



SEDGEFIELD NEWS

November 2015



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

Can you help Laura?

Local girl, Laura Bashford, is currently trying to raise money to help provide herself with a much needed specialist wheelchair which will significantly improve the quality of her life.

Laura, who is 21yrs old, suffers from an inherited condition known as Ehlers Danlos Syndrome (EDS), a genetic disorder which adversely affects the structure of connective tissues in the body. There are a number of different types of EDS, which together produce a vast spectrum of symptoms. Although many sufferers can lead full and active lives, EDS can lead to physical disability.

Laura suffers from a form of the condition known as Hypermobility EDS. The connective tissue in her joints is so weakened that it is not always able to hold the joints in place. Laura has suffered from EDS since she was a toddler but the symptoms increased significantly when she was in her early teens.

Currently Laura is subject to unexpected dislocations of her ankles, knees, hips, shoulders, thumbs and wrists as well as to discs in her neck and to the left side of her jaw. These arbitrary dislocations of her joints occur frequently. The events are by their very nature unpredictable and often result in Laura's body losing its rigidity and effectively paralysing her. These events come with excruciating pain and such distress that Laura is a frequent visitor to A&E. EDS can also affect internal organs. In Laura's case, her condition has caused her stomach to become sluggish and she needs to be fed through a tube directly into her intestines.

This can lead to extra physical injury if Laura is not supported when the dislocations occur. She has a wheelchair at the moment but it has become clear that this chair is dangerous, as the low back and limited leg support are no longer enough to give Laura the protection she needs in those dangerous moments. This means that Laura no longer moves far from her home and indeed spends much of her time bedridden. The wheel chair Laura needs has substantial leg rests and a high tilting back which firstly ensures that she cannot fall backwards out of her chair during a dislocation event. The chair's tilting back can then be adjusted to minimise the risk of open sores during paralysis episodes. So Laura is doing the best she can to help herself to fund a suitable wheelchair.

She explained "It would be the difference between being bedridden and having an acceptable quality of life. My mobility will be increased, both indoors and out. My friend and I used to go to the cinema, and I'd love to be able to go to music events and the swimming therapy I used to do at James Cook Hospital." But it's not just about enabling Laura to have a pleasanter life. It will make her life substantially safer.

The cost of the wheelchair is £3500. Laura has raised £200 pounds so far and has also applied to The Rotary Club for assistance in this project. Anyone wishing to help can visit 'Go Fund Me' at <https://funds.gofundme.com/dashboard/xg6mdm9d> Sedgefield News will also pass on offers of help. Please contact us as detailed below.



Sedgefield strikes gold again

Sedgefield won gold once again at the Northumbria in Bloom awards, held on September 15th in Berwick. Sedgefield in Bloom chairman Howard Smith and chairman of Sedgefield Town Council Mel Carr accepted the award from Sir Alan Beith, former MP for the town, now sitting in the Lords (*see photo.*)

Giving a total score of 95.5 %, judges Robert Germany and Sophie Straker gave particular praise to tubs, baskets and beds in the centre of the village; planting against the church wall and the Vicar's Dash; attractive displays in Ceddesfeld Gardens; and the agricultural area at Beacon Lane.

They also enjoyed the formality of the 700 bed, planted up this year to commemorate VE Day 1945; the wildflower meadow at Wykes Close; and Malton Terrace herb garden. Sedgefield's commitment to conservation, including the collection of leaves for compost, also impressed them. They found the town very smart, with no evidence of litter or fouling. Scoring the Sedgefield in Bloom group 100% for community involvement, judges described 'an organised body, with excellent fund-raising and networking skills - a good model for others to copy and learn from.'

Gold awards also went to colourful displays at The Golden Lion and The Dun Cow, as well as the gardens of Claremont Grove and 1 Hadleigh Close. A gold medal for Hardwick Park completed the clutch of awards won by Sedgefield in Bloom 2015. Work is already underway for next year. See page 12 for our next fund-raising event.



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter @sedgefieldnews & Instagram at #sedgynews. Whichever way, keep in touch - we love to hear from you!

Deadline day for December is Monday 16th November

Contact the Editor by email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com;

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Steve's Nature Diary

Even though I am writing this for the November Sedgefield News, you still have time to check out the Wild About Gardens week website to learn how you can help hedgehogs. Each October Wild About Gardens week concentrates on a particular species and this year hedgehogs were chosen because of the recent decline in numbers. If you hurry you can still enter the competition (closing date 9/11/15) to create a hedgehog shelter, take a picture and enter for the chance to win one of 3 fantastic prizes. The competition is open to individuals who could win a professional trail camera so you can watch the wildlife in your garden at close range; Groups whose prize is an advisory visit from a hedgehog expert to help your group create the very best habitat for hedgehogs; and schools who win a wildlife gardening bundle for the school garden, including a deluxe hedgehog home and a bag full of hedgehog food.

