



SEDGEFIELD NEWS

October 2017

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



Sedgefield Community College has retained its position as County Durham's highest attaining secondary school—Congratulations! See full article on **page 2**.

Another blooming success!

Sedgefield struck gold once again in the recent Northumbria in Bloom awards, winning gold and Best Small Town. Judges Robert Germany and Anthea Stephenson were full of praise for our 'picturesque town with so much to see, maintained to a high standard, a delight to visit.'

They were very impressed by the traditional flower beds created by council gardeners Stephen Young and Ben Gray. The tubs and planters also received high praise, as well as the 700 Bed, designed and planted by volunteer Bloomer Alice Hobson and the stunning wildflower meadow at Wykes Close. Gardens created by the Bloomers at Ceddesfeld Hall won a special gold award, while the judges considered the Stepping Through Time Garden a major achievement. 'An excellent transformation of a seriously neglected site into an interactive shrubbery with a story.'

Further golds were awarded to the beautiful rose garden at Manor House 1707; Hardwick Hall and Park; the Dun Cow; and the private garden of Ron and Brenda Wright at 61 Station Road.

Sedgefield Racecourse won Silver Gilt. Bloom Chairman Howard Smith was surprised but delighted to receive a special award for his outstanding voluntary commitment to Sedgefield in Bloom.

The judges commended the Bloom team on all that it achieves within the community – 'horticulture, social

activities, networking, fundraising, business involvement.' The Bloomers are very grateful to everyone for the terrific community support throughout the year. New members are welcome, no experience or gardening knowledge necessary.

Keep your eyes peeled for the next Bloom fundraiser.



RHS judge Rae Beckwith (centre) presenting gold and Best Small Town to Bloomers (from left to right) Howard and Barbara Smith, Norma Neal, Norman Midgley and Ian Sutherland.

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

Autumn will be well underway when you read this and since we had quite a damp August it is very likely that it will be a good year for fungi and berries. The Woodland Trust are asking people to share pictures of signs of autumn using the #NatureDetectives, whether it is leaves changing colour, autumnal scenes or fungi. They are also asking people to record changes using the Nature's Calendar website. We all know that many leaves change colour as autumn approaches but why? In summer, leaves produce lots of green-coloured chlorophyll, which helps them make sugary food from sunshine. Chlorophyll production slows down as winter approaches so you start to see the other coloured chemicals in the leaves, such as yellow carotenes. But if there's still some food in a leaf, that turns into anthocyanins, which are red. This results in leaves changing colour. The colour mix depends on the weather. If it's cool and grey in August and September, the food in a leaf runs out quickly and you get more yellow leaves. If it's warm and sunny, leaves produce food for longer and you get more red leaves. (See the Woodland Trust website for more information).

The Woodland Trust have been monitoring seasonal changes through the Nature's Calendar website for many years. They are asking people to choose a rowan tree to observe this autumn. Visit the tree at least once or twice a week to check the colour of the leaves. You might find this easier if you choose a tree that you already see regularly, for example a tree on your way to work or the shops. Record the date of first autumn tinting - when several leaves on the tree have started to change colour. Record the date of full autumn tinting when all the leaves on the tree have changed colour. It may not be possible to record full autumn tinting if the leaves fall before they have fully changed colour. The information collected from people all over the country is analysed by scientists and contributes to questions linked to weather and wildlife, and climate change. From leaf buds bursting to blackberries ripening, log on to <https://naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk/> and tell them what's happening near you. You'll be contributing to a long biological record that dates back as far as 1736.

Follow the yellow brick road.....

Sedgefield's annual Scarecrow Festival took place this August with many locals joining in the fun.

Despite the overcast weather scarecrows were displayed all across the village with a number of ideas being produced from straw, clothes and even old dolls. Displays involved Banana Man, the Halloween Howlers and Rapunzel - who almost lost her golden locks to the wind.

Amongst some difficult competition St Edmund's Pre-school Coffee & Cake Group took 3rd place with Mr Potato Head and 2nd place was taken by an elegant Ballet Dancer who danced across her stage in the village. The winner of Sedgefield Scarecrow Festival 2017 was The Leas Ensemble, The Wizard of Oz. After being blown from Kansas to Sedgefield the characters of the yellow brick road; The Lion, Tin Man, Scarecrow and of course Dorothy looked amazing.



