



SEDGEFIELD NEWS

October 2015



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

Taking the ALLEF plunge - a brilliant, life changing decision for Nick Dexter

by Tony Magee.

Sedgefield boy, Nick Dexter, is currently readjusting to life in England after an extended stay in Germany. Nick, a pupil of Sedgefield Junior School in Rectory Row, has just completed a six month exchange visit during which he lived with a German family in the city of Trier, an ancient town on the border with Luxembourg. During his stay in Trier, Nick lived the life of his German family, speaking German on a daily basis and attending a German school with the children of his host family. Although difficult at first, Nick's German improved to the point where he was not only speaking German but thinking in it as well. In fact, part of the readjustment process has been to recall the English words and phrases that he hasn't used for half a year.

Nick's exchange was arranged by an organisation called *The Association for Learning Languages En Famille* (ALLEF). ALLEF is a voluntary, non profit making organisation which has been managing exchanges for 8 - 11 year olds between families in France, Germany and the UK since 1994. In that time ALLEF has arranged linguistic and cultural exchanges between over 300 families. Lesley Dexter, Nick's mum, is a big fan of ALLEF's work. She believes that the programme gives children "a fantastic opportunity to develop excellent language skills and have a life changing experience" of another culture. Many of the children who have had the 'ALLEF experience' have gone on to study, live or work abroad, as well as becoming fluent in one or more languages. Not everyone has been so enthusiastic, however. Lesley admits that many friends and family expressed understandable misgivings about the prospect of such a trip for one as young as Nick. In the early days of the process she had to field comments such as "don't do it ...", "an awful idea ..." and "he doesn't understand the concept behind it; what it means to be away



Unconvinced by such doubts and spurred on by Nick's positive attitude to the idea, Lesley began the process of setting up the exchange. The matching process creates detailed profiles of both families in terms of lifestyles, values and parenting styles, together with information about the home, school and the local environment. This is followed by meetings, home visits etc. Lesley was reassured by the care and diligence that ALLEF puts into matching families within the scheme. In the Dexter's case this process lasted almost a year. Details can be found at www.allef.org.uk/the-process. Lesley was impressed by the meticulous, thorough nature of the process as outlined at the link above and was further reassured by ALLEF's guarantees of close monitoring (by ALLEF mentors) of Nick's progress and well being. Nick even had a pre addressed envelope which he could send off to ALLEF at any time should he have become unhappy with his situation in Germany - his 'Get out of Jail' card, if you like! Lesley is keen to help any families who might be interested in accessing what she believes to be, quite simply, "a gift for a child's future". She hopes that, as a result of his experience in ALLEF's programme, Nick will come to know that "he can go anywhere, and do anything without fear."

Leif, one of the German children, is due to arrive in January for his stay in Sedgefield to complete the exchange; Nick can't wait to pick up on his friendship with Leif and The Dexters are looking forward to repaying the trust that they placed in Leif's family earlier in the year. And as for Nick? In his own words he was "half excited but half frightened" when his mum first mentioned the idea, but became more confident as he learned more about his "German family". So, what was the biggest difference for Nick about life in Germany? I was impressed to discover that that the biggest difference for Nick was that, when he went training with Leif's football team in Trier, he was shocked to find that the German boys played as a team and were much better at passing the ball to each other. Well, Nick is only 10 years old! Us older hands are only too familiar with the quality of German football. Nick plays football for Sedgefield Juniors and. I'm told, Dave the coach has already embraced Nick's new German footballing skills.

Lesley is keen to promote the programme. Anyone interested can call her on 01740 622604 or 07856 625007 and perhaps discuss the scheme over kaffee und kuchen.

Steve's Nature Diary *The natural world month by month*

As we know the weather in the UK is very changeable and after a couple of very dank September days, the forecast for Sunday was much better, so where to go? Locally there are many greenspaces worth visiting, both for bit of exercise and wildlife spotting. Hurworth Burn reservoir is one such; there is a small car park at Hurworth Burn and the old railway, now a path, is a gentle walk to Station Town, but it can get busy with cyclists. The former railway line opened in 1877 and eventually closed in 1951 and is now partially reclaimed by nature. You can just about see the remains of the platforms at Hurworth.

The site is managed by Durham County Council Countryside along with Durham Bird Club and their volunteers. The path gives good views of the reservoir with lots of seats and we could hear the geese before we saw them; lots of Grey Lag and Canada Geese were grazing on the banks of the reservoir with some in the water as well. Other water birds included Mallard, Great Crested Grebe, Moorhen with young and Little Grebe. Species that use the reservoir vary depending on the time of the year but you can always see something interesting. In the scrub that has developed at the side of the tracks you often see birds flying from one side to the other and then you have to spend some time looking to see if you can find where they landed - it is good spot to see Yellowhammer, Tree Sparrow and other woodland birds. Along the side of the path there are number of flowers which have either been planted or established themselves over the years and during our walk the Rosebay Willowherb was very dominant along with masses of Field and Devil's-bit Scabious. These purple/blue flowers are popular with bees and butterflies.

