



SEDGEFIELD NEWS

November 2017



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

Housing is very much on readers' minds at present, so we have devoted quite a lot of space this month to reports on the topic. Feel free to comment on our Facebook page or Twitter, or email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Housing Developments in South East Sedgefield

Article by Tony Magee.

Many of you will have noticed that the building of houses on the fields to the south and east of Eden Drive and Thurlow Road has commenced. The entrance to the Story Homes development, St Edmunds Manor, leading from the A689 roundabout has been completed and the first houses can be clearly seen from the road.

"Construction is well underway on the site. The build programme is on schedule and everything is progressing well", Story Homes informed Sedgefield News.

These houses are part of phase 1 of the development. The first completions in phase 1 will take place in early 2018 and the builders are on target to open their show home at the end of January in the New Year. It is intended that the whole of the first phase will be completed by 2019/20. This first phase will provide 4 five bedroom detached houses, 22 four bedroom detached, 10 three bedroom semi detached, 8 two bedroom linked or semi detached and 1 three bedroom dormer bungalow – 45 houses in total.

Plans for the second phase are already determined but the start date will depend on phase 1 sales. As part of Story's 'Business in the Community' activities local charities and community groups can apply for sponsorship by accessing their 'Future Story' scheme. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis, after which awards of up to £1500 pounds can be made.

Any group interested should fill out an online form available at <https://www.storyhomes.co.uk/sponsorship-form/>. More information on the 'Future Story' scheme is available at <https://www.storyhomes.co.uk/the-story-difference/sustainable-story>.

Taylor Wimpey will shortly begin groundwork on the land off Eden Drive for the second development in this corner of the village.

This site abuts the St Edmund's Manor project. It stretches westward to the rear of The Meadows and lies to the south and east of Eden Drive. The build will provide 197 two to five bedroom family homes, including 20 affordable houses. These will be a mix of detached and semi detached houses. Taylor Wimpey is confident that "The development has been sympathetically designed to retain as much of the mature landscaping as possible and views of St Edmunds Church".



Artist's impression of the Eden Drive development street scene

Unlikely "brothers" at Durham Cathedral

Heads turned in Durham Cathedral this week as three Benedictine monks - two of them clearly members of the fairer sex - appeared among the eye-catching artefacts in the Open Treasure exhibition. The masquerading monks, seen right, were actually members of the Friends of St Edmund's Church, there to explore the story of the ancient building and the people, history and Christian message at the heart of the cathedral's life and worship. In the former monks' dormitory, Christine & Brian Mutch and Alison Hodgson tried the style of dress worn by the Benedictines centuries ago. After lunch in the Prior's Hall the group enjoyed a guided tour of the cathedral and visited the Open Treasure exhibition.



There's more from the Friends of St Edmund's Church on page 9.

Turners – what next for this prominent site?

You may have noticed that Turners car show room has been closed for some time. Now plans have been presented (to the Town Council on October 9th and to local people on October 18th at an open event in the Manor House) for houses to be built on the site on Salters Lane, where the caravan storage site would also close.

The remaining part of the business, which operates taxis and a vehicle rescue fleet, will relocate to Fishburn, safeguarding all 30 jobs.

Those with a caravan or trailer stored there will be contacted by Turners by letter. There is an alternative facility in Fishburn for 200 caravans which currently has spare capacity for about 180 caravans so it is hoped that sufficient storage will be available in the local area.

Sue Dobson's report continues on p. 3.

In other news this month

Anti-social behaviour is discussed on pages 2 & 4

Homework Club

Details of the proposal are on page 6

Sedgefield Book Festival is reviewed on page 7

Twinning News can be found on page 9

Steve's Nature Diary

It's Wednesday morning, I have a busy day at work; Middlesbrough College in the morning and a school in the afternoon. My phone beeps – a text – Scops Owl at Ryhope, Sunderland.

I have never seen a Scops Owl; this the first record for Co. Durham and the first mainland record for over 10 years. I get very twitchy but don't finish until 6pm - too late to go. Will it be there tomorrow?

Thursday is another busy day, but I manage to get away slightly earlier and at 6pm I am amongst a crowd of about 30 people watching a rather cute Scops Owl. It's only 20cm tall looking rather sleepy perched in an elderberry bush. The Scops Owl visits southern Europe in the summer

and then migrates back over the Med to winter in sub-Saharan Africa and must have been blown off course. Twitchers from as far away as Sussex, Kent and Fife, along with bemused locals, managed to see the bird which stayed around for a few days before hopefully continuing its migration.

