

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

November 2014



email sedgfieldnews@hotmail.com call/text **07572 502 904** twitter [@sedgfieldnews](https://twitter.com/sedgfieldnews)
The Editor, 55 White House Drive, TS21 3BU. Deadline for December is 15th November



Scenes from the October Sedgfield Farmers' Market, where the long felt need of a cuppa came to pass, & for music we had the sweet sound of the Northumbrian pipes. There's a really happy vibe about the market these days and a greater than ever variety of stalls. Preparations for a special Christmas Market are well under way and meanwhile, there's November 2nd - a Sociable Sunday!

Local Club in Blues Hall of Fame

"Bringing the blues to you" is Sedgfield Rock & Blues Club's strap-line but it's also gaining this little town a fine reputation in the **"wide blue yonder!"** Organisers assumed it was some kind of April fool when they heard that the Club was to be inducted into the American Heritage Blues Hall of Fame, but it wasn't April, and it was true! For only the second time, the awards were held in the UK, at Newcastle Blues Club. Sedgfield club's award was in recognition of the efforts of volunteers to bring internationally renowned artists to play in the North East. A non profit organisation, the club started only four years ago, since when news has spread among the blues fraternity, about the quality of the acts booked and the warm welcome given to artists, who seem to love the place!

Four names were on the certificates, but the wider team deserves mention: Chris & Paul on sound & lights, Judith & Jane who run the bar, Viv and others behind the scenes and John Finlayson who was inducted individually for his quality blues photography. The loyal audience makes a big difference too! Six or seven gigs a year is as much as the club can manage and most of them sell out. It really is special, which you can see for yourself if you read the comments left by band and audience members at www.sedgfieldblues.com. If you've never been, try the next gig on 28th November with Marcus Malone. See the parish hall re-invented as a fantastic venue, with superb sound, a real bluesy atmosphere and local award winning cask ales. If you've been before, you're probably coming anyway!

Sedgfield Energy Switch

The auction for the best electricity and gas prices went ahead on October 14th. At the time of going to print, full details of the winning suppliers are not to hand but it is known that they have created bespoke tariffs for this auction only, and initial indications are that, based on average usage, these are currently market leading. By the time you read this participants should have received individual offers. If you have not received your offer by 4th November please let us know. If you choose to accept, what you need to do should be clear and straight forward, but if you have any difficulties or questions you can still use the dedicated telephone no **07980 134 594**, to contact a Sedgfield Energy Switch volunteer. Sedgfield Development Trust's Energy Switch Scheme gained 241 local energy consumers and added to those in other collective switching schemes across the country around 17,000 consumers participated. Sedgfield Energy Switch achieved far higher participation from our area than most other schemes across the country did, so well done to all who joined in to make our joint efforts worth bidding for!



Reception & Open Meeting

What next for Sedgfield Development Trust?

Mon 24th November, 7 for 7.30pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

We would like to hear your views on our future work in the villages that make up our area – Sedgfield, Fishburn, Mordon & Bradbury.

Potential projects are up for discussion and there are new technologies to consider. What future for Sedgfield News? Who will take the news on in changing times? We want to hear new voices and new ideas to add to the best old ones.

Refreshments will be available and a highlight will be a personal view from a regional opinion leader. Take this opportunity to have your say, or if you can't attend, please call Roger Clubley on 620609

Stop Press: it's Gold again for Sedgfield in Britain in Bloom. A hat trick ! More next month

A little local history from someone who was there

Otterington House was up for auction at the Hardwick Hotel in Sedgefield in March 1949. My wife and family moved in after securing the deal at Easter 1949, (I am now 93 and my wife is 90), leaving the Kennels over Hardwick Park. At the time this house was in a best position of the village.

The Cross Hill was all gravel right up to the church, with less footpaths. The fayres would come, covering the whole of the hill with music, roundabouts and side shows. A ton of coke would be dropped in front of the lych gate and the verger and her husband had to wheel it down the path to the boiler room. Only a bit of grass looked upon the Hope Inn at the time. Lorry drivers parked their vehicles on the hill and teenagers, such as our youngest daughter (16) would be out enjoying music from the café Juke Box.

On bonfire night the bonfire would be lit lighting up our front room, with fireworks going off. Out the back of our house led you up to the back lane, where we saw sheepdog trials and the village show. Also, we enjoyed the point-to-point around the large water tower. On one occasion we saw the Duke of Kent courting his woman at a meeting. On race days you would see horse boxes in the village and blacksmiths working. Jockeys would put up with folks they knew, and horses were put up in nearly all the pub stables. Crowds of people would disperse off buses from all over, passing our house as they walked to and from the course.

