

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

October 2020

Deadline for next edition: Wednesday 14th October

## Food Glorious Food *Carole Lawford interviewed by Sue Dobson*

**When Carole set up Market Garden CIC she couldn't have imagined that we would be facing a global pandemic and the resulting role that her social enterprise would have in supporting people in our community.**

Her first project, 'Growing Together in Sedgfield' established their plant nursery, with funding from both the Area Action Partnership and Livin - and land at Sedgfield Primary School. She added a polytunnel to the school's two existing greenhouses and with help, created raised beds. A shed is on order. Sedgfield Community College donated vegetable plants and this, combined with the many seedlings that Carole had germinated meant that there was plenty to plant, and a great crop of salad and vegetables has been picked and shared.

Already Carole is planting for next year - sprouts, onions, cabbage, kale and cauliflower, with support of the Finchale Group in Durham.

This partnership provides skills, knowledge and some extra muscle power from the veterans that it supports; and Carole is working with the school with a view to possibly use other areas of the school grounds. Lee from the Finchale Group is pictured below with Carole and right, some of the fresh produce.



What changed things was lockdown. Suddenly there were lots of people who couldn't go out and about and who needed a bit of extra help. Using a network of agents, Carole distributed the food that she and the volunteers had grown, as well as additional provisions such as dairy products and eggs. They also provided advice, such as how to arrange a milkman so that people could be more independent.



And so to Carole's next project... **'Eating Out Together in Sedgfield'**

Funded as part of the Durham County Council's Stamp It Out Scheme the project has two key aims: first to build up people's confidence, especially those that have been shielding, and second, to support local cafes and restaurants, putting money into the local economy. Carole is hoping to extend it to other social settings too. Sedgfield Social Club has signed up already and she is hoping the Cricket and Rugby Clubs will join in.

The basic premise is that the funding will pay for food and a soft drink, within the social distancing guidelines, but importantly Carole will support people in getting together and selecting a place for people to enjoy the type of food and atmosphere that they are looking for, be it cake and coffee, traditional roast dinner or maybe vegetarian. Carole is working out the logistics but hopes that they can start soon to address some of the issues of loneliness and isolation which have been compounded by shielding and lockdown.



Lockdown concentrated people's idea of 'need'

Suddenly they had to shield and stay at home.



And she is still planning ...

(with Honey's help, of course!)

- To have premises as a home for Market Garden CIC and its burgeoning portfolio of projects, great and small.
- To hold flower arranging events in partnership with Finchale Group.
- To arrange fishing events to encourage men to get together for 'fish and chats'.

Carole said: 'Lockdown has concentrated people's idea of 'need'. Many people who have been active members of the community doing their own shopping, being members of groups, taking part in activities, attending church or the pub and not needing any help, have suddenly found they had to shield and stay at home. For many this was compounded by the fact that they didn't have any family locally. They were suddenly vulnerable. Whilst this may be temporary many now need to rebuild their confidence and find new ways to socialise'.

Whilst Carole has had to shield too, she has found ways of being a powerhouse in our community and an inspiration to us all. She has started a NCFE Level 1 in Creative Crafts (Floristry) at East Durham College to see whether she can still learn. I think we can all learn from Carole!

## GREENER SEDGFIELD

As autumn draws in, many look forward to the festivity that is ever increasing in popularity - Halloween. Expenditure on Halloween products in the UK has grown steadily and is now estimated to be around £500 million. The vast majority of this budget goes towards costumes, most of which are made from oil based non biodegradable fibres like polyester, nylon, acrylic and PVC.

Sadly many of those costumes are worn only once before being disposed off. It has been estimated that last year alone about 7 million Halloween costumes ended up as waste. Even if you can afford to buy a new costume every year or are lucky to get a bargain from post Halloween sales, before purchasing it'd be wise to think where is your money going to go to and what industry are you supporting. It would be far more economical as well as ethical to buy second hand, or pass children's outgrown costumes on to someone else and accept hand me downs from the others. Or you could improvise and make your own out of old garments and material that you already have, or that you can buy second hand. Internet is full of inspiration for self made outfits and you are more likely to win the prize for best Halloween costume in your unique outfit!

Food is the next biggest waste category at Halloween.

Around 10 million pumpkins are grown in the UK every year, most of them sold for Halloween and 8 million end up being binned. Some are labelled as non edible or for decorative use, either due to the excessive use of pesticides or to the watery texture of the pumpkin flesh, but the vast majority of pumpkins are edible. If pumpkin soup or pies isn't your thing a quick search on internet will bring up many suitable recipes to use for the left overs from your pumpkin carving. Pumpkin scones are something for example which haven't received the audience they most definitely deserve. The Hairy Bikers have even a recipe for ice cream with pumpkin. Try a tasty snack of roast pumpkin seeds.

Supermarkets and other retailers offer a wide selection of Halloween decorations, but the majority are made of some type of plastic, they often don't last more than one season, and sadly, the consequences are no longer news to anyone. Why not get crafty instead and make your own? Twigs, leaves and pinecones make seasonal decorations, cobwebs can be made from string, ghosts from old sheets. Cut out, paint and decorate scary creatures from Amazon parcel cardboard. It's environmental friendly and possibly also longer lasting than any non recyclable PVC bunting that you can buy. With a few tweaks and changes Halloween can become more sustainable as well as cheaper and more fun for you and your family. **HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**



## Sedgefield News from the past

**150 years ago, in October 1870 the local newspapers carried reports of the death of a 'lunatic' and a farmer acting inappropriately...**

A young woman, Jane McRory, aged 24 and married to a man living in Hebburn Quay, was reported to have died in the Sedgefield Asylum. The Coroner's Court heard that Jane had spent four years in the asylum at Paisley near Glasgow before being transferred to the Sedgefield Asylum on 3 August 1870. Staff at the Asylum said that Jane was very 'excited' and that she had been found dead in her bed early on the morning of Tuesday 18 October 1870.