You have to be very lucky to see a Scops Owl in your garden; you are far more likely to see, or even more likely to hear, the larger Tawny Owl. Tawny Owls are about the size of a pigeon, brown in colour with black eyes. During the daylight hours they tend to remain in cover up against a tree trunk and are occasionally pestered by scolding songbirds. During the winter nights the classic hooting calls can be heard along with a 'keewik' call. Tawny Owls are busy now establishing breeding territories. They typically use a cavity in a tree, often quite exposed, but will also take to a specially designed Tawny Owl box. They take a wide range of prey from earthworms (taken on wet nights from your lawn) through to small mice and rats, Starlings and even Grey Squirrels. So although you cannot attract them by providing food in the normal sense, you can try and attract them by providing a suitable nest box.

**You can download a design from the British Trust for Ornithology website
www.bto.org/sites/default/files/tawny_owl_nest_box_design.pdf.**

Another owl seen in the countryside around Sedgefield is the Barn Owl. It also readily takes to nest boxes if it is located in the correct habitat. As part of the River Tees Rediscovered "Wings of the Tees" project, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust is working with volunteers who have erected a number of boxes around the Tees Valley. A total of 5 boxes were successful and 20 chicks were ringed as part of the project (quite a success).

Again instructions on how to make and where to erect a Barn Owl nest box can be found on the BTO website. More information about the River Tees Rediscovered project can be found on their new website www.riverteesrediscovered.org/

Sports Update is on page 8.

This month we feature Sedgefield District RUFC first team.

Here, Chris Dawson breaks through the defence on his way to the try line to cap a fine performance against Ashington.

Great photo!

More sports photos on SedgefieldWeb.



Wonderfully camouflaged - the Scops Owl

Letters & thanks

Charity thanks

Sedgefield Library would like thank all of the kind people who baked and attended their 'MacMillan Biggest Coffee Morning' on the 28 September, and helped to raise £137.24 which has been sent to the worthy cause.

Thank you.

Katie Burkhill

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported the Macmillan coffee morning on 29th September. And thank you to all my friends who helped with baking, serving coffee, washing up and organising the raffle and donating prizes. We had a very good and busy morning raising £760.

Margaret Dickerson, Hardwick Road

Anti-social behaviour

Noise and nuisance created by large groups of young people, now regular Friday night visitors to Sedgefield, is a major problem which needs to be addressed. On Saturday 14th October I collected two large black sacks of litter from the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall, including takeaway cartons, empty packets, plastic bottles, soft drinks cans and a great many alcohol containers, amongst them vodka, schnapps, wine and beer. Further rubbish was strewn around the centre of the village and the play-ground, the first meeting place for this increasingly large crowd.



My thanks to dog walker, Colin Eltringham, who came to my assistance, as well as two ladies, also walking dogs, who shared their concerns. The grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall, as well as the village green, are open areas for the benefit of all residents and visitors. Neither should have to be avoided thanks to the unacceptable behaviour of some.

Voces are raised, swearing is prevalent and the large groups are intimidating, intentionally or not. Strategies suggested by local police seem to have had little effect. Parents need to take responsibility for the actions of their children, who could indeed be in danger. Combine alcohol, dark nights, large groups and uninhibited behaviour and Sedgefield could be the setting for some very serious problems.

Norma Neal



Turners - what next?

The owner of Turners approached Hardwick Properties Limited 18 months ago to develop ideas for the site. The directors of Hardwick Properties, Jeff Pike and Paul Archer, both have local connections; Paul lives in Sedgefield, and they employ a dozen people from the area. They have commissioned Chris Pyle of LOM architects, who is originally from Trimdon Village, to develop the design for the site and the planning consultant also lives in Sedgefield - so all those working on the plans have a good knowledge of Sedgefield.

Obviously Sedgefield has seen a lot of changes over recent years. As recently as the 1970s this was a greenfield site with the only buildings being those of the Isolation Hospital on what is now The Gables. During the 1980s and 1990s the Salters Lane Industrial Estate was developed and The Gables housing was built in the mid 1990s. And of course Winterton and NETPark have followed.

For many local people, Sedgefield has had more than its fair share of housing proposals over recent months and the St Edmunds Manor development is now under construction to the south east of the town centre. These other proposals have however been different in terms of their scale and location, all being proposed on greenfield sites around the edge of the village (apart from the development on the community hospital site which is a long way out of the village but will still have an impact on the village in terms of services and traffic). This proposal is on a brownfield site within the village boundary. There will be approximately 70 houses, with a focus on 2 and 3 bedrooms. The houses will front on to Salters Lane with front doors and gardens set back from the main public footpath alongside the road. The three existing vehicle access points into the site will be reduced to one. The mature trees between the site and Pine Ridge Crescent will be kept and some form of buffer will be built between the site and the existing industrial estate to minimise the impact of any light or noise from the Industrial Estate.