The Blacksmith, Jack Hutchinson, faced our house and his father of 90, told me that Otterington House blocked off a road leading through to the Back Lane. Harry Fletcher built the house without planning permission between two cottages (he even put his initials in the garden wall) leaving us with a small cottage on the left of our house. We also had a stable with side door leading down a passage facing the Nags Head. After the races, I would go there with bucket and shovel to collect horse droppings. I was working as a Signwriter and Painter at the time, going to houses and farms, until the Council offered me a job at the Manor House, almost next door, painting all offices inside and exteriors, Sign Writing and Coach Painting all council vehicles. Here's one I just finished in the 1950s.

Our youngest daughter, Elaine was born in this house and worked for 32 years at the Post Office under Maud Southwood and Post-master, Norman Walker. All my life I rode a bike, even carrying planks under my arm and painting Manor House front and back was just off ladders. *L J Butler*

Head Boy & Head Girl

Twelve students were recently nominated for the role of Head Boy and Head Girl at Sedgefield Community College. Following a formal interview, which mimicked the intensity of a professional job interview, the selection panel made up of Head teacher, Dave Davies, Assistant Head teacher Mrs Hall, Year Manager, Mrs Hahn and Mr Carr, a college governor, chose Niall Smith as Head Boy and Jessica Moresby-White as Head Girl. Both Niall and Jessica, pictured right, demonstrated that they have the qualities required to represent the values and ethos of the college.



The Mini belonging to the Butlers' eldest daughter



West End



SPT 163

Ian Spring

Connie Spring, Julie and Joanne and their families would like to thank everyone for their kind tributes after Ian's sudden death. The cards, flowers and prayers helped us a great deal on our journey to life without Ian.

Thank you too, everyone who helped make Ian's funeral a real "celebration" of his life. The retiring collection of £522 will be divided between Cancer Research UK and the Critical Care Unit at North Tees hospital.

Ian was a firm believer in organ donation, and it is a comfort that already two gentlemen have had their lives improved by transplants of his kidneys.

Rest in Peace, Ian.

Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club

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Places are now available due to re-organisation; Infants and Juniors have their own dedicated rooms.

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Ringers enjoy a happy day

Handbell ringing teams from as far as North Derbyshire to Northumberland, met on Sat. 11th Oct in the Parish Hall for their regional autumn rally. Throughout the day the eight teams, some full and some part teams, joined together to play massed ringing pieces interspersed with performing pieces on their own. This was the first time in many years the regional rally has been held as far north as Sedgefield and everyone commented on a very enjoyable day.

Ballroom & Sequence Dancing

Do you like to dance? Why not come & give it a whirl at Sedgefield Parish Hall from 1-3pm on alternate Tuesdays: November 4th & 18th and December 2nd & 16th. The cost is £2.50 including refreshments.

This is a new group, you can get healthy, enjoy some dancing and make new friends. It is open to men & women, single or couples. For more information call Ann, 01740 629070, Joyce, 01740 622601 - or just turn up!

Fundraising inspired by friends & colleagues

*On Friday 26th September, coffee mornings popped up all over, aiming to give as much help as possible to **Macmillan Nurses**. As Chris Lines commented, cancer touches most people at some time and when it does, the Macmillan nurses step in with care and support to help relatives through difficult times.*

The ladies from **Sedgefield & Fishburn Exercise Classes** together raised £408.30 for Macmillan Nurses at their coffee morning at Fishburn Youth & Community Centre, in memory of their friend, Mavis Maxwell, who was treated by Macmillan Nurses before she passed away on August 4th.

At **Sainsbury's**, staff held a Macmillan coffee morning (see below) in memory of store manager, Shaun Dixon, who lost his battle with cancer just a few weeks ago. "As you can imagine this has hit our team hard. In the 5 hours on that Friday we managed to raise a massive £1070.60."

Parsons Containers and Right Lines Communications, based in the Manor House, got together to host a coffee morning in the impressive ground floor of the 1707 building (a room probably familiar to some older readers as the Magistrates Court prior to 1990!). Staff and family baked the cakes and a lot of people came for a nice cup of coffee and a chat. £235 was raised for Macmillan.

A Macmillan coffee morning held at **31 Hardwick Road**, raised £480. Margaret Dickerson sends thanks to all who came to support and help.



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Sedgefield in Bloom

As reported last month, Sedgefield did exceptionally well in Northumbria in Bloom 2014. Judges congratulated Sedgefield on maintaining such a high standard, with beautiful beds and tubs giving the wow factor. They praised the work of the Bloomers, in partnership with the town council and its gardeners Stephen Young and Roy Cairns with valuable support from Durham County Council. All ages have been involved, from Community College students planting an orchard to tiny tots from Cherry Tree Nursery making soups and smoothies with their own home-grown produce. The judges were impressed by the Bloomers' fund raising efforts and by the community spirit and pride in our local heritage so evident in Sedgefield. They enjoyed the lovely herb garden and the Bloom Beacon, looking spectacular this year.

