

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

September 2014



email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com call/text **07572 502 904** twitter [@sedgefieldnews](https://twitter.com/sedgefieldnews)
The deadline for the October edition is **Monday 15th September**

Dr Jones & Partners Flu Campaign 2014

The increasingly popular flu vaccination "drop in" clinics return this year and we would like to invite our patients to attend. They take place as follows:

Saturday 27th September between 9am & 11:30am at Harbinson House, Sedgefield and Carroll House, Trimdon Colliery

Saturday 11th October between 9am & 11:30am at Harbinson House, Sedgefield and Beveridge House, Fishburn

Free flu vaccination is available to patients who are 65 years and older (by 31st March 2015), pregnant women and patients with a serious medical condition such as chronic (long term) respiratory disease, e.g. severe asthma, COPD or bronchitis; chronic heart disease, chronic liver disease, chronic kidney disease; chronic neurological disease such as motor neurone disease or Parkinson's disease; diabetes; asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen; those patients with a weakened immune system due to disease or treatment; people living in long stay residential care home and carers.

No appointment is necessary and we aim to make having a flu vaccination a quick & efficient experience.

This year the seasonal influenza programme is also extended to all children aged two, three and four years old (but not aged less than two or aged five or over) as at 1st September 2014 and we are planning dedicated sessions in which to offer this vaccination to eligible children – details will be advertised locally, in our surgeries and on our website, www.doctorsnhs.co.uk

If you haven't attended the "drop in" clinic in previous years, why not give it a try this time? We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any questions please ring your surgery. We will be pleased to help.



The Friendly Games

Abie Hearmon met some of the athletics world's biggest stars whilst volunteering at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, and stars don't come much bigger than Usain Bolt! More of Abie's story in Sports Update on page 10 ...

Below: At Sedgefield Show, Mayor, Mel Carr, has his questions answered by Roger Clubley, chairman of SDT.



SEDGEFIELD ENERGY SWITCH

Saving you money on your gas and electricity bills

A Sedgefield Development Trust Initiative

Interest in Sedgefield Energy Switch is surpassing all expectations. As we write, in the 3rd week in August, around 100 households have registered already, putting us way ahead of many larger local authority schemes! It goes to show just how lively this community can be and is also testament to the effectiveness of volunteering.

Remember, there is absolutely no commitment in the process of registering. The commitment comes after you have received the offer and decided that it is worthwhile for you to go ahead.

To register go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk and click on Energy Switch. It's right there on the home page. If you are unsure of anything or need help to make your application, please call or text our dedicated Energy Switch Phone no. **07980 134 594** and you will be given all the help you need.



There's a lot going on in September so the Diary Pages are full. You'll find a couple of extras on page 3.

Educational Awards from Sedgefield Charities

Applications invited from residents in Bishop Middleham, Bradbury, Cornforth, Fishburn, Mordon, Sedgefield and Trimdon, for educational grants for study beyond "A" level or equivalent.

Grants are designed to help new university students who may find the additional costs of university life, books, laptops, etc., difficult to fund.

They are, however available to anyone, of any age, taking up a higher level course of education. A limited number of awards are made each year but successful applicants will have the award renewed every year of the course, provided they make good progress and circumstances do not change.

For further information and application forms contact the Clerk to the Trustees:

**John Hannon,
East House, Mordon,
Sedgefield,**

**Co. Durham, TS21 2EY
Telephone: 01740 622512**

e-mail:

east.house@btinternet.com

Closing date for applications is
30th September 2014

Innovative Workshops for Entrepreneurs & SMEs

BUDDING entrepreneurs and new SMEs (Small & Medium-sized Enterprises) in our area are invited to attend a series of innovative workshops which could help you achieve your ambitions. The North East Rural Growth Network has unveiled the line-up of business workshops designed to encourage and support new SMEs and individuals thinking about starting their own business.

The workshops focus on how to market your new business once it is set up, how to be your own boss, to understand digital marketing and the impact social media can have upon your new business. Each workshop is completely free and is delivered by North East based business experts including Pascal Fintoni and George Kinghorn.