The name 'scabious' derives from 'scabies', one of the many ailments that flowers bearing this name were supposed to help cure. According to one legend, the Devil grew angry about these medicinal properties and tried to get rid of them by biting the roots off. Hence why this wildflower has short and stubby roots and why it is called 'Devil's-bit' Scabious. During our walk, these flowers and others certainly were popular with butterflies including Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma in abundance, along with an occasional Painted Lady and Wall.

As well as common birds mentioned earlier the reservoir and the surrounding area can occasionally treat visitors and twitchers to some real rarities which has included Black-winged Pratincole, Osprey, Great Grey Shrike and Rough-legged Buzzard. The latter is a winter visitor, so if you do visit and see a large bird of prey soaring, check it out; you never know, it may be a rarity.

Sedgefield Scout Hall refurbishment project

We are absolutely delighted with the improvements to our hall. It was in real need of renovation and modernisation. The toilet and kitchen areas in particular, had not been updated since we purchased the hall in the 1960's. The upstairs area had limited use due to its shape and accessibility. We needed to raise such a large amount of money and often our goal of refurbishing the hall felt just out of reach. However, our efforts were rewarded when we received £15,000 from the Terrace Hill/Sainsbury's Community Fund. This gave us the incentive to push on and by April 2015 we had raised enough money to start the project.

The refurbishment work, carried out by Wrights Construction Ltd., Sedgefield, is now almost complete. We have a fabulous new meeting room on the first floor which has its own toilet facilities and can be accessed independently of the main hall.

Downstairs we have new toilet facilities, kitchen and storerooms. Currently we are deciding on appliances for the kitchen and looking for a local company who would be able to supply us with stainless steel shelving and worktops.

The refurbished hall will make such a difference to all who use it. Extra space and facilities will allow us to expand the scope of activities we can do with our Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Explorers, along with a greatly improved environment in which to do them in. With its more flexible meeting space and updated facilities, we consider our hall to be an asset to the Sedgefield community. Other groups already use the hall and in the future it is hoped that we will be able to help more community groups with a meeting place.

We would like to thank the following organisations who awarded our project a grant: Sir John Priestman Trust, The Rothley Trust, Dickon Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Sir James Knott Trust, Hadrian Trust, Impetus Environmental Trust, Veolia Environmental Trust, Area Action Partnership/It's up to You Grant, Cllr John Robinson and the Terrace Hill/Sainsbury's Community Funding. Also on behalf of the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers I would like to thank everybody who contributed in any way to our fundraising.

From Geoff Tonks, Group Scout Leader, 1st Sedgefield Scout Group



Please keep in touch - we love to hear from you
Deadline day for November is
Thursday 15th October

Contact the Editor by email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com;
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You can follow us on our Facebook page,
on Twitter @sedgefieldnews
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Come Sing with us!

The Sedgefield Lyric Singers are an enthusiastic choir seeking new members, men especially and in particular, those with Tenor voices. We sing a wide variety of music, have approximately 40 members and hold concerts locally throughout the year, often raising money for a variety of charities. The choir recently appeared at The Sage, Gateshead as part of the Sing the Living Project.

We meet on Friday evenings (term-time) in Ceddesfeld Hall, Sedgefield at 7.30pm and welcome adults of any age and singing ability. No auditions are necessary and you do not need to be able to read music. If you are interested please come along to a rehearsal or contact Avril on Sedgefield 01740 622512 or Clare at ce.holmes@btinternet.com

A younger perspective

You may notice that this edition includes articles both about and by young people. Last month, Jake Graham reported on his gap year in Africa. He has now started his degree in journalism at Teesside and will be one of two young correspondents to contribute regularly to Sedgefield News. This month, Kelly Aitkin, a student at QE6 in Darlington, makes her debut as a Young Reporter, left, there's an update on the Scout hut and below, an article by Gemma Hill on her guiding exploits. Almost every page contains an item on or by children or young people, including a sponsorship offer and a young gardener on p4, and of course, that remarkable front page story.

You might say that it's in celebration of our focus on youth that you can now follow



us @sedgynews on Instagram too! Share your favourite photos of our fabulous community or those taken at events around Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon & Fishburn, by tagging us #sedgynews. We'll share your images on social media and credit you as the photographer.

Sedgefield Community College: a remarkable achievement

Following last month's comments from Head teacher, Dave Davies, it's wonderful to be able to share with you the fact that, for the SECOND year in a row, our College is **COUNTY DURHAM'S HIGHEST ACHIEVING SECONDARY SCHOOL**. Mr Davies, his staff and students deserve to feel very proud.