On judging days, Sedgefield Village Veterans assembled smartly at the poppy bed, commemorating the centenary of the Great War. As you may have noticed, Wykes Close wildflower garden, in common with many around the country, was less colourful this year, largely due to the glorious spring and summer weather, which does not favour this type of planting. It was certainly eco-friendly though, providing an ideal nesting space for ducks.

Fashion Show

Members of the Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield would like to thank everyone who helped make the fashion show so successful. It was a great night and with your help and support we raised £940 for the Alzheimer Society. *Ann Carr*

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

Notes from meetings held Tuesday 14th October: NHW AGM & Panel Meeting, PACT & Police & DCC "Horse Fair" meeting

AGM: Reports from Officers accepted, no new volunteers, hence the (very) old Volunteers continue to keep our village N/H/Watch going.

Panel Meeting: This was rattled through to enable the Police & DCC to have plenty of time for their engagement with residents. Main concern from residents was parking issues that constitute a nuisance and a danger – that are not being resolved by Police & DCC. Specific areas were identified and it was agreed to ask PC Todd to treat this as no. 1 PACT priority.

David Hillerby (N/H/W) provided details for Remembrance day services on Nov.9th & 11th and wreath laying arrangements. He also sought new volunteers / participants.

Community College Citizenship Award will be made in the new winter term.

PACT Priorities: Residents laid several parking complaints at PC Todd's door which he is to follow up and agreed to make these next month's priority. Specific complaints were made regarding Elm Avenue, White Van in Milbourne Court, Turners Vehicle Matfen Court /Belsay Court (long standing issue known to Police), Hardwick Primary School area and Salters Lane (Bolam's) area.

Police/DCC Horse Fair Report: This was chaired by beat bobby Keith Todd and delivered by Police Superintendent Kerrin Smith & DCC's Ian Hoult. Supt. Smith provided a comprehensive overview of Police & DCC activities in preparing for the annual Horse Fair; of the liaison with the organiser (same person for several years now), which should have been on an agreed site – agreed between DCC/Organiser/Site Owner. These activities include for the use of Police resources before, during and after the Fair; also the same applies within DCC and the teams so formed are able to be directed *wherever* the event takes place now and in the future.

Residents present made it crystal clear they were very unhappy that DCC & the Police allowed it to take place in Sedgefield and are opposed to any repeat activity pointing out that there is no history of such events in Sedgefield. They raised several issues of concern from this year's event to both DCC & the Police. The Police stated view appears to be contrary to wishes expressed by residents at the meeting; they will not support opposition to such activity, they will Police such events to ensure safety to the public and will be fair to all parties. The fact that Sedgefield Councillors were kept in the dark and even excluded from the activities went without a satisfactory response from either representative.

Residents raised concerns about on-going issues from Travellers, specifically the Stockton Road area where DCC provide toilets and have to clean up after their (recent) visits. These activities were unknown to Ian Hoult as were the years of troubles from Travellers in the Beacon Lane area.

DCC have a responsibility for agreeing a **suitable** site for next year but there was no indication of positive progress in respect of this. Keith closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Residents' Forum

There was no scheduled meeting in October but we have been busy at the Examination in Public of the County Durham Plan. We have attended at two of the events and presented views given by residents at many Forum meetings. There have been reports of the Examination in the Northern Echo but we will give more information at the next Forum meeting on 3rd November at 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. The meeting will start with a quick AGM. Everyone welcome.

One final comment, a great big well done to those involved in starting the new Youth Cafe at Toshach's Tea Shop, our young people have waited a very long time for somewhere they can just meet up. Again well done and thank you.

The Sedgefield Plan

We have our heads down writing the first full draft of The Sedgefield Plan, a process that is under constant review by the team, but we are getting there. The draft was sent to Durham County Council planners in time for them to review the plan on October 21st, which will hopefully help us to have a robust document when we submit it for inspection in November. Before we submit we will organise two public meetings that will enable you to comment on the draft so please put **Tuesday 4th November and Thursday 6th November** on your calendars for meetings in the Parish Hall commencing at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you then to get your comments on this important plan that will determine the growth and development of Sedgefield to 2030.

Prior to the public meetings draft copies of the Plan will be available to read on the Sedgefield Plan website (www.thesedgefieldplan.co.uk) and as hard copies at Ceddesfeld Hall, Town Council Offices, Library, No. 4 and the GP Surgery.

David Bowles OBE, Chairman.



