



Published by Sedgefield Development Trust: Company No 4312745 Charity No 1100906

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

## October 2016



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



### SCC students celebrate 'fantastic' GCSE results

The recent release of 2016 GCSE results has once again confirmed Sedgefield Community College's place amongst an elite group of the North of England's highest performing schools. This latest set of results has provided parents with the assurance that students of all abilities continue to achieve exceptional outcomes that far exceed that of students elsewhere. The college has regularly held the accolade of being County Durham's highest attaining secondary school and one of the top five of the 306 North East schools and there are no signs of standards slipping.

Headteacher Dave Davies remarked upon the continued success of the college;

*"Once again the success of our students has left me with an overwhelming feeling of pride. I am hugely proud, both of the students themselves and all of the college staff that have helped them achieve another fantastic set of results.*

*I am delighted that by achieving these results our students are now provided with opportunities that may not have existed otherwise. Whilst this of course gives me great satisfaction, it is equally as pleasing to see this group of young people develop in the way that they have over their five years with us, and now move onto the next stage of their lives as happy, confident and of course now successful young adults. As Headteacher I can assure parents of current Sedgefield students that our ingrained expectation of high standards will not falter, nor will we become complacent. Rather we will continue to look for ways to improve yet further for the benefit of our students and the community.*

*On behalf of the Governors and staff of Sedgefield Community College I wish our class of 2016 success and happiness for the future."*

### Community College opens another new building

Residents will be aware that only a few years ago the tired and run down old Community College building was replaced with a stunning new £20 million replacement. However as the college's reputation has grown alongside consistently outstanding student performance, demand for places has left the school bursting at the seams!

This has led to old and dilapidated temporary classrooms, which had remained after the old school had been demolished, finally being replaced with an entirely more suitable annex which opened its doors to students for the first time this month. Headteacher Mr Davies commented that he was 'delighted that finally, regardless of the lesson being taught, our outstanding students would be able to enjoy working in the first class facilities that they deserve'.



### Sedgefield in Bloom

Sedgefield struck gold once again in the recent Northumbria in Bloom awards, held at the Lancastrian Suite in Gateshead.

Although beaten to the Champion of Champions award by Durham City, the Bloom team were pleased to win a gold medal in such a high status group. In addition, silver awards went to Sedgefield Racecourse, Manor House 1707 and Hardwick Hall gardens, while Hardwick Park volunteers and Claremont Grove residents' gardens won gold. Ron and Brenda Wright of 61 Station Road were thrilled to win not only a gold medal but also the overall award for the best private garden in Northumbria in Bloom.

Judges Eileen, Val and Ron spent four hours in Sedgefield on their July judging day. They were impressed by the strong community participation and local pride always evident in



Sedgefield, commending the enthusiasm and dedication of Bloom volunteers, with their impressive year-round calendar of activities. Businesses such as the Dun Cow and Golden Lion were complimented on their attractive displays; colourful planting by our council gardeners, plus eye-catching icons like the Bloom Bike and Beacon, enhance the village, which

the judges consider 'blessed by a lovely central green.' The team also appreciated the creation of beautiful gardens in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall, where work continues on the development of the 'Stepping through Time' garden.

Bloom chairman Howard Smith said, *"We are pleased and proud to have achieved a gold medal in this very challenging class. Sedgefield is a great place and we enjoy making it look even more lovely year on year. Thanks to everyone for your support and encouragement."*

For details of the next Bloom fundraisers see the diary page.

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

**International Bat Night took place on 27th August** and over 45 people came to take part in a bat walk organised by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust at Saltburn, as part of the East Cleveland Batscape project. I don't know if anyone remembers what the weather was like that night - it absolutely poured down - they didn't hear or see one bat!

That's what wildlife watching can be like sometimes, but they did hear and see a tawny owl and experience a woodland in the dark and in the rain. If you have never been on a bat walk it is well worth doing one. Bats use high frequency calls normally beyond the range of human hearing, to build up a sound picture of their surroundings. This echolocation system enables them to wing their way through the dark night hunting the tiniest of insects. During bat walks you normally get an opportunity to use a bat detector. These gadgets make the echolocation calls audible to humans - and because different bat species hunt different prey and are different sizes, they make different calls which can help identify them. The East Cleveland Batscape project is using these and more sophisticated detectors to survey the area for bats.

Talking of bats, The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), Bat Conservation Trust and The Wildlife Trusts have joined forces to launch a new competition to identify the best insect-friendly plant display in the country. Bats need insects and so gardeners are being urged to consider this wonderful nocturnal mammal when making planting choices - to help sustain bats in the future. The **Plant A Bat Feast!** competition heralds the start of a campaign to improve the fortunes of the UK's bats - the closing date is the **6th November 2016**. It is easy to enter: send a picture of your garden showing your best insect-friendly plant display.