If you visit the website <http://wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk/home> you can find more information about the competition and hedgehogs. Wild About Gardens is a joint initiative by the RHS and The Wildlife Trusts – and this year it also involves Hedgehog Street – to encourage people to support local biodiversity in their gardens. This is more important than ever. Two years ago, research compiled by 25 wildlife organisations found that 60 percent of the 3,148 UK animal and plant species assessed have declined in the past 50 years for a range of reasons, including loss of habitat. Many of our common garden species – hedgehogs, house sparrows, starlings and common frogs, for example – are becoming much less common. This is where gardeners can make a difference, by making their own gardens and the green spaces in their communities more wildlife friendly.

Connections between gardens matter as much for wildlife as the abundance of habitats within an individual garden does. Hedgehogs travel 1-2km each night, so gaps in fences give them a wider area to forage. Get together with your neighbours to cut a 13cm x 13cm hole in your fence or dig a channel beneath garden boundaries to connect your gardens. You can then add your hedgehog hole to the national network at: HedgehogStreet.org.

Finally, don't forget to check your bonfire on November 5th to make sure a hedgehog has not crawled in, thinking you have created a perfect hedgehog hibernation spot!

The natural world month by month



Photo by Tom Marshall

News In Brief

The Magic Mobile

Norma Neal would like to thank all those people who helped to make her recent book launch at the Manor House such a success. The Magic Mobile offers glimpses into Sedgefield's past through the eyes of two young lads, one modern, Adam, and one ancient, Cedric, who both stood guard at the Manor House door, greeting guests on arrival. With line drawings by local artist Walter Howell, the book is suitable for children from 8 upwards – and adults of all ages. Priced at £9.99, The Magic Mobile is now on sale at the Post Office, Tickety Boo, Toshach's, Village Style, Hardwick Park and Wynyard Gardens.

Sports coaching is alive and well in Bradbury

Keith Greenwell, a Tennis Coach of 30 years, has already received awards for Durham County Coach of the Year; Outstanding Contribution to Sport - Durham County; as well as Durham Dales.

Now Jodie Elders is turning her skills and experience in competing to help others through coaching. She has already been awarded Durham Dales Junior Coach of the year for her contribution to sport (trampoline).

Not satisfied with that, Jodie is also training to become a Sports Physiotherapist. Well done Jodie!

Social Media: online with #sedgynews

If you're fans of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram look out for us! You can 'like' our Facebook page, Sedgefield News (screenshot below), follow us on Twitter @sedgefieldnews and on Instagram @sedgynews. Search our hashtag trend #sedgynews and tag us this way too if there's something you'd like to share with us. We're always looking for great social news from our fabulous community, so give us a 'like' or a 'follow' and help us spread the news.

A new team at the top of SCC

Ten 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, Head teacher, Mr Davies; Year Manager, Mrs Preston; and Mr Robinson, Chair of Governors, chose Joseph Dredge as Head Boy and Sadie Abel as Head Girl. Both students demonstrated that they have the qualities required to represent the values and ethos of the college.



Your Letters: Correction

With reference to our letter in October's Sedgefield News, we apologise for an error in the email address for Durham County Council. The correct details are ehcp@durham.gov.uk or phone 03000261016. If residents could forward a copy of complaints to sednoisecontrol@yahoo.co.uk we hope to collate issues so that more can be done to control noise nuisance.

Mr & Mrs M Tooley

Oscar nominated actor, Tim Roth, to star in Sedgefield drama

Tim Roth (*pictured below*), best known for his roles in Quentin Tarantino movies, 'Reservoir Dogs' and 'Pulp Fiction' is to star in a 90-minute drama partially set in Sedgefield.



The drama, titled 'Reg' and written by Jimmy McGovern, follows the story of Reg Keys, a father and "ordinary man", taking on Blair's government after his son was killed in action during the second Iraq war.

Lance Corporal Tom Keys died in a mob attack in a police station in Major al-Kabir in June 2003, after being sent out alongside five other British Redcaps under-equipped.

Reg Keys would go on to challenge the then Prime Minister, Tony Blair in the 2005 General Election, as a candidate to become MP of Sedgefield.

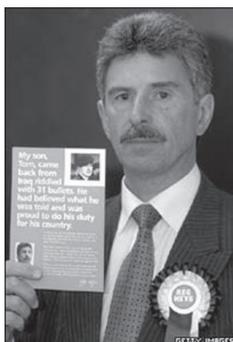
He finished in fourth place, earning 4,252 votes overall.

Many people remember Reg Keys' campaign as a quest for justice; and he earned a daring reputation as the man who went against the system as opposed to working through it – the father who stood against Tony Blair. Although Sedgefield has played host to many celebrities in the past, this looks to be the first time in recent history that a major project is to be both set in, and based partly on the village.