The jury heard evidence and returned its verdict: 'Died from physical exhaustion, from acute mania'. One can only surmise at why she was in the asylum ('difficult' wives could be placed in an asylum at the request of their husbands) and whether her confinement there contributed to her death.

**Also in October 1870 a local farmer was summoned to Stockton County Police Court, accused of assault of a young girl.**

Mary Gibson had 'turned 14 years of age' when she was persuaded by friends to bring a summons against local farmer John Trenholm. Mary was working as a domestic servant to a widow Mrs Christopher. Mr Trenholme was executor to the will of the late Mr Christopher, so had cause to visit the house regularly. Mary alleged that on the evening of 5 October she was upstairs washing herself when Mr Trenholme let himself into the house, proceeded upstairs and attempted to kiss her. She resisted, ran downstairs and out into the street, with her dress in disarray. Mr Trenholme refuted Mary's version of events. There were no witnesses to the alleged incident, but a neighbour confirmed that she had found Mary in the street partly dressed, and had been told by Mary of what had happened.

The bench found Mr Trenholme guilty and fined him £2 and 5 shillings. Mr Trenholme declared he would appeal but the newspaper reports that he 'immediately afterwards paid the penalty'.

*If you would like to know more about your local history, visit the Facebook site of Sedgefield Local History Society. Martin F Peagam, The Time Traveller.*

## Halloween Pumpkin Soup

**Serves 6**

3 onions, skinned & chopped  
About 450g pumpkin flesh  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
4cm piece peeled & diced root ginger  
1 teasp salt, plenty black pepper  
Grated nutmeg  
1 chopped red chilli (optional) sliced, & seeds removed  
1 fat clove garlic, skinned & chopped  
900ml chicken or vegetable stock  
2 tablespoons chopped parsley  
Snipped chives

Put chopped onions & pumpkin flesh on a large non-stick roasting tin and mix in the olive oil.

Spread vegetables evenly over the base of the tin. Scatter salt over, season with black pepper, nutmeg, & sliced chilli if you are including it.

Roast in a hot oven, 200C/400F/Gas Mark 6, for 20 minutes.

Shuffle contents of the tin, spread evenly again and roast for a further 20-25 minutes.

Scrape the roasted pumpkin and onions into a large saucepan.

Add garlic & stock. Bring to a simmer and cook gently for five minutes.

Cool, liquidise till smooth and reheat in a clean pan. Taste and add more seasoning if needed

Just before serving, stir finely chopped parsley & snipped chives through. Serve in mugs.

## Stunning success for Sedgefield Youth FC

At a belated awards ceremony on October 17th, a remarkable bunch of lads will at last see the trophies that they earned over the last season.

**Huge congratulations!**

Keep up the great work as you start on a new year in the league!



*Trophies sponsored by Sedgefield Development Trust.*

## Message from Skerne Medical Group: FLU CAMPAIGN

In October we will receive more stocks of the flu vaccine therefore if you are eligible (see criteria below) and do not yet have an appointment please contact your usual surgery on one of these numbers.

**01740 620300** for Sedgefield

**01429 880284** for Trimdon Colliery

**01740 620284** for Fishburn

**Eligible patients are those who have one of the following -**

- Chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis.
- Chronic heart disease, such as heart failure.
- Chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or five.
- Chronic liver disease.
- Chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease.
- Learning disability.
- Diabetes.
- Splenic dysfunction or asplenia.
- A weakened immune system due to disease, such as HIV/AIDS, or are on treatment, such as for cancer.

**Also eligible are patients who are -**

- Aged 65 years or over (or who will be 65 years by 31st March 2021)
- Aged 2 or 3 years on 31st August 2020, that is with a date of birth on or after 1st September 2016 *and* on or before 31 August 2018.
- Morbidly obese (defined as BMI of 40 and above).
- Pregnant.
- In receipt of carer's allowance or who are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.
- Health and social care staff.
- Household contacts of those on the NHS Shielded Patient List.

## A Warm Welcome and an Update from Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

We want to give a warm welcome to all the new families joining us here over the past few months, whether they are new parents welcoming their first baby, families welcoming new sisters or brothers, or families new to our area. We also want to send warm wishes to our members who joined us before lockdown and who made the first months of our group such a success.

The Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group was created to give local parents and carers, as well as their little ones, an opportunity to socialise each week. We are eager to restart and reconnect with everyone, and we realise it's a difficult time for many of you with little ones.

Unfortunately we are not able to restart at this time as we cannot meet the necessary requirements for meeting indoors or outside. We will reassess the situation at the end of October. However, in the meantime we are expanding the scope of our Facebook page in the hopes of providing a virtual community. We will host weekly posts focused on our local area, and we also encourage both newcomers and existing members to use the page and the group as a resource to answer questions or to connect with other adults, something that can be hard to do if your hands are full with a little one! Likewise, if you are struggling, please also reach out to us and we will do what we can to help. You can join our group at [www.facebook.com/groups/sedgefieldplaygroup/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/sedgefieldplaygroup/). If you are not on Facebook, we can be contacted at [sedgefieldplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldplaygroup@gmail.com)

We also wanted to pass on news about two other much-loved baby and toddler groups in Sedgefield.