While bats can be found in the most rural and urban of settings, most of us are unaware of them or why these endearing creatures need our help to survive. If you are looking for advice and inspiration to attract and support bats in your garden you can download a FREE booklet and online guide: **Stars of the Night**  
[www.wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk/Downloads/wag-stars-of-the-night.pdf](http://www.wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk/Downloads/wag-stars-of-the-night.pdf)

You could also take part in a specially-themed Wild About Gardens Week which will run from 24th - 30th October and includes a week-long series of bat festivities and events.

### Skerne Medical Group - Flu Campaign 2016

Thank you to patients who attended our first drop-in flu vaccination clinic.

If you did not manage to attend, the next chance is on Saturday 8th October at Harbinson House, Sedgfield and Beveridge House, Fishburn, between 9am & 11:30am.  
Please do come along.

All children aged 2, 3 and 4 years old (but not 5 years or older) on 31st August 2016 are included (that's date of birth between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2014, inclusive.)

Dedicated sessions will be held during October to vaccinate eligible children. The children's vaccine, unless contraindicated, is a nasal spray, not an injection, which we are sure will please the children!

Programme details are advertised locally and on our website [www.doctorsnhs.co.uk](http://www.doctorsnhs.co.uk), in surgeries and text messages will be sent. Therefore, please advise us of any change to mobile telephone numbers.

### Church visitors come from far and wide

Visitors from the South of England and East Anglia were among the 59 people who made the long journey to St Edmund's Church during the recent Heritage Open Days event.

The South Coast visitor was particularly interested in the Sunderland glass Great East Window, the work of renowned Welsh artist and conservationist Leonard Evetts who died in Tyne and Wear in 1997 at the age of 88.

An Ipswich man travelled to inspect both the stained glass windows and the fine woodwork in the Chancel screen which dates back to the days of Elizabeth I and is now the only one of its kind in the country.

Other visitors were attracted to the four-day event by an opportunity to climb to the top of the church tower, the second highest in Durham, and to see an exhibition of World War One material by members of Sedgfield Local History Society and work by members of Fishburn Art Group.

"The number of visitors was just a little higher than last year and several said how much they enjoyed exploring the church. The 16 who climbed to the top of the tower certainly liked the tremendous views," said churchwarden Brian Mutch.

## News in Brief

### There's more to life than a drink

Do you have an opinion about how older people use alcohol? Why do older people drink? What are the dangers? Age UK County Durham is collecting information to compare it to comparative data collected in 2012.

The consultation is open to people aged 50 and over living in County Durham. An event has been organised in Ceddesfield Hall, Swinhoe Room, 1-3pm, 3 November or you can complete a questionnaire.

For further information or to request a questionnaire, contact Clare Midgley 0191 374 6567 or email [engage@ageukcountydurham.org.uk](mailto:engage@ageukcountydurham.org.uk)

### Music on the high seas

Sedgfield musicians Anthony & Heather Robb top a hectic summer with Windy Gyle Band on the classic top sail schooner 'Oosterschelde' at the Tall Ships Race.

The band was booked to provide a traditional musical atmosphere for guests on board during the impressive 'Parade of Sail' before the race to Gothenburg got underway.

This follows a busy summer season for the band with over 20 appearances at Sidmouth & Whitby Folk Festivals. The band's new CD 'Purple Hills to Coast' described by Andrew Davison, Chairman of the Northumbrian Pipers Society, as 'Just brilliant' is available from Anthony & Heather online from [www.hookymat.net](http://www.hookymat.net) or ☎ 629985.



#### SEDGFIELD NEWS INFORMATION

**Deadline for November edition -  
Monday 17th October.**

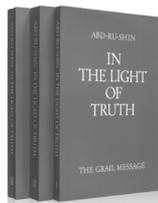
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## THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH – WHERE CAN WE FIND IT?

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ARC (Stockton Arts Centre)  
Dovecot Street, TS18 1LL  
7 pm | Fri 7<sup>th</sup> October  
7 pm | Thu 13<sup>th</sup> October (DISCUSSION EVENING)



Photo by Geoff Hill

## Introducing the Hardwick Babes

**Sedgefield Local History Society** scored a great success with their recent get-together for the Hardwick Babes. Built in the 18th century as the palatial residence of John Burdon esquire, Sedgefield's Hardwick Hall is now a superb hotel, restaurant and very popular wedding venue.

However, for almost 30 years, it served as a maternity home, initially set up at the beginning of the war in 1939 to provide a safe haven for mothers-to-be evacuated from Tyneside.

On Saturday 3 September, about 65 people came along to a drinks reception and buffet in Hardwick Hall's Boyne Suite, formerly the maternity ward. Hardwick Hall manager Jon Hill even made available the old delivery room on the first floor, for those who really wanted to re-live the past.