At the Town Council meeting on October 9th, Councillors asked a number of questions about the proposals, to which the developers responded as follows:

Q. Do we need any more houses?



The present scene approaching Sedgefield from the Community Hospital roundabout, with below, an artists impression of the same view after the housing is built.



A. Durham County Council does not have a 5 year housing supply across the County so sites still need to be identified. This is a brownfield site and would be a preferred option to a greenfield site in terms of planning considerations.

Q. Will there be a mix of housing types? We need housing that meets the needs of local people (as noted in the Sedgefield Neighbourhood Plan)

A. The developer is talking to a retirement home company to look at options for accommodation for older people. There is also a requirement for 10% of homes to be 'affordable'.

Q. The site is currently part of an Industrial Estate and has always been some form of garage. This will be a loss of potential employment land. Where will new jobs be created?

A. All of the current jobs based on the site will be safeguarded. There is commercial land at NETPark. Planners at Durham County Council will need to consider whether there is sufficient alternative commercial/industrial elsewhere and whether an industrial use on this site would be preferable to housing.

Q. Is there an opportunity to design the site to encourage walking and cycling? And possibly provide a link into Hardwick Primary School?

A. The layouts for the site prepared to date have a strong emphasis on

pedestrian movement. It is unclear whether Durham County Council would support a direct link from the site into Hardwick Primary School but this is something that will be explored.

The public consultation event was well attended with lots of questions for Jeff Pike and his team. 144 questionnaires were completed and on the day there was 89% support for the scheme.

Three main issues emerged:

1. The benefit of developing the site in terms of improving the appearance of the site and the approach into Sedgefield.
2. The need in Sedgefield for homes to meet requirements of younger and older persons – not just larger, family housing.
3. The need for the development to be accompanied by improved infrastructure - GP Surgeries, schools, etc.

No doubt local people will have other issues to consider. Many will be concerned about the increased pressure on local services, whilst others may see this as an opportunity for their business. Although there is a bus stop right outside the site and many shops and services are in walking distance, there will be concern about increased traffic.

The outline planning application will be submitted in a few weeks-time and this will provide a further opportunity for people to comment on the plans.

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Q. Do we need any more houses?



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Community Safety and Police news

Sedgefield Village N/H & Crime Watch Panel

The AGM & the subsequent scheduled meeting were held on Tuesday 10th October. Minutes of both meetings will be posted in the Police notice board and the Town Council board as normal.

There were no new volunteers at the AGM. Consequently existing officers, unwilling to let the group fold, have volunteered to stay on for another year.

Nights Drawing In: Remember that preventative measures only take a little thought and are well worthwhile, so please consider the simple deterrent measures outlined by PC Todd, and avoid becoming a victim of crime.

Letter from PC Todd

As the nights become darker and the weather turns colder, please spare a thought for the need to adjust your security precautions. At this time of year, when you go out during the day there is a chance that, on your return, your house will be in darkness. Opportunist thieves will be looking for such a property. Knowing that nobody is at home makes for easy pickings! If this is the case, please consider using timer lights.

Recently such an unlit property in the village became a target for early evening thieves. The owners returned to find the patio doors forced, the house ransacked and a quantity of jewellery stolen.

Other crimes include, a trailer stolen from the Travel Lodge and three burglaries reported at the Co-op stores. The two offenders have now been arrested after committing similar crimes around the North East. Some local stores have also suffered from shoplifting. This includes Bolam's, where one male was arrested but a second unfortunately managed to escape, and the Co-op where a male was arrested.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Hardwick Arms. No incidents were reported which required further action by members. Until next time, Keith.

Dirty dogs and the dangers they leave for our children.

We have received a letter from a lady who recently moved to Sedgefield and has been shocked by the amount of dog dirt on the streets here. She comments "every day I find some and this anti-social behaviour is a health hazard to our community. In particular the worms carried can cause blindness. Sadly, twice this week there has been some outside Sedgefield Primary School."

She continues "I am hoping you may be able to help publicise this and lead to an improvement in the current situation."

Well, what's to do? Our late and much missed Village Warden, Tim Spearey, did a lot to campaign and educate on this. Who will take up the challenge?

SEDGEFIELD NEWS INFORMATION

**Deadline for December edition:
Wednesday 15th October**

News & Advertising: 07572 502 904

Email: sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

55 White House Drive, TS21 3BU

Sport: chrisjlines@aol.com

Arts & Events:

sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Diary: diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Website: www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Email: sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk

Call 101 to contact Local Police to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information. It is advisable to keep notes of the conversation & obtain an incident number.

Police Community Liaison Officer

Faye Callan is also on 101 - extension 742317 or you can email faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk

New £20,000 fund launched

Thanks to the new "Young PCVC Community Safety Fund" launched this week by Libby Wright, the newly elected 'Young' Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner, young people will be able to apply for funding to cut crime and improve the safety of their communities.