We spoke to Jill from Wiggles & Wobbles, and she is considering whether to offer online sessions. Jill hosted weekly online classes during the lockdown that provided a lovely much-needed break for many of us, so let's hope that she decides to restart again. For the time being, however, she does not have plans to restart in-person sessions. She will be sending an update once she has decided what to do, or you can also subscribe to her page at: [www.facebook.com/WigglesAndWobbles/](http://www.facebook.com/WigglesAndWobbles/)

On a sadder note, we spoke to the Sedgefield Library and understand that Boogie Beats will not be returning to the library, as the owner, Abbie, has decided to stop. We hope that we can speak for all the families that enjoyed clapping their hands and stomping their feet, in saying a big THANK YOU to Abbie for all of the wonderful songs, dances and stories. Many little ones grew from babies to toddlers and beyond, while enjoying time with you and Giggles each week. We will miss you.

## Remembrance Time

The Royal British Legion have decided that there will be no Poppy Selling this November, due to the coronavirus pandemic - a sensible decision in my opinion.

However, Poppy Wreaths are still available, the Legion will still be putting collecting tins at the usual shops, offices and pubs, providing this is acceptable to the owners and operators, as finance is still needed to keep the wheels turning.

*David Hillerby. Poppy Seller & Member, Royal British Legion*

## Sedgefield News Distribution

I have been asked by some of my new Sedgefield News distribution volunteers, who kindly take batches of Newses out to the other deliverers, if people could let me know where they would like their papers putting in inclement weather. Some of you have already made your wishes known but there are many new houses now.

Also, a plea for patience. Please remember that some new delivery volunteers are now back at work and can often only deliver at the weekend. We try our best to get the News to you before the first of the month, but depending on when the first falls, it can be tricky.

I am still amazed by the number of people who volunteered to help out during the COVID crisis and some have even offered to carry on helping for the foreseeable future! Thank you all very much indeed. Do keep in touch! *Judith Edgoose*

*Email: j.s.edgoose@gmail.com*

*Call/text: 07899 984464*

## Welcome back to full size

Who knows how long it will last, but here we are at 12 pages again! Unsurprisingly, we still lack a Diary Page but adverts are returning, some of them for new start-ups. It's been a hard time for small businesses and we wish them all the best of luck.

As I type this we are a few days into a local lockdown and there is still confusion about what should and should not be open, who can and can't we meet, and where?

We'll try to keep you up to date with events on Facebook & Twitter and we also recommend Chris Lines' weekly **Sedgefield Round Up**.

If you don't already subscribe to this very useful service, you can do so by emailing [sedgefieldlines@aol.com](mailto:sedgefieldlines@aol.com) or calling 07971 868329

## ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

email: [sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com](mailto:sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com)

### Durham Book Festival

The line up for Durham Book festival has now been released & it promises to be one of the most exciting yet.

Of course, this being 2020, changes have had to be made, so all events will be available online-only, making this the first virtual festival in 30 years hosting the event.

The festival will run from October 9th to 18th and headline acts include Ian Rankin discussing his new novel *A Song for the Dark Times* and introducing his first book, Richard Osman, with his crime novel, *The Thursday Murder Club*. Ann Cleeves will be interviewed about her new novel *The Darkest Evening*, the ninth in the series featuring her North East detective heroine Vera Stanhope.

Ann has also penned a new Vera story set in Durham. Entitled *Written in Blood* it is especially for the Big Read initiative, which sees 4,000 free copies distributed regionally with the manuscript also made available as an e-book on the Durham Book Festival website.

You can participate in the Big Read and claim a free electronic copy of *Written in Blood* here:

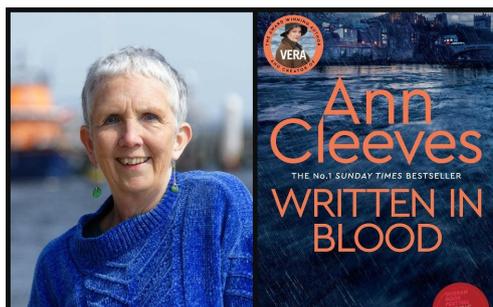
<https://durhambookfestival.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Written-in-Blood.pdf>

Away from crime writing, Booker Prize winner and committed friend of the Miners' Gala, DBC Pierre (see right) will be in virtual attendance speaking about his latest publication *Meanwhile in Dopamine city* and about his childhood, which featured many summer visits to his mother's family in Durham City.

One innovative project being run this year is a special audio tour of Durham available as a downloadable podcast & intended to be listened to while walking. With a running time of around 90 minutes, it will provide information about the literary history of Durham city itself, with reference to the locations' literary links & the poets, authors and events that put the city in print.

Though it is disappointing that the event could not be attended as usual this year, it is testament to the determination of the organizers that it is going ahead at all. Of course the silver lining is that we can now experience the whole thing from the comfort of our own homes.

As always there is far too much in the packed schedule to list here, with a whole host of live readings, essays, talks, writing masterclasses & workshops but please do visit <https://durhambookfestival.com> to see the scope of the events being hosted, most of which are free of charge.



### Beyond the Village Pump - Illustrated stories from Sedgefield

A newly published book features stunning photographs of the Sedgefield area, accompanied by stories and poems.