There was no lift, so mothers were carried back down to the ward by odd job man Billy Holmes, who subsequently married second in command Sister Carter. Matron Duffy eventually married head gardener George Hutchinson – at the age of 65.

Norma Neal, chairman of Sedgefield LHS said:

"Chris Lloyd's Echo Memories series on Hardwick Maternity Home really spurred us on to do our own investigations. We were delighted to find so many babies, mothers, fathers, nurses, all with their own stories, memories and baby photographs."

People also brought along birth certificates declaring the place of birth Hardwick Hall and receipts given for the maintenance of mothers in the

days before the NHS was created. Most new mothers stayed at the Hall for two weeks. Only fathers were allowed to visit. Brothers and sisters could wave to the new baby through the window.

Also on display was the wedding album of Neville and Sheila Marshall, the first

couple to marry, in 1970, after Hardwick Hall became a hotel. Sheila's sister Barbara, now Cummings, was one of the earliest Hardwick Babes, born in 1940. But she was pipped to the post by Kenneth Morton, born at Hardwick in November 1939, now living in Vancouver. Probably the first Hardwick Babe. Julie Fellowes, thought to be the last baby, born in May 1968, married David Million at the Hall in 2007.

Norma added, 'We had a wonderful afternoon and are very grateful for the lovely baby photos, memorabilia, information and memories people kindly provided. I'm sure there are a lot more Hardwick Babes, and many more stories, awaiting discovery.'

For further information or to join Sedgefield Local History, ring 01740 620091 or email [norma@neal.myzen.co.uk](mailto:norma@neal.myzen.co.uk)

We meet in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm on the first Monday of every month. For details of October's speaker, see the diary page.

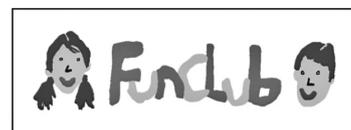
## Sedgefield Village Games – Celebration of Sedgefield Volunteers

The team behind Sedgefield Village Games (SVG) has confirmed that it plans to repeat last year's successful 'Celebration of Sedgefield Volunteers' evening.

The event attracted around 80 volunteers, representing many groups from the community. The 2016 celebration will be held on the evening of Thursday 8th December, in the Manor House and full details will be released in due course. SVG does have a list of groups that it plans to invite, but doesn't want to omit any, so if you think that any may have missed out last year, please send details to [sedgefieldvillagegames@gmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldvillagegames@gmail.com)



The representatives of Sedgefield's voluntary groups at the 2015 bash.



## Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club

seeks casual play-leaders to work in its brand new purpose built facility. Flexible work to cover between 7.40-9am & 3-6pm, Monday to Friday in term time and 8am & 6pm in school holidays, as and when required.

Level 3 childcare qualification or experience of working with children an advantage. For further information contact **Sue Bell** on **01740 623565**, or send CV to Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club, Rectory Row, Sedgefield, TS21 3BJ or email [sedgefieldfunclub@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sedgefieldfunclub@tiscali.co.uk)

## Community Safety

For Local Police, call 101



### Welcome to our new PCSO

Community Liaison Officer Faye Callan (pictured) is the newly appointed Police Community Support Officer for the Spennymoor, Shildon, Ferryhill, Newton Aycliffe and Sedgfield areas.

She will be based within the safer neighbourhood unit for South Durham and will work with the team there to assist in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

Faye says: "My aim as community liaison officer is to build a positive relationship with the neighbourhood to help prevent and reduce crime. I hope that through raising the profile of crime prevention initiatives I can work together with local people to solve the issues that cause them concern and tackle crime across the towns I will cover.

A graduate of The University of Sunderland, Faye has worked as a teaching assistant as well as being a swimming teacher and lifeguard in Bishop Auckland. Her work in the pool led to her becoming a Great Britain Paralympic swimming coach and gave her "an amazing opportunity to work with athletes at the 2012 London Paralympic Games."

Faye commented, "I can't wait to get started in the role and look forward to meeting the community, so if you see me around please come and say hello!"

#### Faye's contact details are:

Faye Callan, PCSO 8006, Community Liaison Officer, Durham Constabulary, Spennymoor

## Teenagers to tackle youth issues in policing first

Seven young people aged 16 to 18, all graduates of the Durham Constabulary's Cadet scheme, have been handed two-year apprenticeships as youth development officers. Branded "The Magnificent Seven", this group of trailblazing teenagers is participating in a new initiative believed to be among the first of its kind. As part of the role they will work on projects to encourage their peers to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drugs, bullying and child sexual exploitation.

Meanwhile, they will also work towards a youth worker's qualification with Derwentside College. One of the young people on the scheme is Ronnie Haw, 16, from Darlington. Before getting into the cadets Ronnie wasn't really very outgoing. Since joining up Ronnie says, "Now I am a lot more confident and I have had some amazing experiences. Eventually I would like to become a police officer and hopefully this is a step to achieving that." Mike Barton, Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary, said: "I think it is absolutely fantastic that we are welcoming these young people to Durham's policing family. It is a great opportunity for them."