All sessions are open to individuals across rural County Durham who are thinking about starting a business but who want to gain more up to date knowledge and expertise to help as they begin their new journey.

The Social Media for Business workshop is also open to North East based SMEs based in a rural area. As many parts of the county are classed as rural, those people interested in attending are urged to check their eligibility as they may well be located within the boundaries.

Sarah Marshall, East Durham Business Service's Rural Enterprise Development Officer, said: "These workshops have been put together to help those thinking of setting up in business and existing businesses who would like to gain new skills to grow their business in a world which is becoming increasingly dominated by social media and digital marketing.

"The North East Rural Growth Network programme is there to benefit people who are wanting to take the leap into starting a business and could make a big difference in equipping them with the skills they need to take things to the next level to start and grow." The schedule of workshops is:

Setting up your EBay Business

Sedgefield Cricket Club, September 4th, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Social Media for Business

The Old Brewery, Castle Eden, September 11th, 9.15am to 4.15pm

Marketing for Beginners

Novus Business Centre, Peterlee, October 16th, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Be your Own Boss

Novus Business Centre, Peterlee, November 6th, 9.30am to 12.30pm

To book your place or for more information on the workshops contact Sarah Marshall on (0191) 5863366 / 07800 916932 or email sarah.marshall@edbs.co.uk.



Betty is an honoured guest

Betty Amlin, RCAF, and her son Edsel were recently invited to RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire to welcome the only remaining Canadian Lancaster Bomber. The plane is now named in honour of World War II Canadian hero Andy Mynarski, awarded a posthumous VC for his courage in remaining on board as his plane went down.

Nine years ago, Betty brought his story to the attention of the Northern Echo, resulting in the erection of a commemorative statue at Middleton St George. Known as Goosepool, the base was home to the Canadian Air Force during World War II and Betty's late husband Jimmy served there with the RCAF. Their son, Edsel, is now their official standard bearer and he and Betty are frequent guests at official functions.

In September, they will attend a memorial service at Allerton Castle, HQ of No 6 RCAF Bomber Group, followed by a fly past of the two remaining Lancaster Bombers – the Mynarski and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Invited at Coningsby to sit in the cockpit of the Mynarski Lancaster, Betty said, 'I was very honoured to climb those steps into history. It is so important to remember all those boys who did not return home.'

The photograph shows Betty with Geoff Hill on the green after the recent service to commemorate WW1

If you have a story to tell, an appeal to make, tickets to sell, ideas or opinions to share, this is *your* voice.

**Email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com,
text or call 07572 502 904 or write to The Editor,
55 White House Drive, Sedgefield TS21 3BU.**



FREE Junior Squash Coaching

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A great day at Show Number 161 - and number 162 is in the planning stages already!

Thousands of people of all ages enjoyed a host of rural pursuits at one of the region's most popular shows, and organizers of the 161st Sedgefield Show hailed the day a major success with bright sunshine ensuring large crowds throughout. Visitors really enjoyed the opportunity to sample country life in all its guises, with something to see and do for all.

The society has already received positive feedback from this year's visitors, which will be used in planning the 2015 event. The many trade stands were kept busy all day and have already booked space for next year.

The working committee of Sedgefield & District Agricultural & Horticultural Society would like to thank the volunteers who helped make the show a success - as well as everyone who supported the show. One committee member, Norman Oliver commented on how pleasing it is when many months of planning come together to produce a unique event for so many people to enjoy.

The show would always welcome volunteers and members who would like to get involved. For more information, call Ian Mason (Sedgefield Show Chairman) on 01740 621841 or contact us at www.sedgefieldshow.co.uk

Sweet taste of success for a first timer aged 74

After a lifetime of baking, preserving and winemaking, John Taylor of Wykes Close in Sedgefield decided that this year he would venture into competition at Sedgefield Show. Sure enough, when the judges sampled the baked offerings, John's date cake couldn't be bettered. He walked away with first prize - surely an inspiration to the rest of us! Why not have a go next year?