From PC Keith Todd

This month has seen a drop in crime with only four crimes reported. These include, the theft of a Peugeot badge from a car parked on the High St, the rear windscreen of a car damaged in The Lane and damage caused to a upvc window frame by someone hurling a glass at it. And finally, money was taken from clothing whilst at a function in Station Road.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently at the Dun Cow. One incident was raised which may require further action. Licensees will not tolerate bad behaviour in member premises. Anyone caught can look forward to a lengthy ban.

P.A.C.T.

No priorities have been identified but the neighbourhood police team continue to monitor areas around the village which have previously been a concern.

Until next time, Keith

Local Police - 101

CPO Duncan Gill 01325 742714

Parking Shop 0191 3846633

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Flu Campaign

Thank you to all patients who attended our "drop in" flu clinics. They were both a great success & in total we vaccinated in excess of 1,500 patients against Seasonal Flu. Flu vaccination is still available to eligible patients, so please contact the surgery on 01740 620300 for an appointment.

Protecting your child against flu

We are now pleased to offer the Childhood Seasonal Flu Vaccination to children aged 2, 3 & 4 years (if your child's birthday falls on or after 2 September 2009, or on or before 1 September 2012 they are eligible.) The recommended vaccination is a nasal spray rather than an injection, which we are sure will please the children! If you would like your child to receive this vaccination please contact the surgery on 01740 620300 with any questions or to make an appointment. For more information please visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Smoking Cessation

We are delighted to advise that we now have a dedicated smoking cessation clinic every Tuesday morning in our Sedgfield practice. If you would like to give up smoking, why not give it a try. We have had over 25 patients quit smoking since the service commenced six weeks ago. There are still around 100,000 deaths in the UK each year due to smoking, if you would like to quit, why not give it a try. Please contact the practice to make an appointment.

Hardwick Hall Hotel

**Wednesday 3rd December
Step into Christmas**

Arrive 12 noon, 2 course lunch served at 12.30pm
Afternoon finishes at 4pm
£17.95 per person

**Sunday 7th December
Santa Sunday**

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£17.95 adult, £9.95 child 12 & under

**Wednesday 10th December
ABBA Night**

Four course meal and entertainment
£19.95 per person

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Defibrillator Training

Initial training sessions begin on **Monday 3rd November (3 - 5pm)** and **Tuesday 18th (2 - 4pm)**

It is hoped that there will also be an evening session soon.

The venue has not been confirmed at the time of printing but it will be published online at

www.sedgfieldgames.com,

www.facebook.com/SedgfieldVillageGames and

www.twitter.com/sedgfieldgames

Anyone who is interested can also call Chris Lines on **07971 868329**



From left: Neil Bunney from Sedgfield Surgery; Ean Parsons, of Sedgfield Village Games and Barry Watson & Pete Fields of the North East Ambulance Service at the installation of the new defibrillator.

Diane Carr

B.Sc. (Hons). S.R.Ch., M.Ch.S.



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November Events Diary

Sunday 2nd

Sedgefield Farmers' Market from 8.30am on the Village Green.

New Generation Church Service in the Parish Hall at 11am, and every Sunday this month. All welcome

Monday 3rd

Sedgefield Local History Society Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm. David Mason; New excavations at Binchester: revealing a buried Roman city

Methodist Wives & Friends 7.30pm. Marion Greenwell - Jewellery to Buy

Tuesday 4th

Coach trip to Doncaster 9am Parish Hall return 4.30pm from Doncaster. Cost is £8.50. Please contact Sedgefield Town Council Office

Tai Chi Parish Hall Sedgefield, 10 - 11 am. A gentler form of exercise.

Sedgefield Gardening Club 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Mountains of Northern Spain by Dr Alan Pearson. All welcome

Wednesday 5th

Sedgefield WI Parish Hall 7.15pm. Canoeing in the Yukon. Slideshow by Bob Brown. Members' competition; a key ring from abroad. Visitors are always welcome

Friday 7th

Sedgefield & District U3A 2pm at Sedgefield Parish Hall. George Nairn - 'History of the Great North Road'. Members free, guest £3 at the door. For more information call Brenda on 629574

Saturday 8th

'She's Fired' Musical narration of the 1880 Seaham mining disaster by Bob Lowery & John Wrightson. Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets £6; call 621347.

Tuesday 11th

Ladies' Club Ceddesfeld Hall. A talk by Sainsbury's

Friday 14th

The Country Market Parish Hall, 10 - 11.30am. Home baking, Jam, Cards, Plants & Crafts. Refreshments are on sale so it's a good place to catch up with friends!