Chief Constable Mike Barton with the new recruits Ronnie Haw, Thomas James, Michael Flint, Ellie Robinson, Ana Futter, Callum Cornick, Dylan Etheridge



### A Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Young People

Police Cadets from across County Durham and Darlington will be invited to choose a Young Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC) from their own ranks. The Young PCVC will manage a £10,000 budget made available by Ron Hogg, PCVC for County Durham and Darlington and lead a group of young people in selecting a project to reduce offending and improve community safety.

Proposals on the nature of the project will be submitted by members of the Police Cadets, Fire Service Cadets and Mini Police. The Young PCVC will then chair a committee of young people which will choose the winning project. The Young PCVC will also shadow Ron Hogg, as part of the Takeover Challenge in November.

Ron said: "The Cadets and the Mini Police are already very well placed to suggest how to improve community safety." He went on to say that he was very keen to give young people the opportunity to allocate a significant amount of money to help improve young people's lives.

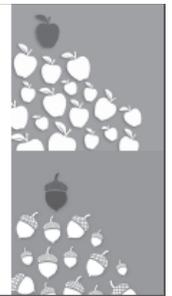
The Young PCVC will be announced soon.

### Sedgfield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel AGM 2016

The N/H/W Annual General Meeting for 2016 will take place on **11 October, 7.00pm, Fletcher room, Parish Hall**. At this meeting registered members of the village N/H/W will elect their committees for the year ahead.

Members are urged to attend and to help maintain an effective N/H/Watch for the village. As we are a shrinking group, in terms of active members, it is extremely important that everyone with an interest in the continuation of the group's activities should attend.

Sadly we will no longer have the benefit of Ron Suddes at our meetings. Ron, a much valued member of our Executive and our community, sadly passed away on 6 August. His value to his family and this community could not have been expressed better than the eulogies given at his funeral service in Sedgfield Methodist Church on 16 August. The heartfelt tribute to his life spoken by his son Keith, the packed church and the respectful send off by the Veterans on Ron's final journey were a most fitting testament to Ron's life.

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## Sedgefield Energy Switch Savings Exceed £95,000

Congratulations to those Sedgefield residents who have been a part of our Energy Switching Scheme during the past 2 years. Your involvement has contributed to the £95,000 total savings that has been achieved so far.

If you are interested in joining the scheme, or have switched already but your contract comes to an end before February 2017, you need to register before the next registration closing date, October 10th. Recent press articles suggest that energy companies may increase prices in the near future. Joining our scheme may help to avoid those increases, and if the result of this auction follows the trend of the last 2 years you could achieve significant reductions. So why not give it a go? Registering for the scheme commits you to nothing and you will not receive any of those pestering phone calls (that's guaranteed!)

**Key Dates for the October auction:** Registration is open now and closes on 10th October. Auction Day follows on October 11th. Personal Offers are issued from 24th October and Offer Acceptance closes on November 29th.

Registration can be achieved in one of two ways: If you are happy to register online, go to [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk), open the ENERGY SWITCH section, simply click on the RED 'REGISTER NOW' button and follow the links to fill out your details.

If you prefer to register and receive information through the post, or need assistance, please call the **Sedgefield Development Trust Helpline: 07980 134 594**. We will be more than happy to help or complete your registration for you.

## Farmers' Market

The Community Stall on 2nd October will be taken by **The Lions Charity**. They will be promoting Lions' Clubs International and the good work they do in communities (e.g. message in a bottle - making emergency services aware of personal and medical details). They will also be selling second hand books and jigsaws.

The **Harlequin Women's Morris Dancers** will be here to entertain us with music and dance. Come along and give your support to our village farmers' market.

## Sew Easy

The end of year report for this fantastic project makes such happy reading that we will be bringing it to you in full next month. After receiving a grant 8 years ago from the Awards For All Lottery Fund, to start Days In Days Out, we were thrilled to receive another, this time to purchase sewing machines and accessories, literally to make sewing easy and accessible. Project leader, Gloria Wills, has been blown away by the interest and enthusiasm shown in it.

## Autumn Open Meeting

### Thursday 10th November

Our trusty old Ideas Machine opens again for thinking aloud, in the Old Courtroom at the Manor House.

Details next month, but put this date in your diary if you want to be part of it! By the time we finished fermenting your thoughts last year, we had established a Bee Group, now **Busy Bees at Hardwick**, and the germs of a couple of exciting projects which are slowly evolving. Where will you lead us this time?