The drama is scheduled to air on BBC in 2016, with filming having already commenced in Liverpool. It is currently unknown when the scenes to be shot in Sedgefield are scheduled.

by Jake Graham #SedgyNews

With a small team from across three generations, to write, report and edit Sedgefield News, we are now able to tackle issues which previously remained unreported. Please do send ideas. Editor



Up The Junction?

Concern has grown in the past year over the increasing number of accidents occurring at the junction of the A177 and the B1278 on the north western edge of the village. In the first five months of the year there were five recorded Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs). Since then there have been six further incidents which are "subject to ongoing Police investigations". Fortunately, all of these incidents have resulted only in slight injury or merely to the damage of a vehicle. However, questions are being asked about the sudden increase in RTAs since changes were made to the junction's road markings in August 2014.

In a written response to a Sedgefield resident's request for information on "developing accident trends", Durham County Council concluded that "initial reports do not suggest that changes to the deceleration splay are the cause of the accidents". DCC recognise that the increase in accidents at the junction is "obviously a cause for concern", but they insist that "ongoing investigations" into the recent accidents indicate that "the causation factors are associated with Driver Error" and not with the new layout of the junction following the August 2014 alterations. Responding to road users concerns that the change in priorities at the junction have been "a contributory factor in the accidents", DCC stated that any changes made at the junction were "in accordance with the Department for Transport's guidance on the *Design of Major / Minor Priority Junctions*". In addition they outlined further measures to help manage these issues. They include discussions with "Durham Constabulary and other Traffic Engineers" and ongoing analysis of the most recent accidents by the council's Accident Investigation and Prevention Team.

In a further update on 20th October, Dave Wafer, Durham County Council's strategic traffic manager, said: "Following a number of recent collisions we have taken steps to try and improve safety by temporarily closing the long southbound deceleration lane leading to the junction. This should help northbound traffic negotiate the turn more easily which we hope will reduce the number of accidents. The closure has been in place since 9 October and there have been no incidents since then. We will continue to monitor the junction over the coming weeks and, if successful, the closure will be made permanent."

Sedgefield Squash Club

Following our update in October's issue of Sedgefield News on the progress made by Sedgefield Scouts on spending their funding from the Terrace Hill/Sainsbury Community Fund, we caught up with Chris Rowsby from Sedgefield Squash Club to find out how they will be spending their £22,500 from the same Fund.

Sedgefield Squash Club is about to embark on the first phase of the redevelopment of its Rectory Row facilities, when the current round of team fixtures is completed in December. Planning permissions for both stages of the redevelopment are in place and the funding for the first stage of the project is now accessible. The total cost of the whole project is estimated to be in the region of £200,000, with contributions of £22,500 coming from the Terrace Hill / Sainsbury's Local Community Fund and £50,000 from Sport England's "Inspired Facilities" Fund.

The first phase of the project involves relocating the current entrance to the building to one more favourable for access to disabled users. An important outcome of this new entry point involves ease of access to new viewing facilities which will be created as part of the second phase of the project. In addition to this, the first phase will help improve the existing changing and shower facilities.

The second phase of the redevelopment will commence as soon as the final details of elements of the funding stream are finalised in the new year. The main feature of this stage of the development is the creation of the club's third court. This court will be a state of the art glass-backed court with its own spectator area directly accessible to all users via the new entrance. These improvements will allow the club to bring squash training, playing and spectating opportunities to a wider range of users.

To contact the Club, email info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk



Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch

Notes from Meetings held Tuesday 13th October 2015

The first meeting was the AGM and once again existing incumbents were re-elected. At the ordinary meeting that followed:

Salter's Lane /Trading Est. roadway -the Secretary reported that the formal application notices for restricted parking detailed previously, will be posted at site on 22nd of this month and in the Darlington & Stockton Times on the 23rd of this month.

After discussions it was concluded it may well be early next year before the measures could take place (if formally approved) and Keith acknowledged the Police will need their "cones out" and be on duty at Christmas time once again!

Communications from Police: Members stated this had not improved being almost totally non-existent since June meeting. Keith confirmed the loss of the telephone messaging service was mainly responsible whilst acknowledging the problem.

Police Community Liaison Officer Lauren Wray stated that the replacement system, which will also be available to the whole of the public, should be in place before the end of the year; this is welcome news.

Police Community Liaison Officer, Lauren Wray gave details of her thoughts of ways to stimulate interest and participation in N/H/Watch; these were very well received. As a result a very constructive exchange of ideas ensued which involved all present. Lauren will take these forward and arranged to hold a follow up meeting with the Chairman.