Live Music Night at Sedgefield Cricket Club, 7.45 pm. Main guest; Haley Sisters. Also featuring Robson Field & John Wrightson Band. £10, includes buffet. Tel 621347

Monday 17th

Meditation Group St Edmund's Church. 7 - 7.30pm. All welcome

Methodist Wives & Friends 7.30pm. RSPB

Sedgefield Family History Group (branch of Cleveland FHS) Ceddesfeld Hall at 7:45pm. "Daniel Canvin A New Land - A New Life" by Basil Canvin. For information go to www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk or tel. 620367. New members always welcome.

Tuesday 18th

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club Open Night, Parish Hall at 7.30 pm. Lesley Devalle, National Demonstrator, "Christmas". Tickets are £5 for non members, £7.50 for members. All welcome.

Thursday 20th

Sedgefield Show meeting 8pm in the Nag's Head. A.G.M.

Friday 21st

Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, in the Parish Hall, 9.30 - 11.30am. Meet up with friends for tea or coffee and delicious scones etc.

Sedgefield Twinning Association "A Flower Demonstration with a hint of the Rhineland," presented by Val Guest, at 7pm on in the Parish Hall. Tickets £7, to include light refreshments, from Jayne's, Tickety Boo, and Council Offices.

Flower arrangements will be raffled in the course of the evening. Bar available

Saturday 22nd

Cricket Club Quiz Night 8pm. Presented by Paul Armes

Sedgefield in Bloom Dance Night 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Root'n Toot'n; country plus 50s & 60s music. £9, including pie and pea supper, bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets from Council offices & Bloomers

Tuesday 25th

Ladies' Club Ceddesfeld Hall. Jewellery Party by Marion Greenwell

December Diary

Sedgefield Players' Pantomime "Beauty & the Beast" will be performed on Sat 27th December at 2pm & 7pm; Sun 28th, 2pm; Mon 29th 7pm, Tuesday 30th, 8pm. Tickets from usual outlets, details next month.

Regular Meetings

NECP Concertina Workshop

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 1pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Contact 01642 588197

Eddies@4 on Sundays

4pm, Welcome Room, St Edmund's. Informal service for 2-6 yr olds. 621125

Bridge Club

Sunday & Tuesday, 7.30pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners welcome. Jen 620434

Sedgefield Players

Parish Hall, 7.30pm Sundays & Weds. SPYS: 7-17 yrs Sunday 6.30pm. 620091

Ceddesfeld Hall Pre-School

Mon, Wed, Fri am; Children 2+years 620934

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Hall, Mon, Wed, Thurs, 9:15-11:30am, term time. 620893

Fishburn Art Group

Youth & Community Centre, Butterwick Rd. 9.30am -12 noon, Mondays

Community College Bowls

Mons 6-8pm. Carpet Bowls/Short Mat Individual coaching. No age limit. 623198

Sedgefield Mags

1st Mons, Nag's Head, 8pm 07966029434

Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

Ceddesfeld Hall. Tues & Thurs mornings 8.30-12 Beginners welcome. 622532

Fishburn Taekwondo Club

Tues & Thurs 6pm, Fishburn Youth & Community C'tre. Mike Britton 07743455065

Sedgefield Pop In Club

for elderly & disabled. Ceddesfeld Hall Tues 9.30-12 Wed 10-12.30 Thur 1-3.30

Sedgefield Art Group

Methodist Church Hall 6.30-8.30pm Tues. Tuition. New members welcome

Craft Club

Swinhoe Rm, Ceddesfeld Hall, 2nd/4th Tues 7.30-10pm. 620656. All welcome

CAB Advice Sessions

Sedgefield Advice & Information Centre Fortnightly Wednesdays 10am-1pm

Sing for Health

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 1-2pm, Methodist Church Hall

Toddler Club

Wednesday term time 1.15 to 3pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Joan Brennan, 622385.

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers

Wed 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall (Mon1st wk of m'th) Beginners welcome. 621292

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

Wednesdays, 7.30pm. Contacts, Bob, 07831270892 ; Mel, 07530315331

Sedgefield Acoustic Evenings

Ceddesfeld Hall, 8.30pm 1st Fri & 4th Wed. Informal singaround, all welcome.

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members welcome. Contact Carl; 07775644598

Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group

Small friendly group 10am -12 Thursdays

Café@St Catherine's

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

Lyrics Choirs

Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall. SLYC 6pm Adults 7.30pm New members welcome.



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Sedgefield Town Council Annual Fireworks Display

Saturday 1st November in Ceddesfeld Hall grounds

Grounds open to the public at 5.45pm with refreshments on sale. Last admission is at 6.20pm prior to the display at 6.30pm. When all tickets are sold there will be no further admissions; please buy in advance to avoid disappointment. £2.50 adult, £1.50 child under 16, from the Town Council Offices (621273), Post Office and Ceddesfeld Hall. For children there is also the Halloween Howler competition. Bring a carved pumpkin or turnip to be judged by the Mayor, Councillor Mel Carr (all children get a prize).