Congratulations to our class of 2017

Having recently been recognised by OFSTED as an 'Outstanding' school in all respects it is perhaps no surprise that following the recent release of GCSE results Sedgefield Community College has retained its position as County Durham's highest attaining secondary school.

This year, new 'tougher' English and Maths examinations presented considerable challenges for both students and staff across the country but it would appear that the school took this in their stride as the students once again achieved a raft of impressive results. Headteacher Dave Davies commented, 'I would like to congratulate our former year 11 students and their parents on what is another outstanding set of results. I am absolutely delighted for both students and staff who have worked so hard to achieve results which have once again seen Sedgefield Community College continue the trend of students achieving beyond 'national expectations'. The determination of staff and students to achieve the highest possible grades has certainly paid off, and I cannot commend our students highly enough. Their attitude to learning has been outstanding and has also acted as a positive influence on our younger students.

Chair of Governors, John Robinson added, 'on behalf of the staff, governors and myself, I would like to add my congratulations to our former students and hope that they feel that their experiences at the college has prepared them well for their life after Sedgefield Community College. I must also take the opportunity to thank Mr Davies and his staff for ensuring that the children in our area receive such a high quality education'.

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

**Deadline for November edition
Monday 16th October**

News & Advertising: 07572 502 904

Email: sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

55 White House Drive, TS21 3BU

Sport: chrisjlines@aol.com

Arts & Events:

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sedgefielddartsandevents@outlook.com

Diary:

Email: diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Website: www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Georgian house for sale—and you name the price!

Sealed bid offers are being invited for a beautiful, three-storey Georgian doll's house which, say those who have seen it, would make a wonderful birthday or Christmas present.

The house comes complete with a range of furniture and has been given to St Edmund's Church with a request that the money raised should be put towards the cost of running the ancient building. The donor has asked to remain anonymous.

The house measures 28 inches high by 22 inches deep and 13 inches deep and was assembled by a local cabinet maker.

It is now on display at St Edmund's but arrangements to view it when the church is closed can be made with Parish warden Brian Mutch on 01740 622302. It will be sold using the 'sealed bid' system with a reserve of £250. Bids should be sent to Parish Administrator Rachel Stephenson at 3 Ivy Row, Station Road, Sedgefield, TS21 2JT with the envelope clearly marked 'Doll's House' **Closing date for bids is December 1** and the result will be announced at the Church Gift Day coffee morning on December 8.



Nine-year-old Anna Richards of Sedgefield is pictured checking out the furnishings of the house before it goes on the market.

A buzz at the Sedgefield Business Network breakfast

Attendees at the latest Sedgefield Business Breakfast made a comfortable crowd in the newly refurbished Fletcher Room at the Parish Hall. New faces are always welcome, and several newcomers mingled with regular participants over coffee, croissants and bacon butties. The event was kindly sponsored by town councillors Allan Blakemore and Chris Lines, with food and drink provided by Toshach's Tea Shop. Calum Baker of Durham County Council's Business Energy Efficiency Programme (BEEP) and John Atkinson of the North East Business Support Fund (NBSL) briefly updated guests on their programmes and funding opportunities, and then the enthusiastic networking continued.



The breakfast was the latest event organised by the growing Sedgefield Business Network (SBN) and was free to attend. The next Sedgefield Business Breakfast will take place on 14th November, also in the Fletcher Room, sponsored by local business Kyle Cannings Ltd.

As usual, sign up (and find out more about getting involved in SBN) by contacting sedgefieldbn@gmail.com. You can also find SBN on Facebook and follow @SedgefieldBN on Twitter.

Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club is looking to recruit casual playleaders in its new purpose built facility.

Successful applicant would work flexibly to cover between 7:25-9am and 3-6pm, Monday – Friday term time and between 7:30am-6pm in school holidays as and when required.

Level 3 childcare qualification or experience of working with children would be an advantage.

For further information contact Sue Bell on 01740 623565, or send your CV to Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club, Rectory Row, Sedgefield, TS21 3BJ or email: sedgefieldfunclub@tiscali.co.uk.