Sunflowers bloom for local World War 1 heroes

Residents at Willowdene Care Home grew some of the sunflowers which form part of the memorial garden at Stockton Parish Church. Inspired by Stockton's Book of Remembrance which lists the names of 1,245 soldiers who died in World War One, the project aims to remember the lives of those who went to war but never came home. It also aimed to bring the community together. People of all ages have been involved in growing the sunflowers which were taken at the beginning of August for the memorial. Willowdene residents and staff who took part have been interviewed about their involvement and this will form part of the film installation. Memories and stories about relatives who lived through the war have been shared with visitors coming to collect sunflower seed packets.

The photograph shows residents Bill Todd and Gordon Balfour, Activities Coordinator Angela Penman, Care Manager Alison Kelly, Deputy Dawn Watts and resident Jessie.



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Sedgefield Twinning Association

Pie & Pea Supper + Quiz
Saturday September 20th

7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall.

Tickets are £9, from Nancy Wells,
620467 or Judith Edgoose, 620244

Flower Demonstration
with Val Walker

Friday November 21st

7pm in the Parish Hall.

Further details next month.

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE!

This is our simple message to householders in Sedgefield; and in the case of Thefts, Burglary and Anti-Social Behaviour (in all its categories), prevention is infinitely better than either detection or living with the consequences! So please think about these simple measures that we have suggested before;



- Mark valuables with your post code, using an Ultra Violet Light pen.
- Don't leave bikes, scooters or garden equipment lying around outside.
- Lock shed/outside store and keep equipment & tools securely out of sight.
- Keep your doors locked (if not secured by a chain or a bar) even when you are at home. This is particularly important.
- Don't leave valuables on display in either house or (especially) car.
- Use light timers and remember to adjust these throughout the year to meet darker nights.

Also, please keep an eye out when your neighbours are away, and at any time report to the Police on 101 any suspicious persons or vehicles that give rise for concern, or any worries that you have for other people's personal safety.

Residents' Forum August Jottings

There was no meeting scheduled for August but much work has been done regarding the County Durham Plan (CDP) and its Examination in Public (EIP) But before that we must make comment on how fantastic village looks thanks to our Town Council gardener and the many dedicated volunteers of the Sedgefield in Bloom group and we all have great hopes for success in the Bloom competitions following the judges visit. Whatever that outcome our great thanks to all those who do the work.

Now to the CDP; deadline dates were imposed for response to the Inspector and the Forum has been in correspondence with the Inspectors Administrator to make sure our community views are addressed. Last month we reported that the Forum had agreed to request to work in co-operation with the Neighbourhood Plan Group (NHP) and the Town Council in presenting our community views to the Inspection hearings and as agreed we submitted a letter to the Town Council.

The letter was considered at the last Town Council meeting at the beginning of July and our understanding was that our request was agreed. However, since the Town Council has no meeting in early August and no monthly meeting until beginning of September some confusion has arisen about the appointment of the consultant by the Town Council.

The Forum continues to push for a co-ordinated response to be made from Sedgefield to demonstrate that the majority view of this community from the NHP groups research is properly presented at the EIP and the Forum alone cannot not take on responsibility for this.

The next Forum meeting will be at 7pm on September 1st in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall. We will have updates particularly on the CDP process and sound monitoring for the Hardwick Live Event. Everyone is welcome.

The Sedgefield Plan

'Sedgefield - a small town with a village at its heart'

We continue to make progress with The Sedgefield Plan, and at the two recent public meetings, over 140 people endorsed the general direction we are taking with strategy, content and policies. The key issue for the community is how to constrain the widespread aspirations by developers to double the size of Sedgefield, so my colleagues and I have found a neat solution in plans from other parts of the country that have been approved by planning inspectors; this is the concept of a 'Built up Area Boundary' outside which development will not be allowed to take place. You can see this on the front page of the website www.thesedgefieldplan.co.uk. It is controversial but it meets the requirements of the community to build on brown field sites first.

You will also find there the timetable for the Examination in Public of Durham County Councils Local Plan which will be a long process made longer by the general election in May 2015, so we have decided that The Sedgefield Plan will be completed for submission to DCC in late October/early November 2014. Thanks to everyone who came to our meetings and for the excellent comments, suggestions and feedback. Please keep giving us your opinions, suggestions and views via the website and anyone who can help with a conservation area survey would be very welcome.