Autumn Song: a Lirica Cabaret

Sunday 2nd November, 7.30 at Ceddesfeld Hall. Tickets £5, including a glass of wine. Reserve by calling 01740 622185 or 07736 050830. For more details visit www.facebook.com/sedgefieldlirica

Music and Memory: Coffee Morning

Saturday 8th November from 10am - 12.30 at St. Edmund's Church

This is to raise money for a small collection of percussion instruments which we can use with older people in care homes throughout the parish. Recently I have been visiting Craigarran once a month with the St. Mary Magdalene's home communion team, taking my guitar along. We have worked alongside the home's activities co-ordinator in using hymns to enhance the communion service and have followed this with a sing-along of some of the residents' favourite songs. This has proved popular and the residents have shown much enjoyment.

Research shows that musical memories are generally the last to be affected by memory loss, and that singing or playing along with a favourite song from younger days can trigger memories and lead to increased communication with others. Doing something enjoyable and creative with others is good for us all, and this is why we are appealing to your generosity in contributing to our musical instruments. We hope that they will help promote enjoyment and communication in some of the many elderly and frail people and dementia sufferers living among us. *Janet Deane*

Sedgefield Village Veterans' Armistice Day service

Tuesday 11th November starting at 10.40hours

The service takes place at the War Memorial, St. Luke's Church, Winterton. Everyone is welcome in this World War 1 centenary year. Also, on **Tuesday 4th November** starting 9am, we will be setting up our Garden of Remembrance at the War Memorial, St Edmund's Church. Anyone who would like to place a Poppy Cross may do so. We will have some crosses available for sponsoring.

Websites, SEO and Social Media: build your online marketing toolkit like a pro!

Monday 24th November from 9.30-12.30pm

Due to the success of previous business workshops covering South Durham, the Rural Growth Network are excited to announce the final workshop of 2014. Aimed at individuals who are thinking about starting up in business, residents are invited to join us for a fun and practical session on online marketing with a difference. Using the lessons from website managers and small businesses over the past 10 years, we will work together to build your toolkit to help you promote your products and services on the Internet. The three hours will cover:

- What websites work and how to get enquiries
- Search Engine Optimisation for Beginners
- Social Media Marketing made easy

This free workshop will give you all the information and confidence you need to build your own online marketing toolkit so that you are ready to create your own website, market your business on search engines and generate referrals via social networks. Loads of tips and hints will be shared on the day. Do not miss it!

The workshop will take place at Novus Business Centre, Peterlee, SR8 2QJ.

To book your place or for more information on the workshop please contact Sarah Marshall from Rural Growth Network on (0191) 5863366 / 07800 916932 or email sarah.marshall@edbs.co.uk.

Sedgefield Library

Wed 9.30am-12.30pm Thurs 10am-6pm

Fri 1pm - 7pm, Sat 9.30am-12.30pm

Craft Club: 10am-12 noon on

Thursdays 6th & 20th November

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Thursday 6th November 10:30am - 1pm

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Sedgefield Social Club

Saturday 1st Nov: Rose

Saturday 8th Nov: Chris DeVerne

Saturday 15th Nov: Sue Allan

Saturday 22nd Nov: Brad Stevens

Saturday 29th Nov: Nadine

Cover charge of £1.50 per person

Members and Guests Welcome

Country Night Mon 17th: Dave Cash

Cover charge of £3 per person

All welcome; no membership necessary

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Tel: 01740 620591 for bookings

Youth café at Toshach's

Fridays 7th & 21st November

Hardwick Park in November

Saturday 9th: Muddy Mo-Run:

11am start £12 registration fee. 5km mud run. To register call 03000 282012.

Wednesday 13th: Toddler Tales &

Trails: **Pirates!** 10-11.30am or

1pm-2.30pm. £3 per child, adults free.

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Sports UPDATE with Sports Editor CHRIS LINES

The weather is starting to turn autumnal, which means that the traditional winter sports are really coming to the fore. The football and rugby union seasons are well underway and in athletics, the mudlarks have hunted out their long spikes in preparation for the many cross country races ahead. It is also that time of year when various annual sports awards start to get handed out, and locally, individuals and clubs from Sedgefield have already tasted success, as you will read below. Looking ahead to December, this year it's quite difficult to predict what will happen in the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards. Rory McIlroy and Carl Froch will be two of the favourites (as will Lewis Hamilton if he secures the Formula One title), but a strong case can (and I think should) also be made for athlete Jo Pavey, who has had an amazing year and given hope to us slightly older sports people!