Members of local U3A interest groups, Scribes Creative writing, and Photography, have worked together to produce the book.

As Maxine Patterson, a member of both groups, explained. "There is so much of beauty and interest around us in the village so we challenged ourselves to capture it in words and pictures."

The two U3A interest groups are made up of members from both Sedgefield and Stockton. Combining their talents to produce an illustrated book seemed an ideal way forward.

Work started early in 2019, and was progressing well until the virus arrived. Stories and poems cover local events and legends, such as the Shrove Tuesday Ball Game or New Years Eve, as well as some flights of fancy, and "might have beens".

U3A hope you enjoy their beautifully produced glossy book, & expect to bring pleasure to readers both through the photographs and the words. It makes an ideal extra Christmas present or stocking filler, or you could just enjoy it for yourself.

Priced at only £6 or £7 including post and packing, the book is available from group members, Maxine Patterson (01740 620905, Pat Buckley (01740 620607).

Alternatively, you can email the local U3A group - [SedgefieldU3A@gmail.com](mailto:SedgefieldU3A@gmail.com)



### Sedgefield Players Film Festival

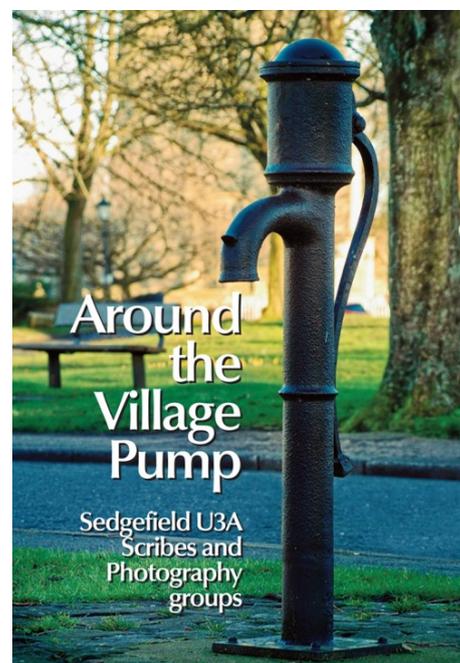
Sedgefield's first ever virtual drama festival ran 7-11 September and was a great success.

The festival featured 18 short films submitted by 8 groups, including Bananadrama, Saltburn '53 Society, NESST & The Sedgefield Players.

It was broadcast online over 5 nights of highly varied entertainment, with awards assigned at the conclusion.

There was a mix of original writing & re-staging of familiar pieces. Each had something to reward viewers & leave us wanting more.

Please visit Sedgefield Players' YouTube channel and Facebook pages to view the films. You won't be disappointed!



Please send Diary & Event details to our new email address -  
[diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com](mailto:diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com)

### SEDGEFIELD LIBRARY TEMPORARY OPENING HOURS

Wednesday 9.30am-12.30pm, Thursday 10am-4pm, Friday 1pm-5pm

**Masks must be worn and your library card is essential.** If yours is lost please speak to staff on entry. You will be asked to hand sanitise on entry and to scan your library card on a Track & Trace machine, on both entry and exit.

**A maximum of 4 people, children included,** are allowed in the Library at any one time. You may be asked to wait on spaced markings outside, to allow for safe social distancing within. **Children under 12 must be accompanied.**

Visits for browsing & choosing books are limited to 15 minutes.

1 person at a time may use the computer, time limited to 30 minutes.

The Click & Collect service has now ended but the online catalogue system has resumed and is available again for reserving books.

BorrowBox is still available with membership.

**Tel: 0300 026 9521.**

### Church Clock Facelift

Friends of St Edmund's want to put the smile back on the rather sad faces of the church tower clock by having the faded blue paintwork re-painted and the fingers re-gilded with gold leaf. At the same time, they plan to give the ageing clock a long-overdue mechanical MOT to correct a technical quirk which causes the clock stay silent on its first chime.

The work would be part of a four-project preservation programme announced by the Friends for action 'as soon as possible', including repairs to the roof of the lychgate, damaged by lead-thieves and the installation of safety barriers on top of the tower to allow the popular rooftop visits (currently suspended on health and safety grounds). Major stonework repairs to various areas of the church are also needed.

All will need 'faculty' approval from the Diocese of Durham before work can begin and that could take around six months.

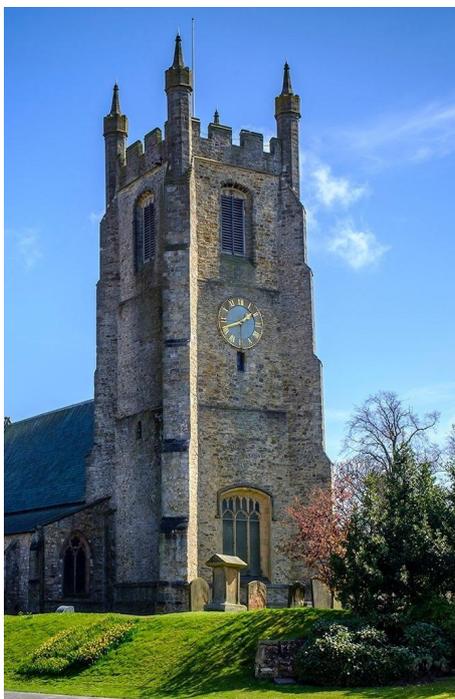
The Friends, an independent group of volunteers whose primary role is to raise funds to preserve the fabric of the church, admit that the programme will severely deplete their financial reserves.

