at 12.30pm, and lasts one hour.

In last year's event there was an excellent turnout for the children's races, with plenty of local riders having a go. The organisers are in talks to try and secure some support that will allow all children to go home with a goodie bag again, as well as having some fun. It is also hoped that there will be a prize for the highest placed rider from the village in the senior event.

Entry fees are: under 12s - free; under 16s - £3; and senior/junior/veterans/ladies - £10. Novice ladies can also ride in the Under 16s event if they wish. Event HQ will be Hardwick Park Visitor Centre - if you plan to take part, turn up in good time to sign on and pre ride the course.

Full details are available on www.neccl.co.uk or contact Ian Dunn on 01740 620574.

Sedgefield District Rugby Club

September saw the start of another season for the club, with three difficult away fixtures and a tough home opener. With extra strength added to the squad through the summer, Sedgefield hoped to turn a good pre-season into a strong start in the league.

The first game saw a hard fought, bonus point victory, with four tries scored away to Richmondshire. Unfortunately, that win was followed by a 45-10 loss against a talented Yarm side and a big 55-0 away defeat to Seghill. After this stuttering start to the season, the club hoped to get its home campaign off to a flyer, but a top of the league South Tyneside College team had other plans, leaving with a narrow 17-25 win.

October's first fixture found the club away to a below par Washington team, where a last minute try for the home side robbed Sedgefield of a deserved lead, and sealed a 29-25 result. With several first team players out of action due to injury, it was a tough opening month, but with some of them returning, the club is looking forward to the next few fixtures. The next home match is on 3rd November, against Whitby and all supporters will be welcome.

Sedgefield Harriers (plus a Ferryhill Wheeler)

Sedgefield Harriers and Ferryhill Wheelers worked together in early October to compete in the Kielder Run-Bike-Run on the Kielder Marathon weekend, with some success. Harriers Chris Lines and Roger Whitehill teamed up with Ian Dunn of the Wheelers for the annual event. Chris took the first 11km running leg and put the team in contention, then Ian reeled in some of the competition during the 26km bike section, before handing over to Roger for the final 6km run and he brought the team home in first place in the open category in a combined time of 2hrs 10mins. Meanwhile, another Harrier, Steve Foreman, tackled the course as an individual and completed it in an impressive time of 2hrs 43mins. On the same day, Sedgefield Harrier Diane Baines, more of a marathon specialist, took on the Kielder 10k and put in a great performance to finish second over 50 women in a time of 51:47.

For the second year in a row, the Sedgefield Harriers annual dinner has attracted a former Olympic athlete. Allison Curbishley, who now works for the BBC and was on duty for Radio 5 Live during London 2012, will be guest of honour and will share her experiences with guests, and present the annual Harriers awards. Allison is from Teesside and still lives in the North East. The dinner will be held on the evening of 29th November at Sedgefield Racecourse. Tickets cost £22.50 and the event is open to Harriers and non Harriers. For information, contact Caroline Hirst on cghirst@btinternet.com or visit www.sedgefieldharriers.com.

Junior squash

Sedgefield Squash Club was well represented in the Durham and Cleveland County junior closed competitions in September. Many congratulations to Robert Pearce and Oliver Walls, who won the U17 and U15 boys' competitions respectively - both particularly competitive categories. Robert also had to play his final in the knowledge that he needed to hold some energy back to take on world number one James Willstrop that same evening! George Peden made the semi-finals of the U15 boys, beating club colleague Daniel Toas on the way. In the U17 boys, George and Oliver, along with Rory Varley and Oliver Larcombe, all competed strongly, with Oliver Larcombe coming runner-up in the plate competition. Additionally, Robert made the semi-finals of the U19 boys. In his first competition, Flynn Robinson represented the club in the U13s.

The girls also did the club proud, with Gemma Hill runner-up in the U15 girls, Chloe Hill achieving the same result in the U11 girls, and Jessica Weatherspoon holding her own against the boys in the U9s mixed.

Wheelchair rugby

October 13th & 14th saw three wheelchair rugby teams clash in a tournament to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the home club - the North East Bulls. Taking to the court in Sedgefield were the Bulls, North Wales Dragons and the Caledonian Crushers. Eventually the final was played between the Welsh Dragons and the North East Bulls, with the Bulls edging to win 39-36. Over the weekend, the Dragons fielded 10 year old Tom Baines, the youngest player to play a competitive game in Great Britain. With two excellent performances under his belt, he was awarded the MVP (most valuable player) for the weekend. Meanwhile, North East Bulls player Luke Twizell has been chosen to represent GB in a tournament to be held in Prague. The North East Bulls would like to thank all officials, players and support staff for making the weekend such a success. They were delighted to welcome spectators and hope people will return to support the club, or to offer a helping hand or to join in, whether able bodied or disabled (chairs are available). Find North East Bulls on Facebook and get involved!