£10,000 comes from Ron Hogg, Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, and the other £10,000 from the County Durham Community Foundation.

The Fund will provide grants up to £5,000 for projects that address:

- Improving road safety
- Reducing anti-social behaviour
- Reducing rural crime
- Awareness of drug addiction or alcohol misuse
- Reducing re-offending
- Support for victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Meeting the needs of vulnerable people, such as people with mental health problems, or children at risk
- Domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Hate crime
- Emerging threats e.g. extremism

The Fund is open to any young person aged from 9- 18 living in County Durham or Darlington to support community projects.

To be eligible to apply, you must have the support of an organisation, youth group or school who knows you and can comment on your abilities to run your project. This might include charitable or community organisations, Police Cadets, Fire Cadets or the Mini-Police, schools or uniformed services.

You must apply by 7 November at www.cdcf.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/grants-for-individuals

After this date, Libby will chair a committee of young people to select the successful projects.

Nightingales

Community Care

NIGHTINGALES COMMUNITY CARE TEAM - VACANCIES

We are a professional Home Care Service, looking for reliable, dependable staff to join our Team. If you have the right knowledge, skills, attitude, and a desire to care for people living at home, we are looking for you to join our established community care company based in Sedgefield.

For further information, please contact Liz Edwards, Office Manager, on 01740 625207 or email enquiries@nightingalessedgefield.co.uk



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Home of Sedgefield Community Association (SCA)

Sedgefield is such a great place to live, not least because of the fantastic opportunities open to people of all ages to benefit from the various groups and associations available.

For the past 37 years, Barbara Hobson has worked at the pre-school based at Ceddesfeld Hall. Barbara initially started working at the pre-school as a helper before taking over as manager and has remained in role since then. Throughout this time the pre-school has benefited literally hundreds of young children between the ages of 2 to 5 years. For most of the youngsters it was their first opportunity to socialise, play and learn alongside other children of their own age in an educational setting. Throughout the years and through lots of changes to education and OFSTED inspections, Barbara and her team have succeeded in providing an enriching and stimulating, child-centred environment, much valued by local parents and grandparents, who as well as having their children educated, benefited also from meeting other parents and carers.

It is with real sadness, that SCA announce the closure of Ceddesfeld Hall pre-school. We would like to say a very sincere and huge 'THANK YOU' to Barbara for her commitment and years of work and would like her to know that we think she has made a real contribution and difference to the lives of many people in Sedgefield. Three generations have passed through the doors in her time. What a fantastic achievement. Barbara is now retiring and is hoping to spend more time with her family and her own young grandchildren. She has said that she is very sad to be finishing and that she will miss the children, parents and staff who have been very supportive, loyal and encouraging over the years.

Helen Crossan, who has worked alongside Barbara for over 20 years is also retiring, and both are pictured here, at work with the children. SCA will miss the pre-school and it really is the end of an era. We would like to wish Barbara and her team every happiness for the future and best wishes for a long and healthy retirement.

Book Festival thanks

SCA kindly hosted (free of charge) most of the events in the recent book festival, a review of which can be found on p.7. Thanks to all supported the event. We look forward to building on it next year.

SCA website: www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk

Telephone contacts: Wendy, 620206. Pat, 620607. Sarah, 622185.



Sedgefield Energy Switch

HAVE YOU HAD DIFFICULTY REGISTERING FOR OUR ENERGY SAVING SCHEME?

It has been brought to our attention that some people have experienced errors when trying to register online for our Energy Saving Scheme, some having had difficulties finding their existing tariffs and also finding that information fields were missing when using Internet Explorer. Working closely with iChoosr, the company who collate the registrations, we have identified and resolved all of the issues that people were experiencing.

We are concerned that people who might have wanted to register for the scheme may not have been able to. To provide that opportunity of completing a registration the Development Trust have arranged to have the registration site re-opened after the auction. So, if you haven't already registered you have until 21st November.

We have received some advance information (as of 16th October) that SSE have again won the auction and that the winning tariff was market leading on the date of the auction (10th October). We haven't details of the rates but those who registered before the auction date will start receiving their personal offers from 23rd October.

Don't forget if your existing energy contract comes to an end between now and January next year, NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER. As before, if you are happy to register online yourself, go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk, open the ENERGY SWITCH section, click on the 'REGISTER NOW' button and then follow the links and fill out your details.

OR 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, or complete your registration for you.

Sedgefield Farmers Market

The Community Stall at our market on 5th November will be the St John Ambulance. Stallholder news. Dryden Farms make their annual visit with samples of their Geese and Kelly Bronze turkeys. Taste before you order your Christmas dinner centrepiece.

Are you interested in HOMEWORK HELP?