Repairs to the clock and refurbishment of the faces will cost an estimated £16,000 – largely because of the high cost of hiring scaffolding or skilled abseil specialists. The lychgate roof and stonework on the church itself will each cost around £3000 to repair and the safety barriers will need a further £1500.

Chairman of the Friends, Dr Alistair Irvine, right, thinks the benefits to residents and visitors to St Edmund's will far outweigh the expense, but like many organisations which have lost fund-raising events this year because of Covid-19, reserves are not as healthy as they were.

Despite the challenges, the Friends are very conscious of the fact that their primary remit is to conserve the fabric of the church to ensure it is in good order for generations to come, so donations of any size would be gratefully received.

If you can help, please contact Brian Mutch. Address, 6 Hasledon Grove, Sedgefield, TS21 2JW, Telephone 01740 622302, or visit [www.friendsofstedmunds.org](http://www.friendsofstedmunds.org)



### More Manor House history

It is now nearly fifty years since The Manor House was the headquarters of Sedgefield Rural District Council though it is fresh in the memory of people who worked there or who had relatives who did. One such person was Maggie Pulle (nee Newton) now of London, who contacted The Manor House for a copy of the book 'Hidden In Full View' about the history of the remarkable building, researched and written by owner Ean Parsons.

Other than his service in World War II, Maggie's father, Harry Newton was Finance Officer and later Deputy Clerk to the Council at The Manor House for the SRDC between 1935 and 1974 and the family lived in Sedgefield for some of that time. Maggie was interested in the 1949 photograph which is hung in The Manor House and is included in the book.

Harry's council colleagues Ralph Hall and Bill Young who he had often mentioned put names to the people in the picture in 2015 and identified Maggie's father. Maggie has been able to provide Ean with pictures, dates and documents which will be kept with the archives and she also mentioned other council officers and employees including Mr Burton, Frank Dobson, Barbara Shaw and Ronnie Murray.

**A further coincidence came to light when Maggie discovered the onward life of the builder of The Manor House, Judge Robert Wright who went on to become Chief Justice of colonial Carolina in 1725.**

Maggie's American friend Cheryl recently moved to Summerville near Dorchester County, South Carolina where Robert Wright was also a plantation owner. There are strong connections as South Carolina has many places named after towns and villages in County Durham, including Sedgefield.



*Harry Newton of Sedgefield Rural District Council in his first floor office at The Manor House, probably taken in the 1950's.*

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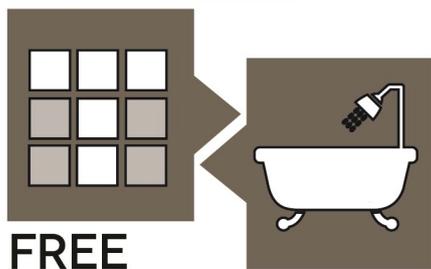
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**Police Community Cohesion Officer Faye Callan** 101 Extension 742317:

[Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk)

**Confidential email address:** [John.lamb@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:John.lamb@durham.pnn.police.uk)

**Crime isn't as common as you think... but don't be a victim.**

**Please lock up, stay safe, sleep well.**

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch returns next month.

**The Manor House  
Virtual Office Service** 

Working from home? Covid-19 has caused us all to rethink how we work, in many ways for the better. But having an appropriate address for mail can be a problem when working from home.

From £30 + vat per month, the Manor House's virtual office service not only offers a service for receipt and handling of mail. It also gives you one of the best addresses around.

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## The story of the Pickled Parson

In Sedgefield, many years ago, an apparition, known as the Parson used to wander near the Rectory. The Rector died about a week before the farmers tithes fell due, and his wife salted her husband, hid him in a room, received the tithes, and next day announced the death. The old Rectory was burnt down in 1792, and since then the ghost has not been seen.

100 years ago, on 22 October 1920, The Chester le Street Chronicle carried a copy of the verse (*right hand column*) telling the tale of The Pickled Parson. The old tale was given a new lease of life recently when the Crosshills Hotel was re-opened as The Pickled Parson, seen here behind the Farmers Market.



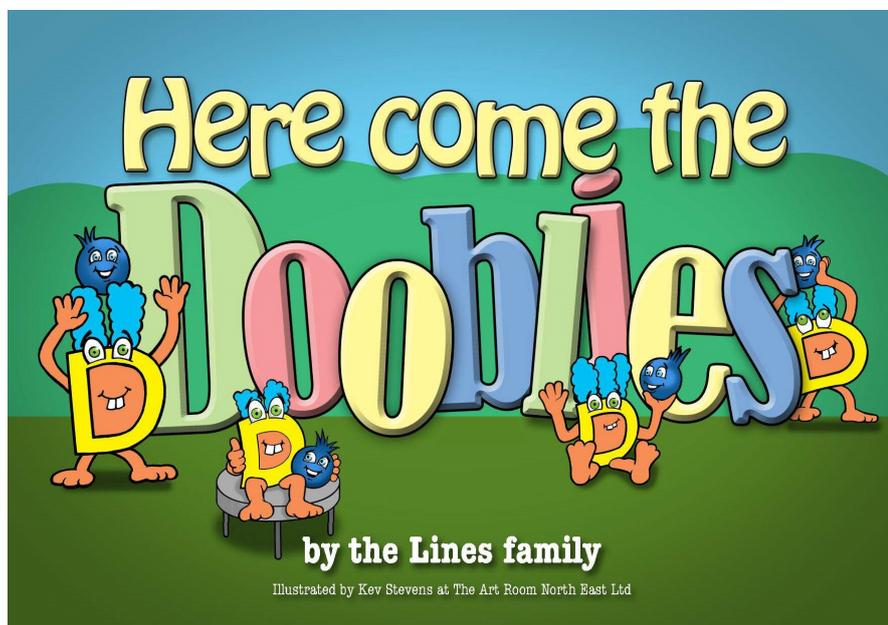
## Here come the Dooblies!