Local Police. Keith Todd thanked Ken Saiger for his annual report, he emphasised to Ken and members just how important and valuable Sedgefield N/H/Watch and the members are to him and his colleagues. Keith reported that Gavin Rutter has sadly moved on to a new post in Darlington. Members asked Keith to wish Gavin well and pass on their thanks for his much appreciated work in Sedgefield – we are sorry to lose such a valuable person.

Keith reported that Sedgefield and the Trimdons are currently experiencing a mini crime wave on several fronts and gave details. The "good" news was that in the midst of this crime ASB is significantly down from last year (same period) although it was noted that last year was particularly high (youth ASB).

Chairman Ken Saiger commended and thanked Keith for his exemplary kindness and the help & follow up he gave to a distressed lady he attended to in Hardwick Park recently.

Comment: It is even clearer after the Police report that residents need to observe and report suspicious persons, vehicles etc. as the criminal fraternity will take every opportunity. The damage they cause even when they fail is heart-breaking for their victims. So please report any concerns you have to our local police, tel 101. **Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st December 7pm**

Sedgefield Village Action Group (SVAG)

As many readers may know, Durham County Council's Local Plan was initially soundly rejected in the Inspector's Interim Report. With Sedgefield Village's emerging Neighbourhood Plan still working its way through the procedural process this created a vacuum in housing policy for some housing developers to exploit and Sedgefield became a village under siege.

The SVAG was specifically set up to support the Neighbourhood Plan and try and stop these developers who were acting against the vast majority of those residents who voted for the plan in the Public Consultation meetings held in the Parish Hall.

One of the major initiatives presented in the Neighbourhood plan was the Built Up Area Boundary, outside of which developers should not build. This initiative was fully supported by the Town Council who submitted the plan to the County Council in early August, and yet there are currently four outstanding development applications surrounding Sedgefield still not yet resolved and all outside of the Built Up Area Boundary. So the SVAG has been working tirelessly to put forward the residents' views to the Councillors of Durham County Council.

Application No. 1 - The 3 cornered field (34 -42 Houses)

Although initially rejected by DCC there is now an appeal pending and any who wish to object again or for the first time are urged to do so before 10th November by contacting the DCC.

Application No. 2 – The Eden Drive Development (315 Houses)

Residents may be aware of the great success that those who objected had when this development, recommended by the County Officers was unanimously rejected by the County Councillors. But there is still time for the developers to appeal against that decision.

Application No. 3 – Land to the North of the A689 adjacent to Stockton Road (150 Houses)

Outline Planning has been applied for and again the SVAG worked hard to let residents know how and where to object with 147 to date (19th October) comments made on the DCC website, all objecting. No date has yet been set for this to be presented to DCC.

Application No. 4 – Land behind Sainsbury's and The Orchard estate (300 Houses)

With the initial outline for possibly over 2,000 houses this application is still under development reduced now to 300 houses.

The SVAG is not against housing development in Sedgefield. We are not a NIMBY organisation but we do question the excessive development on greenfield, agricultural land when brownfield sites, within the Built Up Area Boundary are available for development and not being considered. We should not accept that development will automatically happen; we can and have already made a difference.

PC Todd's report

Sadly, I must report an increase in reported crime over the last 4 weeks. In particular, Burglaries have been prominent, being reported in Woodland Mews where money was stolen, West Park Lane where porcelain figures were taken, Melgrove Way where 2 mountain bikes were taken, West End where a window and frame were damaged trying to gain entry, and at the greenhouses/ potting sheds of Hardwick Hall Hotel where electric garden tools etc. were taken. These crimes were committed mostly during darkness hours, 6pm - 6am. I can confirm that a number of individuals/groups were responsible. One male has been arrested for the Burglary at the Hardwick Hall Hotel with another is currently wanted. We believe these persons have not carried out the other Burglaries, which means that there are others out there waiting for the opportunity to take your property. We must remain vigilant and ensure we lock our doors even if we are at home. Please report suspicious persons or vehicles, remembering to take note of any registration numbers.

Other crimes reported; Damage to the artificial pitch at the community college, Damage to poly tunnels in the cemetery, Theft of a horse collar in Kerr Crescent, Attempted Theft of a motorbike from Kennel Cottage. As thoughts turn towards Winter and the excitement of Halloween, Bonfire night and Christmas, my message is, enjoy this time of year but still consider your own security. We don't want anyone to become a victim.

Lastly, I would like to say a farewell to PCSO Gavin Rutter. He has been by my side for the last 8 years. His enthusiasm and commitment made my work life a lot easier and for the wider community his contribution has helped maintain a safe environment for us to enjoy. Gavin has moved to the Safeguarding hub at Darlington. We wish him well and meanwhile, I warmly welcome PESO Amy Jorgeson, who I'm sure will fill those big boots left behind by Gavin.

P.A.C.T. Members had concerns over parking at the entrance to the Trading Estate especially in the run up to Christmas. Please park sensibly in car parks provided at various stores and not on the roadside. It clogs up the road and is frustrating for other road users. Tickets will be issued to offenders. Please note, this area will be a P.A.C.T. priority for the next few months.