Thanks to those who responded to last month's announcement. More responses would be welcome, both to help and looking for help! So, with what?

As part of Sedgefield Development Trust, I'm looking to launch a homework help group, probably in January, for students and pupils aged around 8 to 18, from any school in the local area.

If you would like help with understanding something in your school homework or you would just like a quiet space to work on it; or if you would like to help - please contact me. This would not be teaching, tuition or child-minding; just volunteers willing to share their knowledge or help untangle any difficulties with things that pupils are learning. I'm looking to find out who might be interested in coming along, to learn or to help; what day and time of day would work best; whether regular sessions or *ad hoc* arrangements would suit better; what subjects you'd like help with and what year you are in at school; or what subjects you could offer help with and to what level. All helpers would be DBS-checked.

For more information or to let me know you are interested, please e-mail: homeworkhelp@sedgefield@gmail.com.

Thanks, Tamzin Lafford.



Tom Guest's ARTS & EVENTS UPDATE sedgefieldartsandevents@hotmail.com

Bookends: Sedgefield Book Festival

Sedgefield's first Book Festival ended in fine style on Saturday October 14th with 'Writers, Words and Wit', a tasty dinner interspersed with literary allusions, witticisms and a fiendish picture quiz. Originally intended as a fringe event in support of Durham Book Festival, this celebration of writing, reading, music and food grew, until the events on offer spanned over two weeks. Local performers brought an impressive range of talents to the opening concert, celebrating Nobel laureates - songwriter Bob Dylan and Irish poet, Seamus Heaney.

Peter Barron, former editor of the Northern Echo, entranced a hall full of Year 6 pupils from both primary schools with tales of his life in journalism. His Monstrous Morals stories, designed to encourage children to give up unpleasant habits, also went down a treat. Colleague Chris Lloyd of Echo memories scored a hit with the adults, giving a fascinating talk on local connections and influences that led to the creation of the Alice books by vicar's son Lewis Carroll.

Acclaimed local writers Wendy Robertson and Avril Joy presented inspirational workshops based on their own publications, while Sedgefield Library invited horror writer Rachael Dixon of Easington to share her experiences of self-publishing. National Bookshop Day on Saturday October 7th gave more local writers a chance to promote their work at a Book Sale and Signing.

Most events, including a beautiful concert by Sedgefield's very own Lirica, were held in Ceddesfeld Hall, home of Sedgefield Community Association (SCA). The Manor House also hosted an evening with singer and guitarist Keith James, celebrating the music and writing of Leonard Cohen. Co-organiser with Sarah Guest of SCA, Norma Neal said, 'We are immensely grateful to all those writers, performers and community members who gave so willingly of their time and talents to help make this first ever Sedgefield Book Festival such a success. Perhaps not Book Ends, just a beginning.'

Norma Neal



Performers, authors, organisers & participants are pictured at the first Bookends festival.



Duke of Edinburgh Success

Being a parent must be the hardest and most stressful job in the world, but some days your children make you feel so proud, it makes it all more than worth it. Thursday 12th October 2017 was such a red letter day for us.

Our elder son, Jack Tinkler, life long resident of Sedgefield and former student at Hardwick Primary, Sedgefield Community College and Darlington College, is currently in his second year at university in London studying computing. At the age of 14, he joined the 1407 Newton Aycliffe Squadron as an air cadet working his way up to the rank of flight sergeant.

In that time, Jack successfully completed his bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh awards. Created in 1956 by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT, the awards encourage young people aged 14 to 25 to develop new skills, push themselves physically and help other people whilst building new friendship and memories. To complete his gold award, Jack acted as the cadet NCO helping new and younger cadets in the squadron, completed aeronautical studies, as well as running to meet the physical element. He also included a number of expeditions including a four day hike in the Cheviots.

The culmination of the Duke of Edinburgh award journey is the presentation of the gold certificate and badge at St James' Palace and this is where, at 3 o'clock last Thursday, we assembled with other proud families to watch Jack and his fellow recipients receive their awards. HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, addressed the audience extending his congratulations to everyone before the certificates were presented by the special VIP guest, Ted Atkins who is a former RAF engineer, explorer, adventurer, mountaineer and inventor.

This was an amazing experience, both for Jack and for us, and definitely one of the proudest moments we have had as parents. Jack's entire family and all his friends would like to extend their congratulations and tell him how delighted we are at his achievement.

Joanne and Andrew Tinkler

Sedgefield Village Veterans hold their annual Remembrance Day Service at St Luke's War Memorial, Winterton
on FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER starting at 10.35hrs. The timing helps the schools and factories to allow their representatives to take part. Deputy Lord lieutenant, Mrs Andrea Flynn will also attend.