Friends of St Edmund's Church in Sedgefield and their supporters are being offered an opportunity to see some of the most precious Anglo-Saxon artefacts in the world - now on display as part of Durham Cathedral's much-praised 'Open Treasure' experience. The visit has now been re-arranged for **Tuesday, October 10**, which includes a buffet lunch in the Cathedral's Prior's Hall. A coach will leave Sedgefield Parish Hall at 11.30am that day and return by 5pm. The cost of £26 per head includes everything. Friends have also given early notice of their annual festive shopping trip to York on Thursday, December 7th. Anyone interested in either visit should contact Secretary Alison Hodgson on 01740 620912 or Membership Secretary Brian Mutch on 01740 622302.

Letter: Gratitude from victim of attack

I would like to thank the couple that stopped to help me on the morning of Sunday 27th August. As I crossed the road in front of Aubergine café, a white van swerved towards me and the passenger threw liquid in my face. I can only assume that they thought this was funny but I was left shocked and very upset. The couple who came to help me were so kind, staying with me until I felt able to drive home. It was only later that I realised that I hadn't thanked them for the concern and support they had shown. I really hope that they read this letter and know that I am very grateful.

Name and address supplied

Letter: Thanks...

Katie and Ellie Spink would like to thank everyone who came along and enjoyed cake at their coffee morning in The Manor House. The girls appreciate the support shown by so many people.

The event raised **£700** which has been donated to Great North Air Ambulance. A charity they are keen to support following their dad's accident as he was airlifted to hospital. Ellie and Katie are also keen to thank those who baked cakes and made the event possible. They wonder if some of the chefs will appear on 'bake off' next year?



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Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel: AGM 2017

This will take place on Tuesday 10th October at 7.00pm in the Fletcher room, Parish Hall at which registered members of the village N/H/Watch will elect their Officers for the year ahead.

We need members to attend and fully participate to maintain an effective N/H/Watch group for Sedgefield, as we really are a shrinking group. Following the AGM a normal Panel meeting will take place as usual.

Nights Drawing In: now is the time to get those light timers out again and set them to keep your property looking occupied even with your curtains drawn – remember preventative measures only take a little thought and are well worthwhile.

Letter: A personal thank you

I would like to express a personal thanks to the small Sedgefield Village Action Group (SVAG) team who spent so much time and effort in putting the majority community view to the recent planning and appeal meetings. Being part of that team, I know how much time was spent not only attending the days at the appeals but putting together the evidence and presentation on behalf of our community view – it's no small task operating in an arena challenging qualified barristers and planners. Despite the recent report in the Northern Echo of CPRE, Sedgefield Civic Trust and Sedgefield Town Council objecting to the recent AVANT application and Appeal it was only SVAG who obtained the legal status to actively take part in the Appeal process and it was only SVAG who attended the full 5 days of the hearing – yet SVAG did not get a mention in the report.

We didn't manage to stop the Eden Drive development (and what a mess it's making) but so far no other applications or appeals have been successful. Of course, it's not all down to SVAG, rest assured the many letters of objection written by residents really make a difference – and it is so important that the community make their views heard at every opportunity. SVAG always try to represent the majority community view, that isn't everyone's view but it is the majority view that counts. There will be continued pressure on our community, not only to accommodate more housing but issues about the Community Hospital down grading or possible closure, the overwhelming pressures on our stretched GP practice, parking and traffic problems etc. etc.

So, if we are to continue to work to protect our community we need more people to join SVAG (the group is at risk of closing) – please watch out for information and do your bit. Again, may thanks to all who have worked so hard.

Julia Bowles, Hardwick Road

Call 101 to contact Local Police

& 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 can be contacted on 101, extension 742317 or you can email her at faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk



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Sedgefield Village Action Group

Another success! The planning appeal application for 150 houses between Beacon Lane and Stockton Road has been rejected by the Planning Inspectorate.

This is excellent news and proves that, with determination and good research and presentation, it is possible for ordinary people to succeed against big national house builders.

Various other local and national groups made written presentations, or only attended and spoke on odd days, but our SVAG was present for the full 5 days, including a lengthy site visit. We were able to speak as equals and question everything that was put to the planning inspector by the appellants and Durham County Council. This was only possible because we had troubled to register under rule 6, giving us equal status with the other main parties, as opposed to just making a one off statement.

As was stated in last month's Sedgefield News, the huge ESRG proposal for 371 houses, 2 care homes & industrial buildings, has been withdrawn. That's good news, but it's only a postponement, past experience has taught us that they will be back. SVAG will continue to monitor future planning applications.