## Sedgefield Village Action Group (SVAG) Update

This is the current situation regarding housing applications, resubmissions & appeals:

Land to the South of Eden Drive Sedgefield (220 + 80 houses) No: 16/00025/REF – Refused - Appeal decision pending (7th Oct).

Land to the East of Sedgefield Community College to the North and South of Butterwick Road Sedgefield (371 houses plus commercial property) No: 16/00039/REF – Refused. Appeal lodged - date awaited/imminent.

Land to the South of Beacon Lane Sedgefield (150 houses) Ref. No: 16/00034/REF – Refused Appeal lodged – date awaited/imminent.

Land at The former Sedgefield Community Hospital, Salters Lane; brownfield site. (125 houses) Ref. No: DM/16/01522/OUT Planning permission refused on 6th Sept.

Land South of Beacon Avenue Beacon Lane Sedgefield (resubmission) 3 Cornered Field (34 houses) Ref. No: DM/16/01450/OUT - pending consideration.

As you can see, despite repeated refusal at planning committee hearings and appeal, Sedgefield continues to be bombarded with applications and resubmissions. SVAG remain committed to informing residents. Contact SVAG: [SedgefieldVAG@gmail.com](mailto:SedgefieldVAG@gmail.com)

## Home of Sedgefield Community Association

### Thanks to all who contributed to the town's fantastic Folk festival.

The SCA were delighted to host a range of varied and busy events over the course of the weekend.

On the Friday, Lol and Maxine hosted a brilliant evening of Ukulele Music, with performances from Ceddesfeld Hall's own group and featuring the Stockton & Darlington Ukulele Express. It was a very entertaining, happy evening with high levels of audience participation! The Saturday workshops for ukulele, guitar, spoons, Northumbrian pipes and singing, attracted lots of participants, of all ages and were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Saturday was Open Mic, featuring the Old Age Travellers and hosted a wide variety of acts, who not only sang, but performed poetry and told jokes and stories. It was huge fun and the standard as always, was very high. Both evenings attracted high numbers and it was great to see lots of new faces of all ages. The Sunday 'sing around' finished off a brilliant, successful weekend.

Continuing with the musical theme, Lirica are performing their Autumn Concert in the main hall on Saturday 1st October.

This very talented local group have a large following so please get your tickets (£5.00 from Tickety Boo or from Tom on **01740 622185**) early, to avoid disappointment. The evening begins at 7:30 pm.

On the 19th November Ceddesfeld Hall celebrates 950 years since 1066. As well as entertainment, there will be a delicious meal with a selection of main courses and sweets plus cheese board and coffee and mints all for £18. Further information contact Pat or Wendy.

The SCA welcomes back the various groups and sections following the summer break. There have been new members joining several of the groups. It is good to see the place so busy with folk enjoying a wide range of pastimes and activities and that the different organisations are going from strength to strength. Sedgefield has such a lot on offer. Run completely by SCA volunteers, Ceddesfeld Hall is open to all, who are welcome to get involved in any way they can.

**For information, contact Wendy 620206: Pat 620607: Sarah 622185 or go to [www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk)**

## Sedgefield Folk Festival

What a wonderful weekend it turned out to be for the 11th Annual Sedgefield Folk Festival. With people from all over the country and every venue full to capacity, the weekend was described by many as the best ever. The Manor House on both Friday and Saturday night were very well attended as was the Open Mic night on the Saturday night at Ceddesfeld with guests Old Age Travellers.

It is difficult to single out one particular act as a favourite as there were so many and all so different. For myself, the Goat Roper Rodeo Band, three young lads from North Wales appearing on the Saturday afternoon, brought a special appeal to the Festival with their swinging mesmerizing blue grass music.

As one of the organisers of the Festival, I would like to thank everyone for their wonderful support. Planning for next year has already begun and we now look forward to our season of music at the Cricket Club which starts on Friday, October 14th with the Haley Sisters and Robson Field. *Joan Edmundson*



*Pictures above from a range of the events at Sedgefield Folk Festival*

## Sedgefield Blues Club

We hope our supporters have enjoyed their summer break, now we're back. We have two gigs left this year. First off, on October 14th, we have The Gerry Jablonski Band, who hail from Scotland and have taken Europe by storm this year as well as all the major British Blues Festivals. The decision to book them was easy. They tick all the boxes for another memorable night at the Blues Club.

We also like to support our local bands, and this time we have Auld Mans Baccie who will be singing the 'Gospel', of Muddy Waters, Robert Johnstone and Elmore James. Both Bands are 'must see'.

This is a highly anticipated gig and we have people from all over the country coming to Sedgefield for this one.

Tickets can be purchased on [www.sedgefieldblues.com](http://www.sedgefieldblues.com) or John on **07758418430**.

Our other gig this year is the very welcome return of old favourite Marcus Malone on November 25th.