SPORTS UPDATE

with Chris Lines

email: chrisjlines@aol.com

The nights are drawing in, the autumn storms are blowing and the temperature is dropping. That can only mean one thing – muddy sports kit! The football and rugby seasons are in full swing and Sedgefield's runners have started the annual series of cross country races, while there's still plenty of indoor sport to talk about too. So without further ado...

Boccia

I have written about Sedgefield's talented boccia player Lee Maddison before.

Boccia is a precision ball sport, related to bowls and pétanque, which is contested at local, national and international levels, by athletes with disabilities.

Lee, pictured right with his coach, recently found out that he has been selected for the England Performance Group, a recognition of his performances in recent times. Lee's goal is now to progress through the UK Talent Pathway programme towards world class standard. He is grateful to everyone responsible for helping him to this stage, especially Jonathan Reeder-Scott, his assistant on and off court. Congratulations to Lee. I look forward to reporting on more successes soon.



Athletics

For the second time this year, a Sedgefield Harrier wore a national vest at an event recently. Following James Oldfield's Team GB appearance at the Duathlon World Championships in Canada, Justin Cox ran for the England Masters Marathon Team against a Celtic nations team at the MBNA Chester Marathon in early October. Justin had qualified by finishing in the top five for his age group (40-44) in the Yorkshire Marathon in 2016. This was the first year that England Athletics put together the Masters Marathon Team to reward regular club runners who would not otherwise have the opportunity to represent their country. Justin completed the marathon in a personal best of 2:45:53 and 48th place overall (14th in his age group) and comments: "Despite hoping to get sub 2:45, I was pleased with my time over a course in Chester that wasn't particularly fast and against such a strong field of Masters runners. It was a brilliant feeling to be able to represent my country and it's also been great to get so much support from my fellow Sedgefield Harriers. My next target is the Manchester Marathon in May 2018, with the target of again qualifying for the England Masters Marathon Team and getting a London Marathon championship place."

Phil Houghton, chair of Sedgefield Harriers, adds: "James and Justin are two of the club's most dedicated and successful athletes and hugely deserved the honours that they earned. Their achievements have created a buzz among Sedgefield Harriers and demonstrate to our junior members what can be achieved with the right application and coaching support. We already have other younger athletes, such as Kieran Walker, who have reached the brink of earning a national vest. I am sure, once we achieve our ambition of our own training track and field facilities, many more will follow." Meanwhile, the cross country season is well underway. More on that next month, but Sedgefield Harriers' senior and junior athletes have already been out in force, with quite a few new runners wearing spikes and taking on the challenge of mud and hills for the first time.

Squash

The season's first honours at Sedgefield Squash Club were recently won in the team handicap. After five rounds of matches, and the usual debate about some of the "carefully considered" handicaps, congratulations go to the victorious septet of: Stephen Rowsby, Tom McKay, Kevin Amer, Stephen Larke, Emma Allen, Sharon Brown and Jo Bowman.

A mixed team then travelled to Edinburgh Sports Club for the annual Oktoberfest competition, an international event involving 18 teams. The first round match on the Friday was tough against the eventual winners, an Italian team from Turin. Not to be deterred, Sedgefield finished a creditable seventh in the karaoke competition that evening, with their amazing rendition of Livin' on a Prayer by Bon Jovi.

The second and third days saw more competitive and closely fought matches against Edinburgh University, Oban and Cambridge. All participants enjoyed great hospitality and organisation, and Sedgefield have been invited to play again next year.

The senior teams have now begun their campaigns in the Durham & Cleveland Leagues, with the early headlines going to the ladies' team, who have won both their opening fixtures including a 19-0 thumping in their opening fixture. Look out for more updates on the teams throughout the season.

Memberships remain available from Sue Smith (email: curlietailz@aol.com) or for children, junior coaching for all standards and ages four upwards is available on Saturday mornings (contact Simon Hill on 01740 629417).

Rugby Union

The Sedgefield District RUFC first team have had a steady start to their second season in Durham & Northumberland Division 2. From the opening six games, Sedgefield have chalked up notable victories against Richmondshire and Whitley Bay Rockcliff, as well as a draw against Darlington.

On 7th October they entertained Ashington, earning a deserved bonus point win after a powerful forward display softened up the opposition during the first half. The 39-23 victory came thanks to tries from Phil Dawson (2), Will Johnson (2) and Chris Dawson, *pictured on page 2*, with 14 points from the boot of Owen Robinson.

Sedgefield's second string, the Sedgefield Saxons, have had a tough start to their inaugural season in the Tees Valley Social League. Despite competitive performances against more established teams they are yet to convert these into a victory, which leaves them at the bottom of the table after five games.



Sedgefield Harriers Justin Cox (left) and James Oldfield in their national kit.