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Ceddesfeld Hall



Home of Sedgefield Community Association (SCA)

SCA is delighted to continue to support Sedgefield Folk Festival. It was full house for the Ukulele Kanikapila; a great night of popular songs and terrific ukulele music. The Open Mic Night featuring The Old Age Travellers enjoyed performances from local musicians as well as folk singers from further afield. Events across the weekend were well attended and it's always good to welcome new visitors to Sedgefield. Thanks to all volunteers who helped with the organisation.

In support of **Durham Book Festival**, Sedgefield Book Ends begins on **Saturday 30th September** (7.30 - 11 pm) with a concert of words and lyrics featuring the works of Bob Dylan and poet Seamus Heaney.

On **Wednesday 4th October**, Peter Barron (former editor of the Northern Echo) will be talking to Y6 pupils from both primary schools about his work as a journalist and writer.

On **Thursday 5th October** (10am - 12 noon) there is a workshop about writing from life's experience from Wendy Robertson and from 1 - 3pm, Avril Joy (People's Book prize winner) is giving a talk on her work 'Sometimes a Riversong'. On **Friday 6th** (7 - 9 pm), Chris Lloyd will give a talk entitled 'Echo Memories' on the life and works of Lewis Carroll.

Entry to the above events is £3 and tickets can be obtained from behind the bar at Ceddesfeld Hall, from Norma on 620091, Sarah on 622185 or entrance on the door, ticket sales permitting.

Saturday 7th October is National Book Shop Day and there will be book sales and signing event (free entry) featuring local, well known authors in the main hall from 10am - 12 noon.

The very popular and talented Lirica have their concert on the evening of Saturday 7th beginning at 7.30 pm in the main hall (tickets £5).

To conclude Book Ends, SCA's October Dinner is one of 'Writers, Words and Wit'. Tickets are £18 which includes a 3 course meal and literary entertainment, beginning with a drinks reception at 7 pm.

Tickets from Sedgefield Town Council offices or contact *Wendy* on 620206, *Pat* on 620607, *Sarah* on 622185 or visit our SCA website on www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk

The Trusty: News from Sedgefield Development Trust



Sedgefield Energy Switch

The registration period for the **October Auction** closes on the **9th October**, so, if you want to join the scheme this time your registrations will have to be submitted by then. **For those people who joined the scheme at last year's October Auction, your contract will be coming to an end before the end of the year or early in January, so if you want to continue to take advantage of the savings the scheme might achieve, you need to register again.** Your contracts only last for 12 months after which you must re-register. Our advice is always to register again for the auction that occurs just before your contract ends, not after.

The Key Dates for this October Auction are:

- Registration, Open Now Registration Closes 9th October
- Auction 10th October Personal Offers issued from 23rd October
- Acceptance closes 28th November

At the time of writing this article (10th Sept) only 71 people have registered so far. By the end of the registration period for the October Auction last year 226 people had registered so lots of you still have to register. Don't miss out; register now.

Registration can be achieved in the same two ways as before, by : - If you are happy to register on line yourself, go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk, open the ENERGY SWITCH section, simply click on the 'REGISTER NOW' button and then follow the links and fill out your details. 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 you or complete your registration for you.

Sedgefield Farmers Market: Sew Easy are this months community stall.

Skerne Medical Group: Flu Campaign

Thank you to all patients who attended our first "drop in" flu vaccination clinic. The second walk in clinic (for those people who may receive their October copy of Sedgefield News early) is on;

Saturday 30th September at Harbinson House, Sedgefield and Carroll House, Trimdon Colliery – both sessions between 9am and 11:30am

Please do come along.

Children: any child who is in a clinical 'at risk' group and requires the flu vaccination, plus all children aged two or three years old on 31st August 2017 (i.e. date of birth on or after 1 September 2013 and on or before 31 August 2015) will be able to access the vaccine. Dedicated sessions will be held during October and details will be advertised locally, on www.doctorsnhs.co.uk, in our surgeries and by text.

Please can you ensure you advise us of any change to mobile telephone numbers. The vaccine available to children is usually in the form of a nasal spray rather than an injection, which we are sure will please the children!