## Country Market

Many residents descended on the Parish Hall for the Country Market's 30th birthday on Sept 9th. It turned out to be a hectic, but very happy morning, when our founder member Doris Dunn, and our oldest producer Doris Bennett cut the cake. It has been very satisfying to produce crafts and plants on a monthly basis for the past 30 years and we look forward to many more years of service to the community.

*Sheila McMillan*



## 1st Sedgefield Scout Hall Official Reopening

**Monday 10th Oct from 6:30pm.**

Following the refurbishment of the hall, 1st Sedgefield Scout Group will be hosting an official reopening evening to thank the charities, other organisations and businesses that helped fund the work. Any Group Leaders looking for a venue for events or regular meetings are welcome to come along and view the improved facilities.

**Fishburn Art Group Open Day**  
**Sunday 16th October from 10am - 4pm**  
**in Fishburn Community Centre.**

An exhibition of artwork by local artists, and sale of paintings and crafts. Also the re-launch of the Brenda Terry Art Gallery in the newly refurbished Community Centre.

A limited number of tables are available for hire for the sale of craft items. First come, first served.

**Contact Julie Underwood: 07770 972 988**  
**or the Secretary: 01740 623808**

## Four Plays and a Party

The Sedgefield Players' latest offering of not just one, but four plays was kicked off in grand style by the SPYS, with their production of Fin Kennedy's 'The Unravelling'. This beautifully woven tale of a mother and her daughters who tell stories to one another to decide which of the daughters will inherit the family shop, was imaginatively created using minimal set, physicality and fantastic team work. The young ensemble won the Audience Award for the production which will be going to the Richmond Festival in February 2017.

The second play was Nick Warburton's 'Distracted Globe', presented by the adult Players. A hilarious comedy about a failing amateur dramatics group ended the first night of performances.

Bananadrama, our long time friends from Scarborough, brought their original work, 'The Library' written and directed by Shari Gledhill, a bittersweet tale of two strangers who meet in a library.

The final performance of 'The Regina Monologues' by Rebecca Russell and

Jenny Wafer, saw the Players tackle the six wives of Henry VIII, in this modernised adaptation, which will also be going to the Richmond Festival in February. A fantastic evening of songs, poetry and monologues completed what has been a fantastic week.

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There's no escaping the fact that summer has ended and that the nights are already starting to draw in. It has been a pretty amazing few months of sport, dominated by the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games. Team GB excelled in Brazil and returned with medals galore, and despite a difficult lead up to the games (and without wanting to gloss over that), Rio succeeded in delivering a fantastic spectacle. Once again, I, for one, was gripped. Sadly, there was a desperately sad finale, with the death of Iranian paracyclist Bahman Golbarnezhad, following a crash in the road race. It was a tragic conclusion to what was a phenomenal festival of sport.

So now we move inexorably into autumn. The football and rugby seasons are already well underway, while runners are hunting out their cross country spikes in anticipation of months of mud. Meanwhile, the cricket season has drawn to a close and congratulations to Durham County Cricket Club for securing first division status in the County Championship for a record 12th season (no county has been there longer), despite limited resources, often being without Ben Stokes and Mark Wood due to England duty, and the constant threat – now realised – of losing some of their brightest stars to 'bigger' counties. Even closer to home, I will include a full report from Sedgefield Cricket Club's season next month (for now, there is some exciting news from the juniors below).

But before that, there's the small matter of the Ryder Cup. By the time you read this, this biennial event will be reaching a climax. Europe has generally held the upper hand over the last two decades, but the event almost always provides drama, excitement and a fantastic spectacle. Golf is usually an individual sport, so it is always intriguing to see 24 of the world's best players competing in a team format, and under a flag. If Justin Rose can replicate some of the form he showed while winning a gold medal for Team GB in Rio – and Henrik Stenson was pretty impressive in securing his silver too – then Europe have a good chance of retaining the cup. However, the tournament is taking place in the USA and the Americans are very motivated to win it back. It should be tasty!

## Junior cricket

I have already reported on this season's successes for the junior teams at Sedgefield Cricket Club and am delighted to bring even more good news. Sedgefield's under 11 team, managed by Martin Lower, has won the northern league title in the North Yorkshire & South Durham League for the first time in 10 years, which in itself is a great achievement, but it doesn't end there.

The team then went on to beat Marton (winners of the NYSD southern league) in the north/south final, the first time Sedgefield has ever won that cup - for a team that competes against big towns, this was a fantastic result.



*Martin Lower and the double-winning Sedgefield Under 11s*



*Mike Ridley with the triumphant Sedgefield Under 12s*

And there's more. The under 12 team, managed by Mike Ridley, triumphed in their League Cup final, thus securing two cups for Sedgefield in one afternoon! Huge congratulations to the young stars, and to their coaches and everyone else who puts in so much hard work to help the Sedgefield juniors make the most of their talent.