Pub Watch At a recent meeting, members were informed of 2 incidents which took place in the Black Lion. A male has been issued with a 3 month ban from all member premises for his un-acceptable behaviour. Drunken aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated and action taken against offenders.

Contact numbers are on p.11

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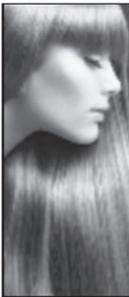
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SEDGEFIELD ENERGY SWITCHERS

If you have switched your energy supplier through the Sedgefield Energy Switching scheme previously, your contract, particularly if you switched at this time last year, will be very soon coming to an end before the next auction in February 2016. If you wish to continue with the reduced costs that you have enjoyed during this last year it is **important that you re-register again now** as it is likely that your costs will increase when your current contract comes to an end.

The latest auction which took place on Tuesday 13th October produced a winning tariff which offers costs cheaper than those of last year, again providing people with an opportunity to further reduce their energy bills. The Sedgefield Development Trust has arranged for the registration period to be extended to allow people who switched last year to re-register, and to enable new registrations from people who want to benefit from these potential savings. We also suggest it may be beneficial for those people who registered for the February 2015 auction to re-register.

E-on again have been successful in submitting the winning tariff, so people who are already with E-on will be only changing tariffs, rather than companies, therefore exit fees will not apply. However, **the only way to benefit from the new tariff is through the Sedgefield Switching Scheme by registering before Tuesday November 17th offline for paper billing, or Tuesday November 24th online.**

So don't delay if you want to take advantage of the latest offers. Registration or re-registration can be done in one of the two normal ways, as follows:

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

The Sedgefield Development Trust will have a stall at the Farmers' Market on the village green on Sunday November 1st with people available to answer any questions about, or provide assistance with, registration.

Together let's make this a bumper time of savings on our energy bills in Sedgefield.

Farmers' Market

On Sunday 1st November you can taste samples of Kelly Bronze Turkeys & Geese brought by Dryden Farm, a local specialist in these Christmas birds. Cross one thing off your Christmas to do list! The RSPB is taking a stall, so if you have questions about the your garden birds, the answers will be here! We also have the Cats' Protection League (oops!) so come along if you need feline advice. And if you enjoy good local food, you might want to hear what Liz Charles has to say at our Open Night!

Beekeeping

Below: the new class assembled in the Yurt on week 1 of their course.



**Thursday 19th November at
7.30pm in The Manor House
Open Night
Guest speaker, Dr Liz Charles
of Food Durham.**

With refreshments provided and representatives from all our projects on hand for a chat, it should be an enjoyable, informal evening. We look forward to seeing you there.



Sedgefield Development Trust

As dark nights close in, there is still plenty to do at Ceddesfeld, so don't stay home alone!

We are home to several musical sections, one of which is the Ukulele Group. This group of very friendly players (ranging from absolute beginners to advanced), meet every third Friday, from 8 pm to 10 pm. Music and song sheets are provided and there are also a limited number of ukuleles to borrow, on the night, for those not wishing to make a purchase before trying. Tuition is differentiated to suit the range of ability and there is opportunity to perform during each session.

Please contact Lol Crallan on 01740 621729 if you require further details, or just come along. It will be great to see you, and the bar is open too!

The Waterloo Dinner was a recent successful event, with excellent food and entertainment ensuring it was an evening enjoyed by all. We look forward to another good feed in January, with the traditional Burns' Night Supper on the 23rd.

We always look forward to variety of traditional winter activities. In partnership with Sedgefield Town Council, the SCA are happy to host special family events such as the Snow Party on Saturday November 28th and the Carol Singing on the Green on Friday 18th December. Please join us for festive mulled wine after the event.

If you have a special talent and would be interested in setting up a group, please contact us. One new endeavour for the New Year will be an opportunity to learn to play Bridge. Watch this space!

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

Regular Events, Meetings and Get-togethers

We are very sorry but, because of demand for space in Sedgefield News, this column will now appear quarterly, the next time being in the January edition. However, it will always be available to view on our website, www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

NeoAngels

NeoAngels is a charity which supports parents of premature and sick babies on the neonatal ward at North Tees hospital. We set up NeoAngels after I gave birth to my twins, who were born at 26 weeks. They spent 76 days on the neonatal unit and without the amazing team on that ward, our babies wouldn't be here today. Our fundraising Christmas Fair is on Saturday 7th November at Sedgefield Parish Hall and Santa Claus himself will be with us all day, handing out gifts to the boys and girls who come to see him. Other attractions include Silly Snaps - an open photo booth full of silliness - fitting up to 15 people in one photo, they are equipped with all the props for a Christmas fair. Nicola, of Simply Flowers will provide flower demonstrations, including the perfect Christmas table centrepiece or wreath for the door. You could win them in the raffle at the end of the day! A visit to Rachael Storey will get you away from the stress and the chaos of everyday life at her stall in the smaller & quieter room. She offers holistic treatments ideal for those who want to sit back and relax. Always wanted to have your tarot cards read? Catherine Macklin offers 10 minute readings for only £5, all of which goes to the charity. Catherine will also be located in the quieter room. Mince pie and Mulled wine anyone? All sorts of refreshments will be on offer for a small contribution to the charity pot plus a wide range of stalls, lucky dip, tombola, guess the name, etc. There is no entry fee but donations on entry would be greatly appreciated.