David Bowles OBE, Chairman The Sedgefield Plan

From PC Keith Todd

Reported crime in the village remains low this month with only four crimes. These include a parking meter being attacked in the car park of the Hardwick visitor centre, and the theft of two 8' alloy vehicle ramps from a garden on the High street; also, the theft of a plant pot/flowers from Wykes Close, later found smashed in a neighbouring street and all four tyres damaged on a vehicle parked in Cunningham Court.

I would like to say congratulations to Judith Sedgewick from Queens Drive for winning my "Guess the number of sweets in the jar competition" at Sedgefield Show. 522 sweets were counted and Judith guessed 523! Well done! A big thank you to all who took part, as we raised £166 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Until next time,
Keith

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Social Club. No incidents were reported that required further action by members.

P.A.C.T. Meeting

The Neighbourhood police team remains active and visible in antisocial behaviour hotspot areas around the village, such as High Street and The Willows.

Local Police - 101

CPO Duncan Gill 01325 742714
Neil Langthorne 01325 742755
Parking Shop 0191 3846633

Citizens' Advice Bureau

ADVICELINE numbers

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from a land line 08444 111 444
From a mobile 0300 330 06 50
TYPETALK users 08444 111 445

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Bishop Middleham:

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Fishburn: Manager, Carol Woods

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PCC backs call for new domestic violence law

David Cameron's commitment to look into creating a separate offence of domestic violence has been welcomed by Ron Hogg, the Durham Police & Crime Commissioner. The statement came at a time when Yvette Cooper, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, raised concern at the decrease in domestic and sexual violence prosecutions despite the rise in reported offences. Mr Hogg and a major national charity, Women's Aid are committed to working in partnership to highlight and tackle the issue of domestic abuse.

Polly Neate, Chief Executive of Women's Aid has welcomed PCC Hogg's commitment to ensuring the law is up to the task of supporting women experiencing domestic violence and hopes that together they can create a legislative change which will go some way to giving survivors full confidence in the criminal justice system.

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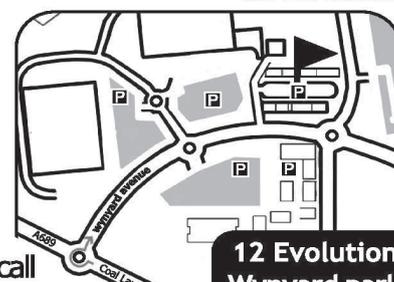
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STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

September Events Diary

Monday 1st

Sedgefield Residents' Forum Fletcher Room, Parish Hall at 7pm. All welcome.

Sedgefield Local History Society Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm. Christine Ruskin on "The disappearing farms of Weardale."

Tuesday 2nd

Free Tai Chi Taster Session Parish Hall Sedgefield, 10 - 11 am. A new term of classes for anyone wanting a gentler form of exercise. Tai Chi has a really positive effect on general fitness and well being, and improves strength, posture and stability.

Sedgefield Gardening Club 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. A talk on bulbs by Howard Smith. All welcome.

Wednesday 3rd

Sedgefield WI Parish Hall 7.15pm. History of Kilhope Lead Mine. Harvest Bring & Buy, Soup & a Bap. Members' competition, a Mining item. Visitors are always welcome

Friday 5th

Sedgefield & District U3A 'Behind the Veil'. 2pm at Ceddesfeld Hall. Members free, guest £3 at the door. For further information call 01740 629574

Friday 5th - Sunday 7th

Sedgefield Folk Festival See opposite page for details.

Sunday 7th

Sedgefield Farmers' Market from 8.30am on the Village Green. A Folk Festival Special! Shop to music from CeddesFolk & guest musicians. Good local food and more new stalls this month.

Monday 8th

Sedgefield Methodist Wives & Friends 7.30pm. Beetle & Birthday Cake. Contact is Margaret Dickerson, 621093.