Sedgefield Folk Festival

With people from all over the country and even Northern Ireland attending the 12th annual Folk Festival all the concerts were sold out and the Festival goes from strength to strength. There were many highlights to the Festival but for me the young band Los Capitanes stole the show.

We were blessed with wonderful weather all weekend providing a great setting for our outside events. Spontaneous performances by the dancers and musicians of Step This Way and Three Sheets to the Wind performing around the village green together with Alter Ego were enjoyed by many.

The final singaround on Sunday in a packed Ceddesfeld Hall provided a wonderful finale to the Festival. People have already booked accommodation for next year with planning already underway and two main guests booked.

An additional feature of the Festival was a production of 'Life in a Pit Village' by John Wrightson and Bob Lowery which provided a great evening enjoyed by elderly, housebound and disabled residents from the local area.

We now look forward to the autumn and winter programme of live music nights at Sedgefield Cricket Club starting on **20th October** with Snake Oil Trio as the main guest and support from Trevor Bond, Miserable Les, John Weighell and John Wrightson Band.

Bob Edmundson

41st Sedgefield Drama Festival

Sedgefield Drama Festival returned in fine style in September, with outstanding results for Sedgefield Players. Best Production, the Players' imaginative reworking of Bertolt Brecht's 'The Jewish Wife', also won awards for costume and technical achievement. The cast won the Ensemble Award and Tom Guest was awarded Best Director for this production. Tom also won Best Actor for his sensitive portrayal of social worker Leslie in Sedgefield's 'A Touch of Rose Madder', which also won the Audience Award and the Mayor's Runner-up Award.

Tom also directed a fine ensemble in Sedgefield Players Youth Section, whose production 'Remote' won the award for Best Set, using simple staging and a variety of levels to great effect. Cameron Andrews, as the observant outsider, was awarded best Male Performer under 21. Unison Theatre's Beth Crame won Best Female under 21 for her moving portrayal of a young woman whose life is blighted by the cruel mocking of her peers. The company, students from Newcastle College for Performing Arts, also won the Peter Young Quaiach for Youth and the Best 30 Seconds Award. Their tutor and director for this production, Tom Guest won the Adjudicator's Award for all his work on behalf of Sedgefield Festival.

Helena Langero won Best Actress and Doug Clayton Best Supporting Actor as the daughter and father in Chekhov's 'The Proposal', performed with great gusto by Richmond Amateur Dramatic Society. Best Supporting Actress Shannon Waters gave a wonderful portrayal of the painfully shy Fay in Nunthorpe Players' hilarious production of 'Acting, it's not Plumbing'. Another young actress, Lucy McCabe of Matchbox Theatre Company, won the Cameo Award for Janet, the mouthy young mum in 'Muse', part of a trilogy of short plays by local writer Tom Casling.

The Award for Endeavour, given in memory of Ray Tate, a long-standing member of Sedgefield Players with his wife Dorothy, went to Shoestring Theatre Company, on their first ever foray into festivals with 'The Ladybirds'. Cliffe Theatre's chilling presentation of Edgar Allan Poe's short story 'The Tell-Tale Heart' won the Ruby Award for Originality, first awarded in 2015, in celebration of 40 years of Sedgefield Drama Festival.

Organiser Norma Neal said, 'After 40 successful years, we were unable to run a festival in 2016. Having skipped a year, we are delighted to have returned in such strength. Our adjudicator Paul Fowler, on his first visit to Sedgefield, was very impressed by the efficiency and friendliness of the festival, which has a great reputation nationwide. Good to be back!'

Lirica Concert

The annual Lirica concert will take place on **Saturday 7th October** in Ceddesfeld Hall, starting at 7:30pm. 'Dreaming of a Song' will feature a selection of old favourites and modern tracks, performed by the well-established community choir. Lirica shows always prove to be popular, so get your tickets quickly. They cost £5 each and are available from Tickety Boo or by calling 01740 622185.



BOOK ENDS EVENT

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SPORTS UPDATE by Chris Lines

Stories to: chrislines@aol.com

Athletics

Young Sedgefield athletes continue to perform very well in competition.

Sedgefield Harrier Ellie Spink (*right*) recently represented the North East in shot putt at the Inter Counties Athletics Championships. Ellie finished fourth in a very talented field and the North East team won the overall event. Earlier in the year, Ellie also represented the region in indoor athletics in Manchester.