10 Years of Singing

In October of 2005 at a reunion concert for the Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir, past members from all around the country came back to Sedgefield to sing together, reminisce and perform a one off concert in the Parish Hall. From this concert, Lirica was born. Highlights over the years include singing at several members' weddings, performing as a choir of angels (with regulation white wings) at Durham Cathedral for part of the Durham Mysteries Cycle in 2010, and the numerous social occasions spent together as a group.

On 30th October in Ceddesfeld Hall, Lirica, now made up of 11 members, performed a special Anniversary Concert. The concert was a look back at many of the songs that the group have performed over the years, as well as some new arrangements.

The Annual Sedgefield Youth, Floral and Volunteer Awards

The awards took place at Ceddesfeld Hall on Saturday 17th October. The awards are intended to celebrate the wide range of young people, volunteers and amateur gardeners that have excelled across the previous year. Many prizes are given on the night, in particular in the Youth Categories. Prize winners included in2, students from all 3 Sedgefield Schools, the Harriers, SLYC and SPYS as well as individual awards for excellence in performing arts, sport and art. As Chairman of the SCA Wendy Gill said, 'the wide variety of awards really goes to show what fantastic opportunities we have in this village for those with the ambition and will to volunteer, and to contribute to the range of Community Associations'. We truly are very lucky.

Twining Association Event

On Saturday November 7th, Sedgefield Twining Association are having a Wine Tasting, starting at 7.30 at Ceddesfeld Hall. The cost will be £10.

Please contact Nancy Wells on 620467 or Judith Edgoose on 620244 or mail@toddsousefarm.co.uk

Refugee Fundraiser Day

On Saturday, 14th November, St. John Fisher church, Sedgefield will be open from 10:00 to 16:00 to fundraise for three refugee charities. We will be collecting Winter supplies for the people in Calais: warm men's clothing, tinned food, tents, sleeping bags, candles etc. Come and join us for a cuppa and cake with all proceeds going to the Red Cross' Syria Appeal. Or simply take a quiet moment to make a donation and light a candle to raise money for Embrace Middle East Mattress Appeal, where every £12 raised sends a hygienic mattress to displaced refugees in the Middle East that families can use as a table, sofa and bed. The day will end with a prayer service from 16:00-16:30 -all welcome. If you would like to volunteer some time to help on the day (or perhaps donate a cake!) please contact Kristen Peacock on 07572121443 or kristen.peacock@gmail.com

Have you got a Musical Talent?

Here at the Methodist Church in Sedgefield we are still in need of a volunteer with a musical talent to accompany the congregation during our Sunday morning service.

We have three excellent instruments, a clavinova, an electronic organ and a piano. Why not pay us a visit one Sunday morning at 10am and make yourself known. We will be delighted to meet you. We would also like to hear from you if you play other instruments. Music makes such an important contribution to worship in the church, and our musicians are very much appreciated. It would be great to form a musical group. If you would like to help or require more information please contact David Glass (Tel 621618).

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Cyclo Cross

Ashburn Wealth Management Cycle Racing Team will host a round of the North East Cyclo Cross League on Saturday 21st November in Hardwick Park. Organiser Andy Oliver says "The venue is perfect for cyclo cross racing with a great mix of terrain and fantastic vantage points for spectators. The course is challenging enough for experienced racers, but is a perfect introduction to anybody wanting to give the sport a try for the first time. We have received extremely generous sponsorship and I will be offering lots of prizes both for race and category winners, as well as random and spot prizes." The first race is at 12 noon for under 12s (racing 15mins, entry £1), with a separate race for under 16s beginning at 12.30pm (30mins, £3). The feature race for seniors, juniors, veterans and ladies kicks off at 1.30 pm and lasts one hour - entry is £12. Event HQ will be outside the visitor centre, but the course is in East Park. For more details, contact Andrew Oliver on 07791 749 882 or visit www.neccl.co.uk.

Cricket

After relegation from the Premier Division of the North Yorkshire and South Durham League at the end of the 2014 season and losing many players, the 2015 season was always going to be challenging for the club. The main objective was for the 1st team to maintain its status in Division One and consolidate for the future. This was achieved, with a few scares on the way. An excellent winning draw against Richmondshire in the final game secured sufficient points to keep the team out of the relegation places, finishing 8th in the table.