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

Men behaving... er, really rather well!



40 years ago last month a meeting was held in the Golden Lion to set up a new club, which aimed to serve the community of Sedgefield and surrounding area. Membership was open to men between the ages of 18 & 40. Since then, the activities of the club have enriched the life of Sedgefield through direct community service: setting up stalls for Mediaeval Fayre, Carols on the Green, the now, annual party for OAPs; through fundraising, then donating to local charities and good causes and importantly,

providing great opportunities for fellowship and social activities. People have formed friendships that have lasted these forty years.

The club, you have probably guessed is Sedgefield & District Round Table No. 1074. To celebrate its 40th birthday, a Charter Dinner was held in the Parish Hall on 29th September.

The food, speeches and jokes were excellent, but what made the evening special was the people: current members, honorary members, ex-members who left under the age rule - you have to leave when you are 45 - members who have moved away from the area and guests from other Tables. Keeping in touch with old friends and making new ones is a lot of what it's all about and this event was an opportunity to do just that. If you are male, under 45 and want to serve the community, having fun into the bargain, get yourself along to Table on the first, third & fifth Thursdays of every month. See Regular Events entry (p11) or ask anyone marshalling fireworks on 3rd November.



November Events Diary

This service is free to non-commercial organisations

September in the Library

'Using computers for everyday life'
Drop in learning in association with Age UK:
Thursdays, 10:30am-12:15pm, for over 50s & carers. Please book your session on 620103
Craft Club 10am-12, Tuesdays 13th & 27th
Rhymey-Tickley Time Weds 10am-11am
Half term children's craft
Monday 29th 10am-11am
Book Circle: Wed 21st, 2pm
Book: 'The art of losing' by Rebecca Connell
Last entries for 'What scared the cat' competition - November 5th.

Friends of Sedgefield Library

Open Meeting in the Parish Hall with
Phil Wilson MP, to establish the group
Friday 2nd November, 7pm

Sedgefield & District U3A

Friday 2nd November
2pm in the Parish Hall. David Butler on
"The Battle of Neville's Cross"
Members Free, Visitors £2. For details,
phone Ray Manning - 629276

Nowhere to go, nothing to do?

Visit our Open Day!

Saturday 3rd November
from 10am - 4pm in the Parish Hall
Rotary Club of Sedgefield will show the
huge range of sport & leisure
organisations available to you.

Cricket Club Quiz

Saturday 3rd November at 8pm
Presented by Phil Hartshorn

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 4th November

Eddies@4

Sunday 4th November 4pm, Welcome
Room, St Edmund's. Informal service for
2-6 yr olds. Contact J Rowsby, 621125

Local History Society

Monday 5th November
7.45pm, Ceddesfeld Hall.
Alison Hodgson on her new book ,
Sedgefield in Victorian Times

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday 6th November
7.30pm at Ceddesfeld Hall
All welcome

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 7th November
Parish Hall, 7.15pm: Caroline Found on
RSPB Saltholme: Past, Present & Future
Members' competition: a wild bird photo
Visitors welcome - fee £2.50 includes
refreshments

Country Market

Friday 9th November
Parish Hall 9.30 - 11am. Tea, Coffee,
cakes, cards, gifts & plants

NECP Concertina Workshop

Sundays 11th & 25th November, 1pm
Ceddesfeld Hall. Contact 01642 588197

Methodist Wives & Friends

Monday 12th November
Mosque at Abu Dhabi. Mavis Maloney
Monday 26th November
Coffee, Mince pies, Ginger wine

Ladies' Club

Tuesday 13th November
Durham Cathedral Embroidery
Maureen Martin
Tuesday 27th November
Wynyard Hall. Talk by Norma Neal

WI Coffee Morning

Friday 16th November
Parish Hall 10-11.45am. *All welcome*
Crafts, Books, Home Baking, Tombola

Live Music Night

Sedgefield Cricket Club at 7.45 pm
Friday 16th November
Main guest: Haley Sisters + New Prairie
Home Companions, John Weighell, John
Wrightson Band. Admission £10,
includes buffet. Tel 621347

Family History Group

(branch of CFHS)
Monday 19th November
7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
"The diary of Henrietta Trotter" - the life
of a Victorian lady from Bishop Auckland
by Kathleen Beer. Visitors always
welcome. Info: 620367 or visit
www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 20th November
7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Open meeting
"Crazy about Christmas - Mildred
Stafford, N & D demonstrator
All welcome

Sedgefield Show AGM

Thursday 22nd November
8pm in the Nag's Head

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 22nd November
7.45pm Parish Hall
Christmas Quiz & Faith Supper
Everyone Welcome.
Contact Steve Ashton 01287 636382
sashton@teeswildlife

Coffee Morning

Sedgefield Village Veterans
Friday 23rd November
10 - 12noon. Fletcher Room, Parish Hall
We invite you all to join us.