The hills are alive with the sound of ... Girl Guides

By Gemma Hill

As a Sedgefield Guide and Young leader, I was recently given the opportunity to participate in a North East Guides' expedition to one of the World Guiding Centres in Switzerland. Having initially been selected via a 2-stage process of regional selection events, our group of Guides spent a week at the prestigious "Our Chalet" centre, close to Adelboden in the Swiss Alps. In addition to getting to know each other, we also made new friendships with other groups from Canada and Japan, who were there at the same time.

The week long expedition consisted of adventures, hikes and visits. The day trip to a Chocolatière proved particularly popular as a respite from the outdoor activities! Evening activities focused on opportunities to bond with the international Guides. At the end of our stay we were presented with our "Swiss Challenge" badges, for which we had to complete tasks based on physical activities, Swiss knowledge, and Guiding. It was the trip of a lifetime - so far - and I would very much like to return to the Centre as a volunteer helper in a few years' time.

I would particularly like to say a big thank you to the 1st Sedgefield Guides, 2nd Sedgefield Brownies and everyone else who provided support or donated to the various fundraising events that were held prior to this expedition.

Photo: Gemma (left) with the North East Guides at "Our Chalet"



From School to Sixth Form

by Kelly Aitkin

About a year ago now I left Sedgefield Community College and entered the big, bad world otherwise known as sixth form education!

What's so daunting about starting sixth form? Perhaps it's starting at a new place, meeting new people, having to allow an hour's travelling time just to get there for 9am! For some people sixth form education isn't such a major jump, but for the dwellers of Sedgefield, sixth form means leaving our comfy, little village and diving into a much bigger, town-sized pond. Sedgefield Community College not having its own sixth form (yet) means that students have to get the bus to nearby towns and cities. This opens us up to new experiences and new people, but is sure as heck scary.

A year on from being a first year at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form, I can barely remember my own experience, apart from the feeling that I actually had a choice to be there and to learn, rather than having to sit through a subject I didn't enjoy just so I could say I had a GCSE in it.

The difference between school and sixth form is only noticeable once you do it. The people around you are there because they want to be. You have chosen what you want to do and all the subjects are specific to your interests and to your future. Me? I can only remember worrying about what I was going to wear for the next one-hundred -and-ninety-something days without a uniform, but my mam tells me that I came home and told her that "I'd had a good time and I now felt like an adult".

For anyone hoping to start sixth form next year, I would give one piece of advice. Don't be scared. You are going to a place where you have chosen to study things you enjoy and hope to do well in. Everyone there is in the same boat as you, with exactly the same sized paddle, all hoping to stay afloat.

Trying hard in first year will help so much when it comes to second year; making A-levels easier for yourself as a student is something you will never regret. So make the most of the sixth form opportunity; you never know, A-levels might just come in useful.

Last chance Registration closes on **12th October** for the latest Sedgefield Energy Switch Auction. Details on p6

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch

Dark Nights: With the dark nights approaching, it's time to get those light timers out again to keep your property looking occupied. Remember to keep your doors locked and windows secure too.

Flask in the Fridge: Remember to update your flask's data sheet, especially if your health or your medication has changed.

Fraud: Durham Police have asked us to pass on warnings about a scam concerning Council Tax. This involves phone calls claiming you have been placed in the wrong Council Tax band for a number of years. The fraudsters will offer to get you a sizeable rebate if you forward an administration fee to them. This is, of course, a lie and you will never see your money again! You can read the full details by following the link below: www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/alert-watch-out-for-council-tax-scam-aug15 Always be on your guard. If someone contacts you by phone or online offering you money if you will only pay them a fee first, then you are probably being scammed. Remember if an offer sounds too good to be true, then it probably is! You can also be sure that neither Microsoft nor your Bank/Building Society will ever contact you asking for money in advance or asking for details of your bank or savings accounts. The next N/H/Watch Meeting is on Tuesday October 8th, 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. As ever, all are welcome.

PC Todd's report

Sadly, reported crime in Sedgefield has increased this month, the most serious being a sneak-in style Burglary in Chestnut Drive. The person had the audacity to enter the house whilst the owner and a visitor were present in another room, and make a search of a bedroom before leaving with cash and taking the visitor's handbag from the hall. This person must be very calm and confident and must have used this technique before. It informs us that we must always lock doors. He is waiting for another chance. Please don't become a victim.

Another reported Burglary took place in Woodland Mews. On this occasion, brute force was used early one morning when a number of persons smashed a window before reaching in and opening the door with the key left in the back of the door. They made an untidy search of the ground floor before taking cash and leaving very frightened house members upstairs frantically phoning the police. Please contact the police if you saw anything suspicious in the early hours of Wednesday 16th Sept. Other crimes reported include a bike stolen from a garden in The Lane, and damage caused to two poly tunnels in the old cemetery. Damage was caused by a small fire which was started on the artificial pitch at the Community College, and a window was smashed in St Luke's Crescent. Please report anything suspicious; you just might prevent another crime being committed.