## Great North Run

As always, plenty of representatives from Sedgefield made the short trip north to take part in events during the Great North Run weekend.

These days, there are quite a few races to choose from, including the Great North 5K, Mini and Junior Great North Runs



and of course, the world's biggest half marathon. Loads of junior runners competed in the first three races on the Saturday, with a lot of excellent running on show – it won't be too

long before many of the juniors graduate to the main event on the Sunday. As it was, the runners of Sedgefield were there in force.

Inevitably, there were numerous Sedgefield Harriers on the starting line, performing well on what turned out to be a pretty warm day.

However, there were also some other great runners from our community, among them Sarah Dickenson, who raised over £600 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society during her Great North Run, and Madeline Stewart who completed her first half marathon, raising more than £1,000 for The Lullaby Trust. Both ran brilliantly and for hugely deserving causes.

It is stories like theirs that really make the Great North Run such a special event. A big tip of the hat to everyone who completed the annual pilgrimage from Newcastle to South Shields.

## Youth football

Sedgefield Youth FC is on the lookout for referees to help officiate at junior games, all played at Sedgefield Community College on Sunday mornings.

The club pays a match fee (£15-£20 per game) and will welcome qualified volunteers. Alternatively, if you want to get back into refereeing after a break, or would like to take up the role for the first time, then the club will assist and pay for your official refereeing course, in return for a commitment to Sedgefield Youth FC.

If you are interested, please contact David Ryder on **07515 020766**.

## Sedgefield Welly Hoyers' Annual Fling 'Stars in their Eyes'

Are you a secret singer, a closet comedian or maybe a modest magician? If any of these phrases describes you, then you might be interested in taking part in this year's talent show, organised by the dubiously named 'Sedgefield Welly Hoyers', which takes place this year on Friday, December 30th. The stated aims of the organisers of this annual event are twofold; to raise money for charity and, in the process, to make a good night out for all involved.

The Welly Hoyers have been holding their 'Stars in Their Eyes' variety show for a number of years now. In

that time shows have included a whole range of vocal acts - including many tribute-type artists, stand up comedians, instrumentalists, novelty acts and dancers. Some of these contributors have been very accomplished, whilst others have been, shall we say, not quite so gifted. The one thing they all have in common however is a sense of fun and adventure and a willingness to put themselves forward and do their stuff!

If you'd like to get a flavour of the night you can visit the Sedgefield News archive at [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk) where you can read accounts and see pictures of previous shows. Just scroll to the bottom of the home page. There on the right hand side you will see a section named 'Read the Sedgefield News'. Click on the box '2002 - 2015 Editions', then select any February edition from the years 2007 to 2011, where you will find a rogue's gallery of past performers from the Sedgefield locality, many of whom you might recognise.

Clearly, the organising committee has had little difficulty in persuading would be performers to take to the stage and thrill the 150 strong audience with their various skills. In fact, every year there is a bunch of regular acts bustling to be at the head of the queue to book their place in the next show. However, time rolls relentlessly on; people get older and their commitments and careers take them in other directions. Happily, this creates an opportunity for new performers to step up and give it a go.

If that prospect appeals to you, now is the chance for you to fulfil that dream (or confront that nightmare) of performing

live in public. Neville Icton (aka Charlie), a member of the organising committee told 'The News':

*"The show is basically just about a good night out and raising some money for charity along the way. In its time the show has developed, changing its character from year to year. It started life as a talent competition but has now become a fun-time variety show and has lost its competitive nature."*



*Some past performers*

That doesn't mean to say that performances are not taken seriously.

*"As an event, we take the evening very seriously,"* said Charlie. *"We make*

*sure that the programme is varied and well balanced and that everyone who performs has all of the technical support they need. Most importantly, we insist that the audience gives the best of order to all artists."*

Anyone interested in performing can contact Neville Icton on 07793106098 or committee member Phil Hartshorn on 07967340890. Prospective performers will be asked to attend an informal meeting with a representative of the committee.

Phil Hartshorn explained,

*"We don't expect people to come and do an audition as such but it is useful to chat to people just to get a feel for their personality and outlook as well as discussing the type of act they would like to do and to start to explore what they might require from the club to help showcase themselves at their best."*

Tickets for the event cost £5 each and can be obtained from Neville Icton on 07793106098 and Phil Hartshorn on 07967340890.

## New York Marathon

Sarah Earl and Emma Craig from Sedgefield, along with a team from their office, are preparing for a big challenge and adventure, the world famous New York Marathon. Sarah and Emma will tackle the 26.2 miles on 6th November to raise funds for the Teesside Philanthropic Society Schools Hardship Fund. They describe themselves as 'non-runners', but I have every confidence that they will rise to the challenge!