Country & Western Night

Friday 23rd November
Parish Hall. Tickets £8 from council
office. *A Sedgefield in Bloom fundraiser*

Macmillan Coffee/Tea Morning

Friday 30th November
Fletcher Room, Parish Hall 9.30-
11.30am: meet your friends & enjoy
a delicious scone!

Sedgefield Social Club

Sat 3rd Nov: Terry James
Sat 10th Nov: Lee Andrews
Sat 17th Nov: Ryan King
Sat 24th Nov: Stan Lee
Saturday cover charge £1.50 per person
Members & guests welcome
Wed 28th Nov: Folk night
Singers, Musicians, Members & their
guests welcome: No cover charge
Mon 19th Nov: Country Night
with Dave Cash. Cover charge £3 pp.
All welcome. Concert Room available for
functions. Tel: 01740 620591 to book

Regular Events

Bridge Club

Meets every Sunday & Tuesday at 7.30pm in
Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners welcome. For
more information call Jen - 01740 620434

Winterton Wayfarers

Walking Group - Weekly Sunday walks, from
5 - 10 miles. Contact 620034 or 620434

Community College Bowls Club

Meets Mondays, 6 - 8pm. Carpet Bowls or
Short Mat. Individual coaching available. No
age limit. Contact, J. Kinghorn, 623198

Sedgefield Carpet Bowls Club

Meets every Tuesday & Thursday mornings
8.30 - 12.00 in Ceddesfeld Hall. Tea, coffee,
conversation & healthy exercise. Beginners
welcome. For more info call Sheila on 622532

Sedgefield Pop In Club

for the elderly & disabled at Ceddesfeld Hall
Join us for Tea or Coffee and biscuits on
Tues 9.30-12; Wed 10-12.30, Thurs 1- 3.30

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Church, Mon-Thurs 9:15-11:45.
Spaces for children 2+ years Contact 620923

Sing for Health

2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 1pm
in the Methodist Church Hall

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers

Wednesdays 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall
(First week of month - Monday)
Beginners welcome, contact 621292

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

Wednesdays 7.15pm, Nag's Head
New members welcome.
Call 629070 or 620562

Round Table

Sporting, social and charitable events.
1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members
welcome. Contact Rob on 629079

Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group

Small, friendly group: 10-12 noon, Thursdays

Café@St Catherine's

Friendly chat & Fishburn gossip! Fridays
9.30am-12noon: Tea/coffee/ toast & chat

Ready Steady Grow

At Sedgefield Methodist Church., term time
Fridays, 9.30-10.30am. For Parents, Carers &
Children. Crafts, Songs, Bible stories,
Refreshments. Call Margaret Glass; 621618

Lyrics Choirs

Both choirs welcome new members
on Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall:
Youth Choir, 8-18yrs at 6pm; Adults at 7.30pm

YOUR Letters

Chicane danger

Is it time for a major rethink on the Durham Road chicanes? Often you meet drivers chancing their luck while driving northwards. Personally I often feel I'm in a game of Russian roulette for I am never confident that I won't meet a speeding vehicle coming round the blind bend.

There have been two accidents that I know of in recent weeks, possibly more, but with the advent of the new Sainsbury's store, things will only get worse. Perhaps it's time to remove the chicanes and replace them with speed humps or to install speed restricting strips which seem to be very effective in other areas for example Trimdon Grange.

Leo McCormack

Poppy Cross Memorial Garden

Sedgefield Village Veterans are very grateful to those who gave us their Poppy Cross to display in a Memorial Garden at the front of the War memorial from 3rd-14th November. We hope you will all visit to pay tribute to the fallen. Thank you all. The crosses feature a photograph of each of the service personnel killed in Afghanistan, to bring home to people that these were human beings like you or me, sacrificed to a war that has no meaning to the majority of British people. As I write, a total of 433 have been killed. It's time to stop! I appeal to David Cameron to get us out sooner rather than 2014. Who knows how many more deaths will be on his conscience.