Finally, I would like to say that I enjoyed running in the Great North Run and was pleased to hear the announcer mention 'Sedgefield Harriers' on more than one occasion. Well done everyone who took part. I am sure you will have beaten my 2 hours 24 minutes 4 seconds! There was no Pub Watch meeting this month. Until next time, *Keith*

Sedgefield in Bloom Children's Sunflower Competition 2015

In a challenging summer for our growers, this is the third time Thomas has won the competition. He was very excited to be told he had won again and said that he was going to need a trophy cabinet. He is pictured with his sunflower which reached over 3 metres. The results were ...

1st Thomas Hoggarth, 6 Rectory Row: 3.1m

2nd Amelia Pilling, 6 Rectory Row: 2.90m

3rd/4th Evie Legender, 7 Rectory Row & Emily Legender, 10 Rectory Row: 2.53m

5th Ava Bell, 5 Hardwick Rd: 2.40m

6th Isla Littlefair, 6 Rectory Row: 2.30m

There's obviously either some very good soil or a distinctly competitive edge along Rectory Row!



Memorial Service for Tim Spearey
Details on p12 All friends are welcome.

Sponsorship opportunity for local youth groups

Hays Travel is looking to sponsor a youth group, team or organization from next month, November 2015, with a view to helping with kit or other equipment.

With that date in mind, you will need to act quickly, so if you wish to be considered, your group leader or an appropriate adult should please contact the Travel Agency with details of your group.

Call 01740 622411 or email sedgefield.manager@hays-travel.co.uk, or call at Hays Travel on Front Street, to speak to the manager, Julie Ann Humphreys.

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Beekeeping. With the cooperation of the Darlington Beekeepers' Association and Hardwick Park, we can announce that the beekeeping course will take place in the **Yurt at Hardwick Country Park**. It lasts 5 weeks and runs at 6.30 - 9pm from Monday 19th October. The cost is £50. Call Roger on 620609 for information.

Farmers' Market. Sedgefield Young Farmers' are taking our Community Stall at our October Farmers' Market and Gloria, The Singing Mayor, will provide the music. **Any donations please to the Sedgefield Town Council Mayor's Charity Fund.**

Sedgefield Energy Switch. Register by October 12th and don't miss out! This scheme has already saved residents collectively almost £45,000 - achieved because the large numbers of people previously registering their interest in switching has been so attractive to the energy companies that they have provided market leading tariffs only available through the scheme.

As well as encouraging new registrants, we suggest that people who switched at this time last year also re-register. This will be the last auction before your contracts come to an end. You will be able to stay with that supplier but why not take the opportunity to see if you can get an even better deal? Don't forget, when your current contract comes to an end your supplier's tariff may not be as good as what may be achieved at this next auction. If nothing else, it will give you a comparison against what you are paying now or in future and as ever, **registering commits you to nothing.** Registration can be done in two ways: If you are happy to register online yourself, go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk, open the ENERGY SWITCH section, click on the RED 'REGISTER NOW' button and follow the links. If you prefer to register and receive information through the post, or need help, please call the Sedgefield Development Trust Helpline on **07980 134 594** and we will be more than happy to assist or complete registration for you.

Sew Easy. The group had its first daytime meeting on Thursday 3rd September and an evening session later in the month. Both went extremely well and as you can see, members were able to try their hand at the sewing machine. This was the first time Angela Bannister had ever used a machine so this was a real achievement for her. Dorothy Anderson has been brilliant, sharing her expertise with us all. We will meet next in the Boardroom at the Parish Hall from 7 - 9pm on **Thursdays October 1st & 15th.** Call Gloria - 622447 - with any queries.



Regular Events, Meetings and Get-togethers

Acoustic Evenings 1st Fri & 4th Wed. Ceddesfeld Hall 8.30pm All welcome.
Bereavement Support Group 3 - 5pm. Thursday, St. Edmund's Church
Bridge Club Ceddesfeld Hall Sunday & Tuesday 7.30pm Beginners welcome. 620434
CAB Fortnightly Advice Sessions Wed 10am-3pm Advice & Information Centre
Café @St Catherine's Friendly chat & Fishburn gossip! Fridays 9.30-12.00
Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group Small friendly group 10am-12.00 Thursdays
Ceddesfeld Hall Pre-School Mon, Wed, Fri am; Children 2+years. 620934
Community College Bowls Mon 6-8pm. Carpet/Short Mat, Coaching, 623198
Craft Club Swinhoe Room, Ceddesfeld Hall, 2nd & 4th Tues 7.30-10pm Tel: 620656
Fishburn Art Group Youth & Community Centre, Butterwick Rd. Monday 9.30am-12
Fishburn Taekwondo Tues & Thurs 6pm, Youth & Community Centre. 07743455065
Lyrics Choirs Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall. SLYC 6pm Adults 7.30pm. All welcome.
NECP Concertina Workshop 2nd & 4th Sun 1pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. 01642 588197
New Generation Church Every Sunday 11am at the Parish Hall. All welcome.
Rotary Club of Sedgefield Wed 7.30pm Bob 07831270892 / Mel 07530315331
Round Table 1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members welcome. Carl 07775644598
S'field Art Group Tuesday 6.30-8.30pm Methodist Church Hall. Tuition, all welcome
S'field Carpet Bowls Tues & Thurs 8.30am-12 Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners ✓ 622532
S'field Handbell Ringers Weds 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall or 1st Mon of month 621292
S'field Mags 1st Monday of the month at the Nag's Head, 8pm. Tel: 07966029434
S'field Players Parish Hall, 7.30, Sunday & Wednesday. SPYS Sunday 5.30. 620091
S'field Playgroup Methodist Hall, Mon, Wed & Thursday 9.15-11.30. 620893
S'field Pop In Club C'feld Hall Tues 9.30am-12 Wed 10am-12.30pm Thurs 1-3.30pm
Tai Chi Tuesdays, Parish Hall, 10 -11am
Toddler Club Wed term time 1.15 - 3pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Tel: Joan Brennan, 622385