The second team struggled all season, winning only 3 games, and finished bottom of Division Two. They will compete in Division Three next season. The standard is a little lower, but junior members will gain better opportunities to develop their skills.

The most thriving part of the club is the junior section, growing and developing under the supervision of a dedicated team of coaches, of whom more and more are gaining coaching qualifications. All junior sides, from under 9s to under 17s, had successful seasons, the latter finishing 3rd in the NYSD Junior League North Division and reaching the league cup final. The U13s finished 2nd, missing out on the title by a whisker to Darlington. The club is also now running sessions for ages six and upwards.

Prospects for next season are brighter. A number of ex-players have indicated that they will return to play for Sedgefield and the highly talented youngsters will be given ample opportunity to perform at senior level. And off the field things are going really well. Membership is at its highest ever and the club continues to develop its facilities. Social events are well attended and the club's first beer festival, held in September, was a huge success and will become an annual event.

Squash

The usual pre-season competitions got the new season underway, along with a new event. An invitational Sedgefield 11 played a match against a Bannatynes 11. Sedgefield was able to field a 'ringer' - former world no 1 and Commonwealth silver medal winner, James Willstrop, who played the current county champion Gareth Lumsdon. At one point, another Bannatynes player came on court to help Gareth out, but James was still able to put on a masterclass against both! A great afternoon was had by all and the event raised £203 to help fight breast cancer.

The annual squash blitz was held on 5th September, 20 members playing intensive six minute bursts over an afternoon. The winning team consisted of Chris Gillespie, John O'Donnell, Emma Allen and Sharon Brown.

The team handicap competition took place in September, and was well supported. Chris Gillespie made it a pre-season double by captaining the winning team of John O'Donnell, Neil Bunney, Craig Weatherspoon and Amanda Hetherington. September also saw the Durham and Cleveland Junior County Closed competitions, and Sedgefield was again well represented by seven juniors. Again, they had great year with existing county champions Oliver Walls and Jessica Weatherspoon retaining their titles. Oliver won both U19 and U17 boys, and Jessica bagged the U13 and U11 girls, beating fellow Sedgefield player Jenny Walker in the U13 final, in addition to coming runner-up in the U15 girls final. Elsewhere, James Knowlson and Jack Stephenson came 3rd and 4th respectively in the U15 boys, and Richard Flanagan was runner up in the U15 plate competition. Alexander Young, making his debut at county level, put in some strong performances in the U11 boys competition. It is great to see a healthy crop of juniors coming through the ranks at the club, and competing in county and regional competitions.

Aikido

Sedgefield Community College has hosted some 90 people at a seminar that attracted aikido practitioners from Britain, Germany, Belgium and France. They came to be instructed by Shigeru Sugawara Shihan of the Aikikai Hombu Dojo in Tokyo - the centre of world aikido. Sugawara Shihan, one of the foremost instructors in the world, was invited to Britain by Dynamic Aikido Nocquet, an organisation that practices aikido in its traditional form in clubs throughout the North East, the nearest to Sedgefield being in Darlington. This is a Japanese martial art that avoids direct confrontation with an opponent, using throws and pins to protect against their attacks and to subdue them. In its traditional form, aikido is non-competitive and not aggressive, and you can try it at any Dynamic Aikido Nocquet club.

Email jpemmerson@btinternet.com
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Sedgefield Junior parkrun

Sedgefield parkrun has become hugely successful, encouraging participation at every level and leading to great friendships and wonderful stories. However, 5km is not suitable for all youngsters, so there will now be a perfect alternative, just for them. Sedgefield junior parkrun starts on **Sunday 1st November** at 9am in Hardwick Park. Children aged 4 - 14 years will be able to do a timed 2km walk, jog or run, every Sunday morning. Junior parkruns will be organised by adult volunteers. Families are encouraged to take part and catch up afterwards in the Tower Café. DCC has waived normal parking charges for junior parkrunners and their supporters. Junior parkrun is free to all participants and motivation comes from being able to check individual times and running record online. Wrist bands and certificates are given after completing total distances equivalent to half marathon, marathon and ultra-marathon. To ensure the children's safety, 25 volunteer marshals will be required each week. Their input will help sustain the event. So you can get involved as a runner or a volunteer. Full details on the website www.parkrun.org.uk/sedgefield-juniors

Volunteer of the Year

Jane Spink, founder and director of Sedgefield parkrun, was 'crowned' in the Sedgefield District Sport and Physical Activity Awards. She dedicated the award to all parkrun volunteers, but she deserves much credit herself and the award is very well deserved.