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

HALLOWEEN HOWLER PUMPKIN COMPETITION

Bring your carved pumpkin along to Sedgefield Town Council's Annual Fireworks Display on Friday 3rd November 2017



Entries should be brought to Ceddesfeld Hall car park between 5:45pm and 6pm. The Mayor of Sedgefield will announce the winner at 6:15pm. Every entrant wins a prize!

Sedgefield Twinning Association gets athletic!

Following a fantastic visit by 12 Sedgefield Harriers to Hamminkeln in August for its annual city run (the Citylauf) a group of fourteen Hamminkelners visited Sedgefield from 15-18 September. The party comprised Hamminkeln SV (sports club) members and organisers of the August Citylauf; all were keen to see their twin town and to participate in Sedgefield's Serpentine Race at Hardwick Park.

The weekend started with a tour of Sedgefield on Friday, hosted by Gary Hetherington and Phil Houghton. This included a guided tour of St Edmunds Church, hosted by Brian Mutch; dinner at the Dun Cow; and finally drinks and chat at Ceddesfeld Hall.

Next morning was Sedgefield's weekly Parkrun. Following a special briefing in German by the event's director, Chris Hearmon, five Hamminkeln runners (Helmut, Alfons, Werner, Thomas and Norbert) joined the assembled athletes and were cheered on enthusiastically by the rest of the group. In the afternoon, guests and hosts visited Durham for a cathedral visit, a riverside walk, plenty of cake and, of course, a bit of souvenir shopping.

The evening was spent at a party in Durham House (the old Nag's Head) in Sedgefield. Here the German gang and some Sedgefield Harriers enjoyed an evening of eating, drinking, chatting (in English, German and sometimes in an interesting mix of both) and some (competitive) games of pool!

On a sunny Sunday the party attended the Sedgefield Serpentine race, a 10k trail through Hardwick Park to Bishop Middleham and back. Of the five German runners, Werner Kamps was the first Hamminkelner home in 13th position overall. He received a bottle of wine for his fine achievement!

Sunday afternoon brought fog as we ventured out to climb Roseberry Topping. At the last moment, the thick mist lifted to reveal the local landmark. That evening a lovely dinner was had in 'Le Raaj' restaurant, after which everyone retired to the bar at Ceddesfeld Hall for one final drink together.

All in all, it was a fantastic weekend with plenty of sunshine in between the showers. We have made some great new German friends and we now look forward to building on these new relationships to strengthen the bond between our two towns.

Alda Hummelink

What next for Twinning?

This month saw the 35th anniversary of the establishment of The Sedgefield and Hamminkeln Twinning Association in October, 1982. The links between the towns continue and this year we have seen the visit of a group from Germany in June and reciprocal visits to athletics events in each other's towns. We have now been invited back to visit Hamminkeln from **May 30th to June 3rd 2018**. Happily (and unusually!) these dates fall in the schools' half term holiday, so we hope that more new people, families and individuals, will be able to travel with us and help us continue this link which has resulted in so many deep friendships over the years.

Anyone interested in finding out about The Twinning Association, perhaps with a view to taking part in the future, might like to attend our social evening on November 11th, details of which can be found in Diary on page 12.

Judith Edgoose.

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL

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News from St. Edmund's

A jolly-looking Saint Edmund has made an appearance in Sedgefield's ancient church. In his mitre, robe and cape he features in a newly-commissioned, explorer trail booklet for young visitors. He suggests how youngsters can find their way around the building and explains words used to describe key parts of the church. There are several entertaining tasks for visitors to tackle, inside the church and the church-yard, including the chance to design a stained glass window, complete a word-search puzzle and test their perception skills in 'spot the difference' pictures. The colourful trail guide is the work of Fishburn artist-designer Kevan Stevens, below, owner of the Art Room North East Ltd, who recently designed a new church guide and interpretation panels for St Edmund's. His freehand drawings of Saint Edmund, who is depicted with his crosier and Bible, are the result of painstaking research.

The booklet has already been highly praised by those who have seen it. Church visitor Natasha Graydon and her eight-year-old son, Isaac called the guide eye-catching, educational and fun.

Kevan Stevens also designed the newly launched friendsstedmunds.org. Its purpose is to keep supporters of the Friends of St Edmund's Church up-to-date with their efforts to help preserve the centuries-old building. Send info for possible inclusion on the website to chair@friendsstedmunds.org.

The Friends make regular visits to local places of interest, the next being the annual Christmas shopping trip to York on 7th December. Full details will follow shortly.