Meanwhile, Harrier Kieran Walker, who has made great progress as a junior - and now senior - athlete under coach Scott Hydon, broke the club half marathon record at the Great North Run, when he finished inside the top 70 in just 73 minutes and 58 seconds. Kieran is now ranked seventh in the UK at the distance at the U20 level – it's a fantastic achievement and we will continue to follow his progress keenly.

Also fantastic were the many other runners from Sedgefield who took part in the annual mini, junior and senior Great North Run races on 9th and 10th September. As ever, our community was very well represented on both days, with lots of people raising money for great causes, and others taking part to achieve their own time targets or simply be part of this world-famous running event. Congratulations to everyone who ran!

Sedgefield Harriers hosted its biggest race of the year on Sunday 17 September. The Sedgefield Serpentine started and finished at the cricket club and followed an attractive route on paths and trails, taking in Hardwick Park and the countryside between Sedgefield and Bishop Middleham. The race was staged thanks to the sponsorship of Parsons Containers, Greig Cavey Commercial and Start Fitness, and with the support of many volunteers from the club and local community. This year's event welcomed a group of runners from Sedgefield's twin town of Hamminkeln, paying a return visit to Sedgefield after 12 Harriers had travelled to Germany last month to take part in the Hamminkeln Citylauf races (*see below*).

Now a well-established race on the regional calendar, the Serpentine attracted runners from all over the North East. The winner was Kurt Heron of Ashington Hirst Running Club and the winner of the women's race was Amelia Pettitt of Vale Royal. First Harrier home, and third overall, was James Oldfield, while Lisa Darby was the first Harrier – and third overall - in the women's race.

Phil Houghton, chair of Sedgefield Harriers, comments: "The Sedgefield Serpentine was yet another success for the club. Almost 200 runners managed to navigate the – at times difficult – course and much cake and merriment was had afterwards. This was the last race for organisers Steve Foreman and Tracy Brown. Their joy and cheeky humour is written all over the race and I'd like to pass on the thanks of everyone at the club for the tremendous amount of work they've put in to this race and in previous years."



Sedgefield to Hamminkeln...at a run!

Over the August bank holiday weekend, 12 Sedgefield residents (Chris and Ciaran Lines, Gary and Amanda Hetherington, Jonathan, Susan, Kate and Laura Wallace, Lesley and Nick Dexter, Phil Houghton and Alda Hummelinck) returned to Sedgefield's twin town Hamminkeln in Germany. Some had visited the town in August 2016 as well and had enjoyed the town, its Citylauf and their hosts' hospitality so much, that it was an easy decision to go back this year.



Over the weekend, we met the Mayor of Hamminkeln, Bernd Romanski, Hermann Terhorst and the rest of the race organising team at the Biermeile ("beer mile" festival) as they claimed that their beer would make us run faster!

Sunday morning saw another buzzing Citylauf with a range of great events ranging from a toddler 400m run to adult 5k and 10k races. The Sedgefield Harriers managed to produce more great performances: Gary came in second in the MV55 category, Ciaran (14) and Nick (12) finished in 5th and 9th place respectively in the U18 category, and Chris and Alda were both 4th in their age categories (perhaps we should have had another beer to end up on the podium?). It was another very well organised and enjoyable event, another warm and sunny day and the cold shower on the town square was a very welcome reward after a hot run!

All in all, it has been another memorable weekend and it feels like our new German acquaintances are turning into genuine friendships – naturally, we are already talking about going back for the 40th Citylauf in August 2018!

Squash

September has seen the season start with a flurry of activity at Sedgefield Squash Club. First off, members thrashed around the courts for a manic afternoon in the 'Blitz'. Marshalled expertly by Julia Rowsby and her whistle, players rallied in frantic seven minute matches with only one minute before the next pair began. Amazingly, the winning team triumphed with 362 points, the runners-up falling an agonising three points short. Earlier the juniors had their own turn with winners in various ability categories. As we go to press, the internal team handicap competition is drawing to a conclusion - the winners will be confirmed next month, along with news of the senior teams' opening matches in the Durham & Cleveland County Leagues.

If members haven't renewed their subs, there's still time; and new members are warmly welcomed. The membership secretary is Sue Smith, who can be reached on curlietailz@aol.com. Places are also available (on a pay-as-you-go basis) for junior coaching on Saturday mornings. Contact Simon Hill on 01740 629417 for details.