A new children's picture book that was inspired by a toddler's random comment is now available to buy. 'Here come the Dooblies' introduces readers to the wonderful world of the Alphazooblies, inviting them into the land of Cupboard, a place full of adventure and fun ways to learn and play with letters, words and pictures.

The book has been written by the Lines family from Sedgefield and began life early in 2010 when, with no context, three-year-old Charlie Lines said to his parents: "The Dooblies are playing with the blueberries." His dad Chris developed the phrase into a story and six-year-old brother Ciaran illustrated it. All of this sat in a drawer for nearly nine years, until a chat with Bookends regular and author Norma Neal pointed the Lines family in the direction of local artist Kev Stevens of the Art Room North East. An experienced illustrator of children's books, Kev took Ciaran's original artwork and developed it for publication. The rest of the family added suggestions, including mum Catherine and youngest son Samuel, who hadn't been born when the story was first written and drawn, and proved to be a good one-person test market!

The plan was to launch the book at the Bookends Festival, and although that cannot now happen, publication has gone ahead.

'Here come the Dooblies' is available for £4.99 at [www.thedooblies.com](http://www.thedooblies.com) or by emailing [info@thedooblies.com](mailto:info@thedooblies.com). You can also follow the adventures of the Alphazooblies on social media: Twitter & Instagram @thedooblies and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/herecomethedooblies](http://www.facebook.com/herecomethedooblies)



## Poem of the Pickled Parson

It is a hundred years and more  
Since last the ghost was seen,  
Beside the Church and Rectory,  
And in the churchyard green.

The ancient church, the castled  
manse, in Sedgefield's little town,  
Were haunted by a surpliced form  
That wandered up and down.

And legend says that, long ago,  
The Rector sick did lie;  
He pined away, and dear it was  
His time was come to die.

His mate a stirring house-wife was.  
With heart of nether stone.  
If grief she felt, or loss she feared.  
It was of gold alone.

Bethink yourself. and she said  
"Tis but a week to-day,  
The tithes come in, and if you die,  
The farmers will not pay!"

"With listless look and feeble voice,  
Replied the dying man.  
"I leave it all to you, my dear!  
You'll do it, if any can!"

He turned his face unto the wall.  
And shortly he was dead.  
His wife bade still the house,  
because  
"The Parson sleeps!" she said.

Good store of salt was in the house,  
For Martinmas was nigh;  
Two fattening hogs there were to kill,  
Ready within the sty.

She piled the salt upon the corpse,  
A mound of white she made,  
And over it, as all were well,  
A coverlet she laid.

And in and out she went, as though  
The Parson were alive:  
And all she told, he ailed right sore,  
Yet soon would better thrive.

The tithe-day came, the farmers paid,  
And each did kindly say  
Madam, how does the Parson do?  
"But ill indeed, today!"

The tithes secured, her object won,  
She stored away the gold;  
And in the morn, with well-feigned  
tears,  
The Parson's death she told.

His grave was made in holy ground,  
But still his restless sprite,  
Where long unburied he had lain,  
Was seen to flit at night.

Among the graves, beside the gates  
Within the ilex 'grove;  
And in the lane, the Parson's ghost  
Was often known to rove.

Frightening belated villagers  
The Church and Rectory nigh;  
Till the house was purged by fire,  
Then he at peace did lie.

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY

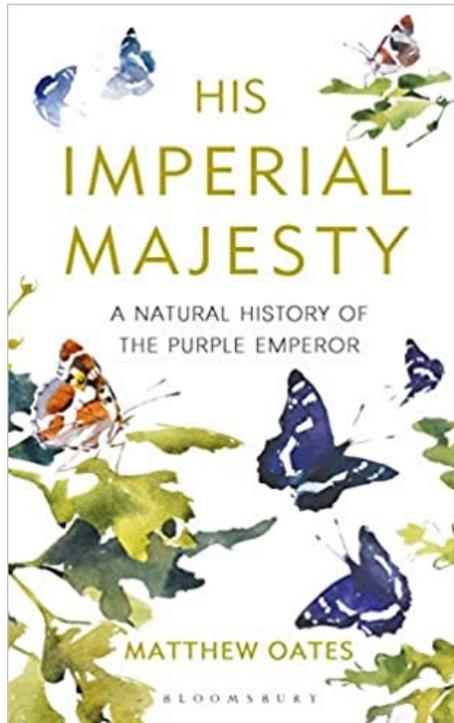
It was my birthday recently and a friend bought me a book, *His Imperial Majesty* by Matthew Oates, and for those of you who know me it's not a book about one of the royals! I will give you a clue; the subtitle is "A natural history of the Purple Emperor". Yes, that's correct - it's about a butterfly! I am about half way through it and it makes interesting reading.