Durham County Sports and Physical Activity Awards

There was double success for Sedgefield in the Durham County Sports and Physical Activity Awards in October. The annual awards scheme is always extremely competitive and showcases the very best in sporting endeavour and volunteering from across the county. Every finalist had already won awards in their own districts and their successes were celebrated during the event, which was held at Ramside Hall Hotel. Boccia player Lee Maddison was a well deserved runner up in the Sporting Achievement of the Year category. Dave Icton of Sedgefield Cricket Club was crowned Volunteer of the Year and Sedgefield Harriers won the Club of the Year Award. Congratulations to Lee, Dave and the Harriers.

Squash

Sedgefield Squash Club fielded eight players in the recent Durham and Cleveland County Closed junior competitions. The event was a great success for the club, which for the first time came away with champions in three age groups. Oliver Walls won both the U19 and U17 boys categories. To add some spice, the U19 final was against club mate and reigning U19 champion Rob Pearce. While Rob would have started as the slight favourite, Oliver pulled off a tremendous performance to take the match 3-1. At the other end of the age spectrum, Jessica Weatherspoon took the U11 girls title, and then went on to compete very impressively in the U13 girls category, finishing in third place.

The club's other junior entrants all put in strong performances. George Peden and Dan Toas made the last four of the U17s (so Sedgefield contributed three of the four semi-finalists in this age group). James Knowlson picked up the U15s plate competition, Richard Flanagan competed in both the U11 and U13 boys, and Chloe Hill in the U13 girls.

The annual curtain raiser to Sedgefield Squash Club's season, the team handicap competition, was held over five nights. 35 members signed up and competed in a good natured competition that gave everyone the chance to contribute towards their team scores. As ever, the handicappers must have done their job well, as the results were close, but Chris Gillespie's team of Dan Toas, Steve Welton, Rob Emery, Kevin Amer, Sharon Brown, and Leanne Gillespie took the trophy.

Junior Athletics

One of the highlights of the year for Sedgefield Harriers is always the junior presentation night. This year's event was held at the racecourse and guest of honour was Sedgefield's own Team GB para-climber Esme Hart. Esme was certainly busy on the night, handing out scores of achievement certificates to athletes aged from four to 18. One of the best features of the evening was the fact that it was, in the most part, organised by the young athletes themselves, many of whom stood up and spoke on stage. The event's main hosts were Shaun Haycock and Emily Robertshaw, but junior Harriers of all ages played their part. Several awards were handed out on the night to athletes from different groups within the junior ranks and we will list those next month.

The overall junior Harrier of the year award was presented to Aimee Barlow, who has excelled this year in many disciplines and is one of the club's most promising prospects, and a great example to other athletes. All of the young athletes who spoke were very keen to thank the hard work of all of the club's volunteer coaches and the parents who have supported them throughout their sporting endeavours. *Picture opposite.*



*2014 junior county squash champs
Jessica Weatherspoon & Oliver Walls*

Rugby Union

Sedgefield Rugby Club still needs you. Recent appeals have resulted in some additional new players, but the club still really needs to build a sustainable squad size to survive in the medium to long term. It's worth recalling that the club reformed in 2007 after folding 10 years earlier due to dwindling player numbers. There is a big risk that the same could happen all over again, which would be a huge shame given how much progress Sedgefield has made on and off the pitch in recent years. Based at Sedgefield Cricket Club, the team's home games attract decent support and there's a great social side to the club. The recruitment campaign mentioned last month is ongoing – if you would like to get involved in this family friendly club, get in touch with Sedgefield Rugby Club on 07732 399541 or on Facebook. All ages (17+) and abilities are welcome, even if you only want a 20 minute run out at the end of a match. You can help your local rugby club stay alive.

*That's all for this month.
As ever, send any sporting news to
chrislines@aol.com*

The Situation's nearly Vacant

A few brave souls are required to job-share the production of an "almost major local newspaper", starting in February 2015. Yes, you guessed it - there's room at the top here at Sedgefield News!

The ideal team would comprise someone with good English and the ability to butcher (sorry, précis!) wordy articles; another with some graphic design skills, willing to take everything that comes your way, squeeze it (artistically of course!) into a limited space - then change it again; and maybe someone else to deal with adverts and advertisers. You'll need the ability to meet deadlines without flinching, and to have a feel for balance and fairness. A good sense of humour can be quite helpful too, especially as there's no pay! But there is huge satisfaction in a project that is an enormous boon to our community, and it will look good on your CV, so if you are contemplating taking some time out to volunteer, you could do worse than be part of this for a while. Call current editor, Sandy, on 07572 502 904 or better still, come to the SDT Reception on 24th November; the details are on page 1.