It's been a great summer of activities in Sedgefield. The recent Folk Festival events at Ceddesfeld Hall were a complete sell out. The Friday night audience enjoyed a wide range of live music, from instrumental Northern folk to complex jazz pieces from Ceddesfolk, pop and blues from Lol and Maxine and the Ukulele Express with country music and more popular tunes. Saturday's activities were just as busy and varied. The national spoons competition was great fun as usual (Bert Draycott is still world champion) and the youth prize went to brother and sister Iona and Lewis Darnton, who really were a 'class act'. Sunday's sing along was enjoyed by over 100 people. It really was a great weekend, not only at Ceddesfeld but across the other venues too.

The autumn brings a whole host of new events. The Waterloo bi-centenary dinner takes place on Saturday 24th October. Following drinks at 7pm there is a choice of menu courses and sweets, cheese, coffee and brandy or port. There will also be music throughout the evening. Tickets are £16 each.

The small committee who organise the Medieval Fair are meeting on Thursday 1st October at 8pm in Ceddesfeld.

We're desperately short of volunteers, so if you have any time to give, please come along. The nights are drawing in, but if you're out and about, early doors or later on, you're very welcome to visit the bar where there is a range of real ale beers and competitively priced drinks. We look forward to seeing you.

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

Sedgefield Town Council

Annual Firework Display

Saturday 31st October at 6.30pm in Ceddesfeld grounds. Access to grounds from 5.45pm. Last entry at 6.20pm. Entry by ticket only. Please buy early to avoid disappointment. £2.50 adult, £1.50 child (16 & under) from Town Council Offices, PO & Ceddesfeld Hall.

Halloween Howler Competition

Bring your carved Pumpkin to the Firework Display early, at 5.45pm.

Every pumpkin wins a prize!

Christmas Shopping Trip to York

Wednesday 4th November

Tickets £9 from council offices

Fringe Festival Performance

Tim Jasper from Sedgefield, was asked to write the musical score for a new play, 'Children Must Run', staged by Moon Productions in the Forest Theatre, Greenside, Edinburgh at the end of August. Tim and his 9 year old cousin, James Hely-Hammond from Cuffley, Herts played on keyboard and bassoon each night. The play centred on three children forced to escape from terrible lives; as a drugs mule from a cartel in Colombia, a sex worker from a Prague brothel and a child soldier from Africa. There are plans afoot to tour the musical in seven provincial theatres next year. *Report and photo from David Jasper*



Sedgefield Drama Festival Results

Sedgefield Players swept the board at their 40th Drama Festival in September, winning 13 of the 20 trophies.

'The Night Before Christmas', a hilarious comedy by Anthony Neilson, won Best Production as well as the Audience Award, the Ensemble Award and Best 30 Seconds. Tom Guest was awarded Best Director for this production. He also directed the Players in 'Albertine in Five Times', which won the Adjudicator's Award and Jayne's Award for Costume. Liz Flanagan was declared Best Supporting Actress for her performance as Albertine aged 40 and Millie Harris was awarded the Peter Young Quach for Youth for her portrayal of Madeleine. Norma Neal won Best Actress as Marjorie in 'The Ghost You Can See' by Scarborough writer Sue Wilding. The production also won Most Effective Set.



Sedgefield Players Youth Section won the Endeavour Award for 'I Never Saw Another Butterfly'. Lucy Atkinson as Raja was the first recipient this year of a Simon Whiteley Memorial Award for performers under the age of 21.

The second place went to 12 year old Hugh Stanway in Cresta Amateur Dramatic Society's '9.15'. Written and directed by Sue Wilding, the Scarborough group's production was also awarded Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor for David Irwin as Neville and Tim Tubbs, his prison psychologist. The team received the Mayor's Award for Runner Up to Best Production.