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Marjory is a winner

Marjory Wilkinson of Sedgefield recently entered a competition to provide feedback on a Health Appointment Volunteer Car Scheme operated by a Durham charity The Social Resource Centre and won £50 in cash.

The Social Resource Centre, a charity based in Ferryhill recently asked all the 730 participants of their Health Appointment Volunteer Car Scheme to provide feedback on how the scheme was run and ask for any improvements which could be made.

Over 65% of clients responded and Rose Thompson, Head of Transport Services at The SRC selected Marjory, aged 74 from Homebryth House in Sedgefield. Marjory, who is formerly from Trimdon uses the scheme to travel to her GP and hospital appointments. She said, "Without the scheme, in the bad weather I would be unable to go to my appointments".

The Health Appointment Volunteer Car Scheme is very much about individual transport and the specific needs of the users. It is aimed at those who, because of a short or long term disability, are unable to access public transport. Last year the scheme supported 730 vulnerable people in the Sedgefield and Easington areas with 36,738 trips to community services. And it wouldn't happen without over 140 volunteer drivers contributing over 13,237 hours of their volunteering time. So a big thank you to them!

Don't forget your flu jab!

The flu jab drop-in clinics have been a great success this year for both adults and children. If you still haven't had your flu jab please contact the Skerne Medical Group to check if you are eligible and to arrange an appointment. Contact us on your usual GP practice telephone number. *Skerne Medical Group*

Health Buddy Scheme

If you are interested in this marvellous scheme, please come along to our volunteers meeting at Trimdon Grange Community Centre on Thursday 12th November from 12:30 - 1:30pm. This will be followed by a stroke awareness training session until 2:30pm. For more details ring (01325) 321234, mobile 07809342198 or email fiona.chrichard@pcp.uk.net



Rose Thompson (left) from The Social Resource Centre and competition winner Marjory Wilkinson

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NOVEMBER DIARY

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Date	Event
Mon 2nd	Local History Society 7.30pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. 'Roger's Adventures in Sunderland'. Illustrated talk with Roger Clubley
Wed 4th	WI 7.15 Parish Hall. Illustrated talk on South Georgia and Antarctica by Tony Keville. Members' competition: Postcard from abroad.
Fri 6th	Sedgefield Veterans' Coffee Morning 10am - 12noon. Parish Hall U3A 2pm Parish Hall. Peter Barron 'Dad at Large'. All welcome, members free, guests £3. ☎ 629575 for details
Sat 7th	Sedgefield Cricket Club Quiz Night 8pm Quiz Master, Tony Magee
Mon 9th	Methodist Wives and Friends Leslie Howe Silversmith
Tue 10th	Sedgefield Ladies' Club 7.30pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Talk on the Heugh Battery Museum
Wed 11th	Sedgefield Veterans Armistice Day Service St Luke's Church War Memorial, Winterton. 10-40am with Silence at 11. Dr Kate Gillen, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of County Durham, and other Civil Dignitaries will attend. All are Welcome.
Fri 13th	Cricket Club Live Music 7.45pm. Main Guest 'Stony' + John Wrightson Band, George Welch & Christine Jeans. £11 inc buffet ☎621374
Sat 14th	Sedgefield in Bloom Dance 7.30 Parish Hall. With country music duo 'Rebel Rose'. £10 inc. Pie & Peas ☎621273. Bring own drinks & glass
Mon 16th	Sedgefield Family History Group 7.15 Ceddesfeld Hall 'Shot at Dawn' Bernard Hope. www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk ☎620637
Tue 17th	Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club 7.30pm Parish Hall. Val Guest 'Baubles, Berries and Bling'
Thur 19th	Sedgefield Show AGM. Venue to be confirmed. ☎621841 for details. SDT Open Meeting The Manor House, 7.30pm. Details page 6
Fri 20th	WI Coffee Morning 10 - 11.30 Parish Hall. Cakes, books, crafts, tombola. Woollybacks of Stanhope will be there with yarns and kits. Style Selektors. 7pm, Parish Hall. Bar & Live Music. Tickets £8/£6 from the Post Office ☎621771
Tue 24th	Sedgefield Ladies' Club 7.30pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Jewellery Party with Marion Greenwell
Fri 27th	Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club. Parish Hall 7.30pm. Rebecca Downes plus Andy Power Band Tickets £12 from ☎07957104434
Sat 28th	Methodist Wives and Friends Auckland Castle

Please note: Tim Spearey's Memorial Service will now take place at 11am on Saturday 28th November in St Edmund's Church.

A few December Dates

Veterans' Christmas Fair, in the Parish Hall. Friday 4th from 10am -12noon
Lyrical Singers, Lirica & SLYC Christmas Concert: Parish Hall, Fri 11th & Sat 12th, 7pm
Sedgefield Players Pantomime, Aladdin Parish Hall, 27th - 30th. Tickets from www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk, Tickety Boo, or ☎ 621771

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