Charity Christmas Party Night in aid of The National Animal Sanctuary Support League

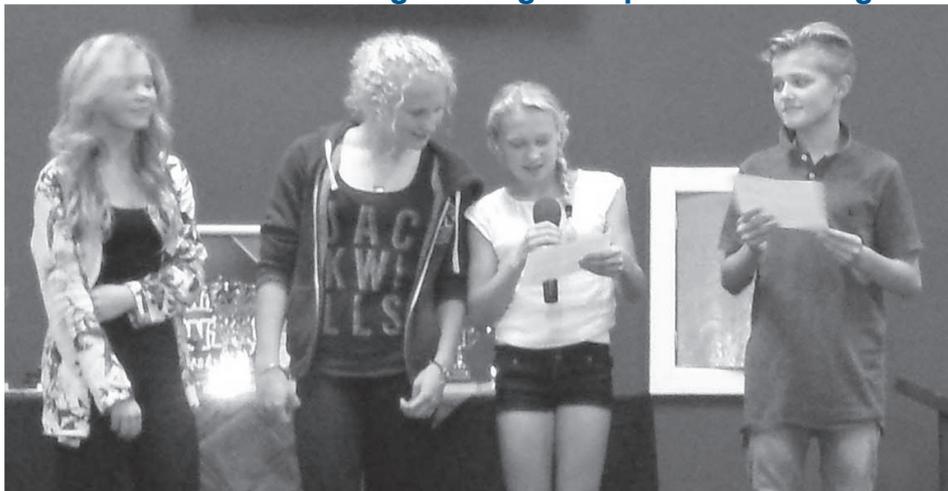
The event is supported by Sainsbury's local store

Saturday 29th November at Sedgefield Cricket Club.

Kick start the Christmas party season with Music, Dancing, Raffles! Live music is to be by popular band 'Old School' playing 60s, 70s & modern music, to ensure you dance the night away from 7.30pm till late!

Tickets, at £8.50 including buffet, can be purchased direct from the Cricket Club, Post Office or Council office, or by phoning **07854 412553**.

Junior Harriers on stage during their presentation night



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Your Letters

Saving green space

Station Road Field, between Station Road, Hornby Avenue and Hasledon Grove, has been a local amenity for far longer than the twenty eight years that I've been resident in Sedgefield. Many residents use this green space and many children play there too. There are laws to protect areas of land that are in continuous use by communities and have been so "as of right" for more than twenty years. This applies no matter whom the land belongs to. (Commons Act 2006 & Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013). In this case the land belongs to Durham County Council.

I am currently gathering evidence in the form of a questionnaire in which I am asking local residents that use, have used or have knowledge of the use of Station Road Field to complete. Other evidence such as photographs, video, press cuttings or the like are helpful too.

I would be very grateful if any resident would assist me by completing the questionnaire and/or providing evidence that this area of land has been used for recreational activities over the past twenty years. It will be helpful if people that have known the area for a shorter time can also participate as we need to prove that it has been in continuous use. If you are willing to complete a questionnaire then please email your address to holmesway@hotmail.com or ring me on 01740 620763 and I will provide you with a questionnaire.

With regard to the "land grab" and development going on in Sedgefield at the moment. I would suggest that where there is land that is used for recreation purposes, then local residents should have their areas registered too. I would be more than willing to give you any help in this regard.

N Holmes and Rachel Myers

Growing Space

What a summer we had and didn't things grow well? As a novice allotment holder I have been struck by how much nature produces, far more fruit vegetables than anyone can eat and all at the same time! Now the dark nights are here I wonder whether next summer as a community we can benefit from the hard work of allotment holders and those people who grow crops in their gardens. I've not a clue how it could be organised but couldn't allotment holders get together to sell their produce at the farmers' market? If we took it in turns it might only require getting involved once or twice a year. Proceeds could be used to improve the allotments or tree planting around the village.

On a similar theme, rather than grow annuals in the flower pots on the village green why not grow vegetables as seems to happen in Darlington and other places. The Council gardeners or Sedgefield in Bloomers could decide when crops were ready and give them away to people in need or sell produce on a stall, the proceeds being used to improve the environment of the village.

One final point; I waited 5 years to get an allotment and I wonder whether the neighbourhood plan can give some thought to sites where we might grow crops as well as houses. If we are to have lots more people in the village we need more sites for allotment gardens.

Geoff Hughes

Sew Simple

Would you like to be able to sew, make a simple garment, read a pattern, take up a hem, replace a zip and much more?

We are thinking of running a sewing group in the Parish Hall in the New Year and would love to hear from you.

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