Bananadrama, another Scarborough team, won the Technical Award for 'A Bicycle Made For Two', written and directed by group member Shari Gledhill. In another original piece, 'Echoes' by George Collings of Nunthorpe Players, Norma Timney won the Cameo Award for. The Festival enjoyed a total of six pieces of new writing, recognised by the Ruby Award for Originality, specially selected to celebrate 40 years of Sedgefield Drama Festival. First winner, Sue Wilding of Cresta ADS was delighted to receive the award.

Adjudicator Ian Sarginson, on his second visit to Sedgefield, was impressed by the wealth of original material, the high standard of productions, the efficiency of organisation and technical support plus the friendly, festive atmosphere evident throughout the week. *Photograph by Haydn Neal, Report from Norma Neal*

Lirica 10th Anniversary Concert

It's amazing to think that it is ten years since the birth of singing group, Lirica, but it's true and they will be celebrating this month. Join them in Ceddesfeld Hall on **Friday 30th October** at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 from Tom Guest on 622185.

Antiques Valuation Day

Butterwick Hospice invite you to their event on Thursday 8th October from 11am-2pm at The Manor House West Auckland. Thomas Watson Auctioneers & Hagas Antiques are donating their time on the day. 1st item will be charged at £5 and extra items £1, max 5 items. For information contact: Pauline Mcleavey on 01388 603003, visit www.butterwick.org.uk/valuation or email paulinemcleavey@butterwick.org.uk

Sedgefield Folk Festival goes from strength to strength

Report from Joan Edmundson

With people from all over the country and every concert a sell-out, the 10th Annual Folk Festival was the most successful ever. Singarounds and a new acoustic venue in the Manor House were very well attended and the final Singaround on Sunday was a full house. It is difficult to single out one particular act that was a favourite with Festival goers, but for myself the Young 'Uns and Haley Sisters gave particularly memorable performances.

As one of the organisers of the Festival, I would like to thank everyone for their wonderful support. Planning for next year has begun and we now look forward to our season of music nights at the Folk Club, held at the Cricket Club. They start again on 16th October.

Meanwhile at the Fringe ...

Yes! For the first time Sedgefield Folk Festival had a fringe, courtesy of Sedgefield Acoustic Group (aka the 'Last Wednesdays' - that's when they get together at Ceddesfeld Hall). Their music night at the Manor House, created a new venue for the festival. With mixing desk courtesy of John Wrightson and the professional sound services of Geoff Suggett, it was a polished performance. One or two are seasoned performers and others new to the mic, but all rose to the occasion in front of an audience of around forty enjoying free admission. Andy Darnton (solo) and the Hokey Folkies (Andrew with Richie Parry and Rich Hinton) opened, with tunes including songs from the pen of Richie Parry. Steve McCabe entertained with covers by Crosby, Stills & Nash and Oasis among others. Nick Smalley soloed with his own eclectic mix and accompanied wife Lorna with a classic song. Duo Nest, featuring Rich Hinton on guitar and Liz Jackson on vocals showed why they are gaining great reviews wherever they go and Leo McCormack gave a classic Gerry Marsden number before entertaining with his own top class songs. Dave Saunders added two foot-tapping accordion medleys and Ean Parsons opened and closed, performing a couple of songs by Allenheads songwriter, Terry Conway. It was a great night of music which show-cased local players and added to the mix of the ever-growing Sedgefield Folk festival.

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This monthly sports update invariably features plenty of great news from talented youngsters in the community, so given the focus of this edition of Sedgefield News, it is ironic that senior achievements dominate what follows, but I can assure you that Sedgefield is still bursting with inspirational sporting youngsters; great news for us all, particularly me, as I'm unlikely to have a shortage of news to report any time soon!

Cricket

Last month, I promised a full update of the Sedgefield Cricket Club season. I'm afraid that I don't quite have that yet, but I can share their most important bit of on-pitch news. This year, the 1st XI have had a tough time in Division 1 of the North Yorkshire & South Durham Cricket League. Going into the final game of the season, the team was in danger of relegation, but in a thrilling contest against Richmond, secured the six points needed to finish 8th and stay in the division. Very well done to all involved!

Rugby Union

Perhaps inspired by some of the action at the world cup, Sedgefield District Rugby Union Club has got off to a fantastic start this season, with three straight wins. The team kicked off with a resounding 35-15 victory away at Yarm, following up with another two away wins, thrashing Richmond 32-3 and then Washington 24-12. Let's hope the team can continue with such great form at home too.

Meanwhile, a local rugby union club is appealing for ladies to join its ranks. Billingham Rugby Club recently formed a ladies' section. They welcome female players from age 6 to 65, the ambition being to run mixed tag teams for under 12 age groups, along with dedicated girls' under 13, under 15 and under 18 teams, and a senior ladies' team or two if there is enough interest. Initially, the key is to encourage participation and enjoyment of the sport through touch rugby, before potentially moving onto contact rugby for those players who want to. The club is particularly keen to attract u13, u15 and senior players at the moment. Anyone interested should contact billinghamladiessection@gmail.com.