We also plan to put a cross for each war, conflict, skirmish and policing in which British Forces have been engaged since 1914 - a total of 29. In all the time between 1945 and 2012, there has been only 1 year (1968) during which a British Soldier has not been killed. God bless them all, the long and the short and the tall.

David Hillerby

Dogs and danger

I live in Eden Drive and I am sick of dog poo on my grass. My dog is always on a lead but many out there are not; where is our so-called warden? Also, are people aware of no lights at Rectory Row School? It's pitch black there; an accident waiting to happen. *Name & address supplied*

Harrier and proud of it!

The last SN featured a letter from somebody referring to Sedgefield Harriers as "joggers". As a junior harrier of several years I think I should help put the record straight. I am one of over 150 young people who are part of the junior section of the club. We are aged 5 to 16 years old. The Juniors is made up of lots of different groups: Minis, Minors, Sprints group, Endurance group & the Field Events Group which my Dad helps coach, giving up loads of his free time for nothing, as do all the coaches.

My friends & I have competed in many athletics competitions around the North-East. This year we've gained 150 top three places across sprints, middle-distance, throws & jumps. We're serious about what we do. We compete wearing Sedgefield vests & hoodies & do so with pride. My brother, Will, aged 8, is one of the Minors & has already competed several times for Sedgefield as have many children his age. Junior Harriers is not just about the older kids. It's about all of us & grown-ups too.

When we compete we're doing so against other athletics clubs, almost all of whom have track & field facilities in their communities. My Dad has to try & teach Long Jump & Triple Jump without a pit, Discus & Shot Put on the grass and Javelin without a runway. I'm a sprinter. We get a temporary grass track for a few months in the summer & that's it. It's very hard to train & develop with such poor facilities. In the winter we're left to train on the road, in the dark. It's not safe. It's not helpful. We're handicapped by a lack of a track. I & my fellow athletes cannot continue to improve with these facilities.

Athletics keeps us healthy. It keeps us busy & we get to compete for our club & our village. It gives us something positive to do & something really enjoyable. We're not against any other sporting facilities in the Village. We support other facilities & clubs but we need more provision for young people. Junior Harriers has the biggest children's membership of any sporting club in the whole of South Durham. We're popular because we're good & offer value for money. We have waiting lists for nearly all our groups as we've run out of space. Demand has overtaken what the Club can provide with its current facilities.

Add that to the senior section of over seventy endurance runners who also compete at a serious level & I think you can see we're not just a bunch of joggers.

Please back the track & the improvement of athletics facilities in the Village. It will benefit both young people & grown-ups for many years to come.

Joseph Dredge, aged 12 & a proud passionate junior harrier

As a keen cyclist and member of a local cycling club who occasionally runs to do cross training, I was appalled by the disrespect shown, presumably towards Sedgefield Harriers, in the letter titled 'A running sore?' This club has probably done more for the local community than any other in the area by creating opportunities open to all, especially children and promoting fitness and healthy well-being in an increasingly sedate society. I believe they have over 150 children as members from the age of 7 upwards who live in the local area and they have also helped set up the the Sedgefield parkrun which regularly attracts over 100 people from all walks of life every Saturday morning in Hardwick Park. When the person who did not have the courage to put their name to their letter used the word 'inclusive' and 'tiny minority' I believe they should have referred to a dictionary before they used these terms. Sedgefield Harriers contribution to the community has been recognised regionally and nationally when last year they were awarded the Northern Echo 'Team of the Year' and England Athletics 'Development Club of the Year'. They were also voted UK athletics 'Club of the Year' ahead of major city clubs from Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff. They are surely not 'a tiny minority' in our community and if any club can claim to being called 'inclusive' it is they. We should be celebrating their work for our community and supporting them in any which way we can, rather than mocking them to further our own self-interests.

Dr. Robert Spink

Carmen Connection's 2 hr 41 min Great North Run! Maracas thoroughly shaken, she writes; THANKS to all the generous sponsors of my effort in this year's Great North Run, who donated £215 for Diabetes UK. This is a small tribute to my late Uncle Albert, who received the British Empire Medal for raising thousands of pounds to support a local hospital ward, by producing and appearing (mostly as the Dame) in Pantomime. To this day, Wrexham Maelor Hospital's orthopaedic ward is named the Pantomime Ward. Oh yes it is!! *John Nicholls*

SEDFIELD

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Sedgefield Development Trust
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NOVEMBER 15th is the DEADLINE for the DECEMBER edition

Email: sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com Call: 07572 502 904

or write to: **The Editor, 55 White House Drive, Sedgefield, TS21 3BU**

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