The Purple Emperor is our most elusive and least known butterfly which likes to spend its time at the top of trees and it became a passion for many Victorian and Edwardian naturalists, not to mention modern ones like the author of this book. The most interesting part so far is about this butterfly's habit of feeding on a range of material on the ground including fox droppings. Victorians and some modern-day lepidopterists used this habit as a way of baiting for the butterfly and they tried bananas, sheep carcasses, shrimp paste, pickled mudfish and even human sweat.

You don't find the Purple Emperor, seen right, in the north east but at least the butterflies you do find don't need these substances to attract them! This year has not been an exceptional one for butterflies. In our garden we have had the usual Peacock, Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, the occasional Speckled Wood, and pictured below left, Comma and below right, Painted Lady.



## OCTOBER 2020



If we have a very mild October, there may be butterflies on the wing, including the easily identifiable Comma, with its ragged wings. The upper wing is a rich orange, blotched with black, but if you look very carefully, when it closes its wings it looks like a leaf and is almost impossible to see. But if you look even closer you find a white mark like the punctuation mark – hence its name.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century it was feared that the Comma might disappear altogether from Britain possibly due to the use of insecticides on one of its favourite food plants - hops. However, after the First World War, its population bounced back and it is one to watch out for in your garden if not this month then next March when the adults that hibernate emerge.

*If readers ever take a particularly good photograph of any of the wildlife featured by Steve in his Nature Diary, we would be happy to include it either on this page or on our Facebook page. Email jpegs to [news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk)*

## Blooming strange times!

For Sedgefield in Bloom volunteers, like everyone else, 2020 has been a strange year. Judging days with Northumbria and Britain in Bloom were cancelled early in lockdown, but we carried on doing our best to keep Sedgefield looking beautiful.

While council gardeners, Stephen and Ben have done a great job keeping the centre of the village looking bright and beautiful with tubs, beds and baskets, Bloomers have been litter picking, dead heading, weeding, pruning, cutting back plants, path edging and trimming epicornal growth from the base of trees. We have tended our existing plots around the village and in Ceddesfeld Gardens, where our newly created stumpery (right) looks splendid in the Stepping Through Time Garden.

Our hanging basket fountains near the Golden Lion and Manor House, the troughs at the Social Club and the wild flower meadow opposite, all made an impressive show.

Naturally, coffee mornings and dances have taken a hit, but we hope to set up some innovative fund raising ideas soon. Watch this space and the local Facebook page.

We really appreciate all the kind comments and the generous donations from grateful residents during this testing time. Sedgefield is blessed with hundred of very talented gardeners. Now that we are coming into autumn, please think of the Bloomers when you lift and split your plants. We'd be thankful for any spares you may be able to send our way.

Get in touch with me by email: [norma@neal.myzen.co.uk](mailto:norma@neal.myzen.co.uk) or call me on 01740 620091. Many thanks for your continued support and encouragement.

*Below, The **Stumpery** at Ceddesfeld Hall.*



## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS

### Energy Switch: Last chance to catch this auction.

**This registration period closes on the 5<sup>th</sup> October.** At previous auctions some people have missed out because their registration submissions have been incomplete, probably because of not having the necessary information to hand, so please note the following and have it available before starting your registration.

**As well as personal details you need to know who is your existing supplier, when your tariff ends and how much Gas and Electricity you use annually.**

All this information can be found on your latest or your annual energy statement.

If you wish to register, go to [sedgefieldweb.co.uk/energy-switch.html](http://sedgefieldweb.co.uk/energy-switch.html) or if you need some help, feel free to call our helpline: 07980 134 594.

### Sedgefield Farmers Market Sunday 4th October 8.30am - 12 noon

Despite the difficulties of Covid19, the last Market was a successful and, we believe, a safe one. We've had no reports of virus transmission, and it was clear to see that everyone was showing thought and care for other folks.

September wasn't quite up to pre-pandemic size but it was cheering to see the winter veg back on sale and great to welcome La Chocolatrice - 'delicious' was the verdict in our house! This month the Bees of Hardwick pay us a rare visit, with local honey and other bee related products. It will sell quickly!

With the recent rise in the number of infections and new restrictions imposed in our region we must continue to be cautious. As I write, the Market on 4th October will go ahead, but please do keep an ear tuned in case that has to change. We will redouble our safety efforts, so hopefully we can deliver another safe and sustaining Market.

If anything changes, the news will go out on the Sedgefield Farmers Market Facebook page and on Twitter @sedgyfarmmarket. Meanwhile we'll keep up the info on stalls as it comes through and hope for a sunny morning so that standing in a socially distanced queue isn't too uncomfortable!

Thank you for loving and supporting our market. You make it worth doing.

### Sedgefield BUG on a roll!

Following the official launch of the Sedgefield Bicycle Users Group last month, we have been delighted to see the Facebook page reach 70 members already. We spoke to lots of people at the September Farmers' Market (right) and our two petitions, one to improve the A689 Cycle path to Wynyard and the other in favour of a 20mph zone across the village, each received over 70 signatures.

Several BUG members met up for the Cycling UK Big Bike Ride on 12<sup>th</sup> September and rode a long loop through Trimdon, up to Quarrington Hill and back to the village via Coxhoe. Everyone enjoyed a well earned coffee afterwards. (see below)

We were delighted to see that with the support of the council the cycle track has been properly mowed and cleared to allow easier riding to Castle Eden Walkway, and discussions are due to take place around further work soon.

The BUG aims to be a focus for all forms of Active Travel and we welcome anyone who is interested in getting around on foot as well as by bike.