Refereeing

Congratulations to Sedgefield's Joseph Dredge who has made his debut as an assistant referee in the Northern League at a fixture between Esh Winning and Alnwick. Still only 17, Joe has made a rapid rise through the ranks since taking up refereeing with County Durham Football Association. Joe qualified as a youth referee with Durham FA and has been officiating at games for a number of youth teams as well as the Hartlepool and Sunderland academy sides. He has stepped up this season to also include adult football in the Durham Alliance, Wearside League, and now in the second oldest league in the world, the Northern League.

An A level student at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College in Darlington, Joe has also refereed college games and women's football and was recently successful in his application to join Durham FA Referees Academy, where young referees are mentored by senior officials, including those working in the professional game in the English Football League.

Joe has had a great deal of support from Sedgefield Referees Association (RA) which made him their Young Official of the Year in the 2016/2017 season, and also from Durham FA.

Joe's dad, Tim Dredge, comments: "The mentoring and sound advice has been fantastic. County Durham has a strong reputation for producing high quality referees, from the likes of George Courtney to Mark Clattenburg who both went through similar routes with Durham FA. The set-up is first class and I would recommend it to any young person as a way of developing themselves whilst earning some cash and contributing to a sporting environment."

Cricket

Another season has come to an end at Sedgefield Cricket Club. On the senior side, the first team narrowly missed out on promotion to Division 1, unlucky perhaps in the fact that this year's Division 2 contained four very strong teams fighting for just the two promotion places. The second team maintained a mid-table position in Division 4 and in doing so managed to give good experience to a number of promising junior players.

The junior section of the club continues to flourish, with age group cricket being played at U11, U12, U13, U15 and U17 levels, with in excess of 100 children involved. Most notably, Sedgefield's U11 side finished runners up in both league and cup this year and as we go to print the U12s are finalists in their cup competition.

The U13s were winners of the NYSD section of the National Cup and league runners up while the U15s and U17s once again enjoyed good seasons. The girls' playing side goes from strength to strength and Sedgefield is now classed as one of the flagship clubs in the area for promoting and encouraging participation among girls and ladies. Sedgefield now regularly fields a strong team in the major tournaments in the area and the squad has over 20 girls in it. On Sunday 10th September, the club hosted a Lady Taverners Girls competition, run by Durham Cricket Board, with Sedgefield losing narrowly in the final to arch rivals Shotley Bridge. The event was very well attended and increased the profile of girls' cricket in the community.

Over the summer, the club was also able to attract over 40 new children to participate in the ECB's new initiative called 'All Stars Cricket', running an eight-week programme for youngsters between the ages of five and eight. This was held on Friday evenings at the club and proved to be very popular with children and families alike.

More cricket - from the archives

Sedgefield Born Graham Parnaby is 60 this year and 30 years ago the local sports archives show that Graham pulled off what was thought to be some sort of cricketing record, which was and still is a remarkable achievement. Tom Smith, the umpire at the time, said: "I have seen quite a few hundreds, but that's the most marvellous innings I can remember."

Graham's side Kimblesworth were set a target of only 108 by Bill Quay and won by 10 wickets. Graham's sensational 100 (remember, chasing an overall total of 108 with a batting partner!) included 11 sixes and four fours.

That's all for this month. Please send any sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

Interested in homework help?

I moved to the area 2 ½ years ago, to take up a post as a scientist at NETPark, and moved to Sedgefield in September 2016.

I'm looking to launch a homework help club, 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 do your homework; 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 untangle things that pupils find difficult, and get to the "Ah, so that's it!" moment. So far, the idea has met with positive responses from the few local teachers and parents I've spoken with. To that end, 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; 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; and suggestions where the group could meet. For more information or to let me know you are interested, please e-mail: homeworkhelpsedgefield@gmail.com
Thanks, *Tamzin Lafford*.