Two anniversary celebrations

Sedgefield St. Edmund's Football Club is 50! To mark this significant occasion and achievement, a special evening event will be held at Sedgefield Cricket Club on Saturday 14th November, with a guest speaker and other entertainment. Admission by ticket only from Football Club committee at Sedgefield Social Club on Thursdays after 9pm, or call John Walker, 07889 896688, Phil Shann, 07944 501708, Phil Hartshorn, 07967 340890, Bill Romains, 07895 053082 or Brian Mulligan 07979 920207.

Although youthful by comparison, Sedgefield Harriers is also celebrating a significant milestone. On 7th September 2005, seven runners set out on the first club run. Fast forward 10 years and there are around 350 senior and junior Harriers, so on 7th September this year, the club marked its 10th birthday by hosting a series of anniversary runs in Hardwick Park. Over 150 people of all ages (*see below*) turned up to tackle 2.5K, 5K or 10K courses. Many simply ran the routes to enjoy the occasion, but some raced each other to win one of a series of special anniversary trophies created by Harrier Ray Carmichael.

Athletics

Over the weekend of 12th/13th September, many people from Sedgefield made the annual pilgrimage to take part in one of the Great North Run events. On Saturday, it was young athletes to the fore in the Mini & Junior Great North Runs, with great performances from the likes of Max Howell and Sam Glaister and many more. The following day saw around 45,000 people line up to tackle the world's most popular half marathon. First Harrier home was Chris Lines in 1hr 26mins 51secs, followed by Daniel Probart (1:37:04) Not far behind him was talented junior Sean Haycock in 1:37:53. First lady Harrier was Marie Walker in 1:52:41, followed by Diane Baines in 1:55:15 and Deborah Pennick in 1:55:55. Many more Harriers and other runners from Sedgefield took part in the race. Well done to all of them. A small cohort of runners from Sedgefield headed to Humberside on the same day that everyone else was on Tyneside. Four Harriers took part in the Hull Marathon and achieved some excellent results. In his first marathon, Ray Carmichael completed the course in an excellent time of 3:27:36, finishing together with club colleague (and multiple marathon man) Gary Thwaites. Also in his first marathon, Rob Spink completed the course in 3:53:47 (he was later spotted wearing a t-shirt proclaiming that 'Running Sucks' (we think he doth protest too much!) while Jane Spink recorded a great time of 4:16:05. The following week saw the Harriers host their own big September event, the Sedgefield Serpentine, sponsored by Start Fitness, U Hold the Key, Sedgefield Motocross, Northumbrian Water and Embleton Dairies. At the time of writing this, results and photos from the event are not available, but I'll include the details next month.



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Your Letters

The Saga of the Kneeling Lady (ref. September Sedgefield News).

My husband Canon Edmondson, when he was Rector of Sedgefield, received a letter from a gentleman who had been in The Stagshaw Inn, near Corbridge, Northumberland, whilst on holiday and seen behind the bar a brass rubbing. He was very knowledgeable about church brasses and remembered reading that this brass had "gone missing" from St Edmund's Church in Sedgefield a few years earlier. After a telephone conversation, it was decided a visit may prove interesting! We arrived at the pub and there was the Kneeling Lady in situ. My husband approached the landlord and explained why he was there. The landlord (obviously a very trusting man!) willingly gave him the Brass and we brought her home to Sedgefield.

Dorothy Edmondson

VJ Day

Saturday 15th August broke bright and dry and we had a lovely day for our VJ Day service at the war memorial. Thanks to all those people who turned out - it made our day. *The Veterans. (This letter was omitted in September, for which we apologise. Ed)*

A golden thank you

Bob and Christine Lister would like to thank family and friends for making their Golden Wedding so special. Thanks for all the presents and cheer from everyone at our party at Ceddesfeld Hall.

Noise nuisance

Two recent events at Sedgefield racecourse have again given cause for local residents to complain about noise - a "Ladies Day" event on 27th August and a Truck event on the Bank Holiday weekend. At the time of the events the racecourse had restrictions on their licence which should have been effective in preventing an increase in noise levels at the nearest residential premises. Despite this 6 complaints were received by DCC from across Sedgefield.

Sedgefield Racecourse has now obtained a variation to its licence which will allow it to run outside concerts with noise restrictions much more lax than their existing licence allows. Many are not against the racecourse running events and indeed they do run many events without causing significant noise problems, but, with their new licence conditions in place it opens the door to increased nuisance for local residence and much larger events. It is important the Racecourse and its management understand that people do not complain for the sake of it. There must be a genuine desire by event organisers to work with those affected and reduce noise levels to acceptable limits.