Sara and Emma are also holding other events and an auction to raise funds for this excellent cause. You can read about their plans at [www.teessidecharity.org.uk/2016/08/heading-new-york-raise-15000-teessides-poorest-children](http://www.teessidecharity.org.uk/2016/08/heading-new-york-raise-15000-teessides-poorest-children) and make a donation at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SoundTraining](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SoundTraining).

Good luck to Sarah and Emma.

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# OCTOBER 2016 DIARY

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Date	Event
Sat 1st	<b>Concert with Lirica</b> 7pm in Ceddesfeld Hall <b>Sedgefield Library</b> Surgery with councillors Rachel Lumsdon and John Robinson
Sun 2nd	<b>Farmers' Market</b> on the Green from 8.30am
Mon 3rd	<b>Sedgefield Local History Society</b> 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall. Ralph Ward Jackson, Victorian founder of West Hartlepool by Winifed Stokes <b>Sedgefield Tappers</b> Parish Hall 7pm every Mon. Newcomers welcome. <b>Methodist Wives and Friends</b> Jayne's Shop
Tue 4th	<b>Sedgefield Gardening Club</b> 7.30pm Ceddesfeld Hall. Dahlias by George Hodgson.
Wed 5th	<b>WI</b> Parish Hall 7.15pm. "Snooping on Snaps" an illustrated talk by Julian Harrop of Beamish Museum. Members' Competition: old family photograph. Visitors welcome.
Fri 7th	<b>U3A</b> Parish Hall 2pm. "Policing the Community" by Police Commissioner Ron Hogg. All members free, guests welcome, £3. ☎ 629276 for information.
Sat 8th	<b>Skerne Medical Group Flu Campaign</b> Harbinson House, Sedgefield, & Beveridge House, Fishburn. Sessions are open from 9am - 11.30am. <b>Sedgefield Cricket Club</b> Quiz Night, 8pm hosted by John Bryant. <b>Sedgefield Primary School PTFA and The Friends of St Edmund's</b> Teddy Bear Parachute, St Edmund's Church 1-3pm. £2 per bear for their first jump, £1.50 for subsequent jumps (on the day £2.50 then £2) To pre-book jumps ☎ 629068
Tue 11th	<b>Sedgefield Ladies' Club</b> Ceddesfeld Hall, Erland Rendell - From North East to Middle East. <b>Neighbourhood Watch AGM</b> Parish Hall, 7pm, Fletcher Room, Panel Meeting.
Fri 14th	<b>Country Market</b> Parish Hall, 10-11.30am. Home baked produce, jams, crafts, cards & plants. Refreshments. A warm welcome awaits. <b>Sedgefield Cricket Club</b> Live Music night, 7.45pm, £11 inc. buffet. Haley Sisters, Robson Field, John Wrightson Band. ☎ 629068
Mon 17th	<b>Sedgefield Family History Group</b> 7.15pm Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.15pm. David Butler "Highwaymen & Unwanted Wedding Presents". <b>Methodist Wives and Friends</b> Liz Smith.
Tue 18th	<b>Sedgefield Flower Club</b> Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Talk by Heather Curry - "A Basket Case"
Wed 26th	<b>Sedgefield Library</b> 10am, Magic Marvin Show for children. Free but spaces are limited. Please ask at the library.
Fri 28th	<b>The Mayor's Charity Quiz</b> Ceddesfeld Hall 7.30pm, Pie & Peas included. Tickets £6 each from the Council Office. Call in, ☎ 621273 or email <a href="mailto:jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk">jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk</a> <b>Sedgefield in Bloom</b> Coffee Morning, Parish Hall 10-11.30am.
Mon 31st	<b>Methodist Wives and Friends</b> Jewellery Sale.

## Coming up next month

**Sedgefield Development Trust OPEN MEETING.** Thursday 10th November.

**Bloom Dance** Saturday November 19th Parish Hall

**The Snow Party** is to be held on the 3rd December from 12 – 4pm. The event will be held in the Parish Hall, St Edmund's Church and Ceddesfeld Hall.

Should you wish to hire a stall for the afternoon please call in to the Council Offices, ☎ 621273 or email [julia@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:julia@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk). The cost per stall is £15.

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& Thurs 7-8pm

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## New Yoga Class

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Mixed ability class so all are welcome.

More info at [www.yogaready.co.uk](http://www.yogaready.co.uk)

## Sedgefield Social Club

### October entertainment

Saturday 1st October: Alan Stevens.

Saturday 8th October: 60's Style. Saturday 15th October: Becca.

Monday 17th October:

Country Night, The Milliners.

Saturday 22nd October: Rose. Saturday

29th October: Dexy.

## New Generation Church

### Sedgefield Parish Hall

2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th Oct

### Middlesbrough College

23rd Oct

Send events and diary dates to  
[diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com](mailto:diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com)

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Sedgefield News is published by Sedgefield Development Trust and printed by The Print Factory: 01429 264777

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