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October 2017 DIARY

Submit your events to diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Sun 1 st	Sedgefield Farmers' Market: from 8:30am on the village green .
Mon 2 nd	Local History Society: <i>Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm.</i> A talk on "The History of Agriculture" by Seb Littlewood.
Tue 3 rd	Sedgefield Gardening Club: <i>Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm.</i> "Lady Gardeners" by Patricia Foster.
Wed 4 th	Sedgefield WI: <i>The Parish Hall, 7:15pm.</i> Talk by Julie York -"Open Water Swimming". Members' competition – a photograph of a lake/loch or similar. Visitors are always welcome.
Thu 5 th	Sew Easy: <i>Parish Hall Boardroom, 7-9pm.</i> Call 622447 for information.
Fri 6 th	Sedgefield Veterans Coffee Morning. <i>Parish Hall, 10am to noon.</i>
Sat 7 th	Drop in Surgeries with Cllr John Robinson: 3 locations. <i>Bradbury & Mordon Village Hall 9-9.45am; Sedgefield Library 10-11am; Fishburn Community Centre, 11:15am-12.</i>
Sun 8 th	Mayor's Civic Service: <i>St Edmund's Church, 10am.</i>
Tue 10 th	Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel AGM 2017: <i>Parish Hall, The Fletcher Room, 7pm.</i> Ladies Club: "To Greenland's Icy Mountains" by Eric Londesbrough
Fri 13 th	Sedgefield Country Market: <i>Parish Hall 10-11:30am.</i> Home baked produce, Crafts, Jams, Cards, Plants, Refreshments. For information call 629441. Sedgefield Blues Club: Marcus Bonfanti plus Jack J Hutchinson. Doors open 7pm. Tickets £15, SOLD OUT but enquire for reservation list. T: 07957104434
Sun 15 th	New Generation Church: <i>Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10:30am</i>
Tue 17 th	Sedgefield, Ferryhill & District Flower Club: <i>Parish Hall, 7:30pm.</i> Members free; Non Members £5. Demonstrator, Judy Walker; "All That Jazz"
Thu 19 th	Sew Easy: <i>Parish Hall Boardroom 7-9pm.</i> Call 622447 for information.
Fri 20 th	MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning: <i>Parish Hall, The Fletcher Room, 9:30-11:30am.</i> Come and meet friends and enjoy coffee and scones.
Sat 21 st	St Edmund's Church Ceilidh: <i>Parish Hall, 7pm</i> in The Main Hall. NOTE: The time published for this event is correct at the time of writing. However, we are advised that a change may be possible. Further information is available from St Edmund's church.
Sun 22 nd	New Generation Church: <i>Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10:30am</i>
Tue 24 th	Mordon and Bradbury District Ladies Circle: <i>Mordon Village Hall, 7:30pm.</i> A talk on "Handicrafts" by Edna Oswald. All visitors welcome. For information contact 01388 720 502 or 01740 621000.
Fri 27 th	The Mayor's Charity Quiz: <i>Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30-10:30pm.</i> Tickets £6, Pie & Peas supper inclusive. Available from The Council Offices: T: 01740 621273 or email: jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Sun 29 th	New Generation Church: <i>Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10.30am</i>

Sedgefield Farmers Market—1st October

Craggs farm will be trying out the Farmers Market this month with their locally grown spelt flour. It has been causing quite a stir in the artisan bakery trade. They may be able to bring some bread produced with their flour. You can find Craggs on Facebook and have a superb website www.craggsandco.co.uk. Up to the minute stallholder news will be posted on Facebook and Twitter.

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For tennis, wheelchair rugby & other sports, call the Hub on 01740 617882

Sedgefield Social Club

Saturday 7 October: Jimmy Moon
Saturday 14 October: Becca
Monday 16 October: Country Night
Saturday 21 October: John Conlon
Saturday 28 October: Brad Stevens

Mayor Of Sedgefield's Buffet Lunch

The Mayor's fund raising Buffet Lunch will be held on **November 4th** in The Parish Hall. Reception will be from 12.30 for a 1pm start. Tickets cost £15 and are available from The Town Council offices or from Cllr David Brown on 622894. Proceeds from this event will go to the Mayor's charities.

Sedgefield Tea Dance

Parish Hall Sedgefield 1pm - 3pm

October: 3th & 17th
November: 7th & 21st
December: 5th & 19th
Ring: Ann 629070 or Joyce 622601.

Spooky Rock & Roll

Halloween Charity Dance

28th October 2017 in the Parish Hall; 7.00 till Late; £10 includes Pie and Pea Supper; bring your own brew! For more information and tickets please contact Angela on 621287

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