Please get involved with the discussion by joining the Facebook page - search for **Sedgefield Bicycle Users Group**. Follow us on Twitter @SedgefieldBUG or email us at [SedgefieldBUG@gmail.com](mailto:SedgefieldBUG@gmail.com).



## Ceddesfeld Hall News

### Home of Sedgefield Community Association

During September and October, SCA should have been hosting its fourth annual arts and literature festival, Sedgefield Book Ends. At the time of lock down, an exciting programme was already beginning to take shape, with new events planned to build on what was a prestigious and varied line up in 2019. Festival highlights last year included the Norman Cornish Centenary Lecture, a 'Spoken Word' night with Kate Fox and guests, an evening with Jez Lowe, a talk by Michael Chaplin, (which recreated his father's inspiring journey from pit lad to man of letters) and an evening of music and poetry from 'Across the Pond'. Audience feedback from the main events was very positive and appreciative with several considered suggestions to take the festival forward. Popular events and ideas included a visit from a crime/thriller writer, more spoken word and performance poetry, (popular with a younger audience) children's activities, writing/well being therapy workshops and live entertainment from polished local performers, singers and songwriters.

The final 'Super Saturday' event brought together an impressive gathering of local authors, illustrators and poets and included published new works from local groups and individuals.

One such group, Sedgefield U3A Scribes has produced a new collection of poetry and prose this year. The stories are fictitious but their settings are real places in and around the village of Sedgefield. The U3A photography group has produced a range of photographs which compliment the stories.

'**Around the Village Pond**' costs £6 and can be purchased from Toshach's, Loft to Loved, Pat on 620607 or Maxine on 620905.

'**Here come the Dooblies**' (page 9) would also have been launched at Sedgefield Book Ends 2020 but alas, festival plans are now on hold.

Let's hope that we can resume activities and events in 2021.

With regards to the most recent Covid-19 lockdown measures (September 17<sup>th</sup>), Ceddesfeld Hall will close until further notice. Work to the exterior of the building and repairs to the roof will continue. Keep safe and well.

**For information, contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 620607, John on 620042, Sarah on 622185; or visit our website at [www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk)**

## SPORTS UPDATE

Email your reports to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)

Life in the world of grass roots sport continues to be hugely difficult in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, reflecting society in general. Rules and guidelines issued by central government, cascade to the various governing bodies and then have to be interpreted and cascaded again to individual clubs.

Add regional and local variations to the mix and it's an enormously challenging job for volunteer-led organisations to safely navigate their way through all that is happening.

In Sedgefield, our many clubs are doing an amazing job of managing to keep going in the circumstances, often finding some very creative ways to allow residents of all generations to stay engaged and active.

Well done to all of them and to everyone who is supporting them by getting involved in those activities that they are able to organise.

### Athletics

Each year, Sedgefield Harriers holds a popular and keenly contested Grand Prix competition, with several league divisions of club members taking part in established races of varying types over the year.

Points are scored based on how each runner performs in the events compared to others in their division. In the absence of any road and track and field events over the summer, the club had to improvise to give runners opportunities to compete. Club member Stuart Park helped to devise the 'Virtual Grand Prix', by creating a series of routes that Harriers could run solo and then submit GPS (Garmin/Strava etc) data of their best time. This was a clever way of allowing club members to compete against each other throughout the summer, while staying very socially distant! The initiative was a big success, and

together, Harriers completed over 1,659 miles, with 302 runs being submitted by 37 different runners. Once all of the results had been checked and added to the league tables, the winner of women's and men's Division 1 were Jane Spink and Paul Weir respectively, and the Division 2 winners were Paula Warwick and Steve Foreman.

As reported last month, Harrier Ean Parsons came up with a cunning plan to host the club's annual summer handicap race, which went ahead on 20<sup>th</sup> August. Ean put in place a series of measures relating to runner registration and arriving/ departing the event site, and by starting the fastest runners first (instead of last), it was possible to host a socially distanced race, for club members only (and one guest). As usual, the race was over a two-lap route of around six miles on trails, starting and finishing in Bishop Middleham. Overall winner in a run time of 45

minutes and 53 seconds was Jonathan Wallace (right) and winner of the women's race was Christine Hearmon (below) in 53:30.

Fastest man over the course was Paul Weir in 37:07 and fastest woman was Jane Spink in 47:56.



### Cricket

Sedgefield Cricket Club ended the delayed and shortened 2020 season in mid-September with some excellent performances, leading to hopes for an extremely competitive campaign in 2021.

Once again, the juniors did themselves proud. With the U15 girls team winning 100% of their games and the women's XI (consisting entirely of juniors) memorably defeating a much older Chester-le-Street side by nine wickets.

The focus then turned to the boys' teams. The U13 boys narrowly missed out on winning their league, but the U15s (in fact, and as pictured, a mixed team) went one better by winning their league title in style.

In the senior teams, the two batting centurions in 2020 were both juniors: Harrison Lower and Matty Porter, and every senior team consistently fielded a very youthful looking line-up. The return to the club of senior players Connor Whitelock, Sam North and Luke Henderson has made the 1st XI a much stronger looking outfit going forward and off-season training is already being planned.

The clubhouse remains open during the close season (subject to the latest regulations) on Wednesday and Friday evening from 7:30pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 12:30pm. It's open to all, with membership (and reduced drinks prices) available, and all Sky and BT sport showing.



The league winning Sedgefield Cricket Club U15s team



That's all for this month. As always, please send any sports news to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com).