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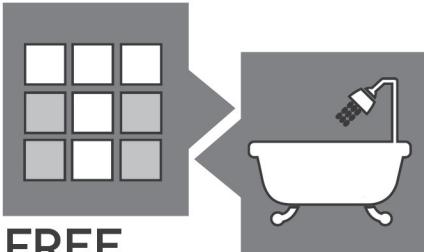
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DIARY: November 2017

Submit your events to diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Wed 1	Sedgefield WI: The Parish Hall at 7:15pm. "An evening with Estee Lauder" by Binns. Members' competition - a beauty tip. Visitors welcome.
Thu 2	Sew Easy: Parish Hall Boardroom 7pm - 9pm. Call 622447 for information.
Fri 3	Sedgefield & District U3A: The Parish Hall 2pm. Brian Lister: "The Changing Waves of Radio". Members free, Visitors welcome, £3 at the door STC's Fireworks Display: Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds @ 6:30pm. Details on page 9.
Sat 4	Drop in Surgeries: Cllr John Robinson. 9 – 9.45am, Bradbury & Mordon Village Hall; 10 – 11am, Sedgefield Library; 11.15 – 12 pm Fishburn Community Centre. The Mayor of Sedgefield's Buffet Lunch: The Parish Hall, 12.30 for 1pm. Tickets £15 from Council Offices & Cllr David Brown 01740 622894. Proceeds to North East Air Ambulance & Macular Society.
Sun 5	Sedgefield Farmers' Market: On the Village Green from 8.30 am.
Mon 6	Local History Society: Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm. A talk on "Colliery Curers and Pitmen's Potions" by Joe Chipchase. Sedgefield Youth Club: <i>Every Monday</i> at the Parish Hall. Juniors (50p) 6-7pm, Seniors (£1) 7-8:30pm. Table tennis, Xbox, Playstation, tuck shop and more. For info contact natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Tue 7	Sedgefield Gardening Club: Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm.
Fri 10	Sedgefield Country Market: Parish Hall 10am to 11.30am. Home baked produce, Crafts, Jams, Cards, Plants, Refreshments. For information call 629441. Sedgefield Village Veterans Annual Remembrance Day Service: St Luke's War Memorial, Winterton at 10.35am. More on page 7.
Sat 11	Cricket Club Quiz: 8pm at the Cricket Club. Quiz entry fee £1 per person. Sedgefield Twinning Association: Ceddesfeld Hall @ 7pm. Social, fundraising evening for members and interested newcomers Chat, meet new people, enjoy a buffet and entertainment with a German flavour, all for £10. Ring or text Judith Edgoose on 07899 984464 or ring Nancy Wells on 01740 620467 for information.
Tue 14	Sedgefield Business Network Business Breakfast: The Parish Hall @ 8am. Sponsored by Kyle Cannings Ltd.
Thu 16	Sew Easy: Parish Hall Boardroom 7-9pm. Call 622447 for information.
Fri 17	WI Grand Coffee Morning: The Parish Hall, 10am - 11:30am. All welcome! Tombola, handmade cards, cakes, bookstall, etc.
Sun 19	Sew Easy: Parish Hall Boardroom 7pm - 9pm. Call 622447 for information.
Mon 20	Sedgefield Family History Group: Ceddesfeld Hall @ 7.15pm A talk by Tim Brown; "A Man, A Medal & A Watch: Christopher Woodwards Great War".
Tue 21	Sedgefield, Ferryhill & District Flower Club: Parish Hall, 7.30pm. Open Meeting. Demonstrator Kate Kerr, Scottish National Demonstrator "With Christmas in Mind". Members £5.50, non members £8.
Sat 25	Sedgefield in Bloom Dance: 7.30 pm at the Parish Hall. Dance to The Old School Band. Tickets from council offices, £10 inc pie & pea supper; bring your own drinks.
Tue 28	Mordon and Bradbury District Ladies Circle: Mordon Village Hall @ 7.30pm. A talk on "Reflections on Mordon" by Sheila Binks (former Morden resident and writer). All visitors welcome. For info contact 01388 720 502 or 01740 621000.
Thu 30	Sew Easy: Parish Hall Boardroom 7pm - 9pm. Call 622447 for information.

Coming up in December

Sedgefield Area Churches Together Advent Course

The course will be run by Mel Gray at the Methodist Church on Thursdays 7th, 14th and 21st December, starting at 7.30 pm and followed by refreshments.

Everyone is welcome.

Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the Publisher or the Editor. We strive to be impartial & independent. We reserve the right to edit copy & will not publish letters of unknown authorship. Please send your contact details with correspondence.

Published by Sedgefield Development Trust and printed by The Print Factory: 01429 264777

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Sedgefield Social Club

Saturday 4th November: Ryan King.

Saturday 11th November: Kara Morgan.

Saturday 18th November: Dave Walker.

Monday 20th November: Country Night with Ron Spence

Saturday 25th November: Stenna

Sedgefield Tea Dance

Tuesdays, 1pm - 3pm in the Parish Hall.

November: 7th & 21st

December: 5th & 19th

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New Generation Church

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