As a first step, noise and other complaints must be properly logged and assessed. There is a mechanism in place for anyone to lodge a complaint with Durham County Council, at ehcp@durham.gov.uk or telephone 03000261016

It is of course not only Sedgefield racecourse that run noise associated events, Hardwick Hall also hold concerts and outdoor music festivals. However, individuals do not appreciate the extent of complaints received and often they feel as though they are "on their own". With this in mind we propose to set up a facility where noise related complaints are collated, to provide an overall picture of noise issues in the Sedgefield area, so that more can be done to control noise nuisance.

If you would support such an initiative, please email your details to sednoisecontrol@yahoo.co.uk to help decide if such an approach would be worthwhile.

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Skerne Medical Group

Flu Campaign 2015

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Childhood Influenza Programme

is extended to all children aged 2, 3 and 4 years old (but not 5 years or older) on 31st August 2015 (date of birth on or after 1st September 2010 and on or before 31 August 2013). The children's vaccine, unless contraindicated, is in the form of a nasal spray rather than an injection, which we are sure will please the children! Our first children's walk in clinic is in Harbinson House from 9am - 11.30am, **Saturday 17th October**. Further dates will be announced on our website www.doctorsnhs.co.uk

OCTOBER DIARY

email diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

| Date | Event |
|----------------------|---|
| Fri 2nd | Sedgefield Veterans Coffee Morning, Parish Hall U3A Parish Hall 2pm. 'For Crying Out Loud' Peter Stemmer: Darlington Town Crier |
| Sat 3rd | Quiz Night Sedgefield Cricket Club @ 8 Quiz Master John Bryant |
| Sun 4th | Farmers' Market. 8.30am - 12.30 on the Village Green. |
| Mon 5th | Local History Society Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30pm Dr Winifred Stokes, 'Victorian Women and their money' |
| Tue 6th | Ballroom and Sequence Dancing Parish Hall 1 - 3pm. £2.50 Contact 629070 or 622601 Sedgefield Gardening Club Ceddesfeld Hall 6.30 'A year in the life of a nursery' by Mr Chalk, All Welcome. |
| Wed 7th | Sedgefield WI 7.15 pm, Parish Hall. 'The Music of Cole Porter' with George Hetherington. £3.50 inc refreshments. Comp: A Music Box. |
| Tue 8th | Neighbourhood Watch Panel meeting. 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. All welcome. |
| Fri 9th | Country Market Parish Hall, 10.00 - 11.30. Home baked produce, crafts, cards and plants. |
| Mon 12th | Methodist Wives & Friends. 'Gershwin', George Hetherington |
| Tue 13th | Ladies Club' Ceddesfeld Hall, RNLI - David Hastings Neighbourhood Watch AGM and Meeting |
| Thur 15th - Sat 17th | Ferryhill Stage Society 'Red Hot and Cole', Mainsforth Community Hall Tickets Available from J. Harker Call 652551 |
| Fri 16th | Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning, Parish Hall 9.30 - 11am. A chance to meet friends and enjoy tea/coffee/scones/cake Live Music Night Sedgefield Cricket Club 7.45, Main Guest: 'American Routes', Admission £11 (inc buffet) |
| Tue 20th | Ferryhill and District Flower Club Janice Kirk, North East Demonstrator 'Yorkshire Life' Ballroom and Sequence Dancing Parish Hall 1 - 3pm. £2.50 |
| Wed 21st | Family History Group 7.15pm Ceddesfeld Hall. Norman Welch; "What Did They do for a Living?" www.sedgefieldlocalhistory.org.uk / 620367 |
| Mon 26th | Methodist Wives & Friends 'RNLI' |
| Tue 27th | Ladies' Club Ceddesfeld Hall, Handbags & Accessories - Helen Forbes |
| Thur 29th | Halloween Craft Event Sedgefield Library 2.30—3.30, Free, but booking advisable |
| Fri 30th | Sedgefield in Bloom Coffee Morning, Parish Hall, 10 - 11.30am. Home made cakes, crafts, books, tombola, raffle. Also Lirica Concert , see p6. |
| Sat 31st | Memorial Service for Tim Spearey at 2pm in St Edmund's Church. Fireworks Display and Pumpkin competition. See p5 |

Half Term History Youngsters aged 8+ are invited to Sedgefield library at 2pm on **Friday 30th October** when Norma Neal will read snippets from her new children's history of Sedgefield '**The Magic Mobile**'. The event is free. Book your place at the Library (number below) or simply come along on the day.

Sedgefield Library

Tel: 03000 269521. Opening Hours -

Wednesdays 9:30am - 12:30pm
Thursdays 10:00am - 6:00pm
Fridays 1:00pm - 7:00pm
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Sedgefield Social Club

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janemorgan69@live.co.uk. The charity was set up to remember Ellen Timney who lived in Sedgefield for many years.

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Stop press! latest results from Northumbria in Bloom

Sedgefield won Gold in 6 Categories!

Winners included Best Small Town;

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Many congratulations to all concerned!

A full report will follow next month. Ed

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.

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