Monday 8th - Saturday 13th

Sedgefield Drama Festival of One Act Plays 7.30pm in the parish hall 12 plays performed by groups from around the region. Tickets £6 Concessions £5 Season Ticket £25/£20

Tuesday 9th

Free Tai Chi Taster Session Parish Hall Sedgefield, 10 - 11 am

Wednesday 10th

Sing for Health returns on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 1-2pm, Methodist Church Hall

Thursday 11th

Sedgefield Show meeting 8pm in the Nag's Head. Everyone welcome.

Friday 12th

The Country Market Parish Hall, 10 - 11.30am. Home baking, Jam, Cards, Plants & Crafts. Refreshments are on sale so it's a good place to catch up with friends!

Monday 15th

Meditation Group St Edmund's Church. 7 - 7.30pm. All welcome.

Sedgefield Family History Group (a branch of Cleveland FHS) 7.45pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Continuity and change in domestic household goods in the 17th & 18th Centuries by Louise Gidney. Visitors always welcome. For more information see www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk or telephone 620367

Tuesday 16th

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club Parish Hall at 7.30 pm. Eileen Barrowclough, North East demonstrator; " This is my world"

Monday 22nd

Fashion Show The Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield. JAYNE Fashions & Clinique make-up. 7.15pm, Parish Hall, Tickets £6.50 inc. refreshments, from Ann Carr 629070, Jayne's Shop, Front St. or Sedgefield Post Office. Proceeds to the Alzheimer's Society.

Sedgefield Methodist Wives & Friends 7.30pm. Margaret Foxall

Regular Meetings

New Generation Church

Sundays at 11am. All welcome

NECP Concertina Workshop

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 1pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Contact 01642 588197

Eddies@4

4pm, Welcome Room, St Edmund's. Informal service for 2-6 yr olds. 621125

Bridge Club

Sunday & Tuesday, 7.30pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners welcome. Jen 620434

Sedgefield Players

Parish Hall, 7.30pm Sundays & Weds. SPYS: 7-17 yrs Sunday 6.30pm. 620091

Ceddesfeld Hall Pre-School

Mon, Wed & Fri mornings; Children invited from 2+years. Tel 620934

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Hall, Mon, Wed & Thurs, 9:15-11:30am in term time. Contact 620893

Fishburn Art Group

Youth & Community Centre, Butterwick Rd. 9.30am -12 noon, Mondays

Community College Bowls

Mons 6-8pm. Carpet Bowls/Short Mat Individual coaching. No age limit. 623198

Sedgefield Mags

1st Monday of month in Nag's Head at 8pm. Contact 07966029434

Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

Ceddesfeld Hall. Tues & Thurs mornings 8.30-12 Beginners welcome. 622532

Sedgefield Pop In Club

for elderly & disabled. Ceddesfeld Hall Tues 9.30-12 Wed 10-12.30 Thur 1-3.30

Sedgefield Art Group

Methodist Church Hall 6.30-8.30pm Tues. Tuition. New members welcome

Craft Club

Swinhoe Rm, Ceddesfeld Hall, 2nd/4th Tues 7.30-10pm. 620656. All welcome

CAB Advice Sessions

Sedgefield Advice & Information Centre Fortnightly Wednesdays 10am-1pm

Toddler Club

Wednesday term time 1.15 to 3pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Joan Brennan, 622385.

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers

Wed 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall (Mon1st wk of m'th) Beginners welcome. 621292

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

Wednesdays, 7.30pm. Contacts, Bob, 07831270892 ; Mel, 07530315331

Sedgefield Acoustic Evenings

Ceddesfeld Hall, 8.30pm 1st Fri & 4th Wed. Informal singaround, all welcome.

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members welcome. Contact Carl; 07775644598

Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group

Small friendly group 10am -12 Thursdays

Café@St Catherine's

Friendly chat & Fishburn gossip! Fridays 9.30am-12noon: Tea/coffee/toast/chat!

Lyrics Choirs

Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall. SLYC 6pm Adults 7.30pm New members welcome.

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Scarecrow Festival

Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st August

Great fun for everyone, entry is FREE and last minute entries are welcome!

A Location Map costs £1 and is available from Ceddesfeld Hall, between 1 & 3.30pm each day.

Refreshments from 1 - 5pm.

To enter a scarecrow ring Maxine/John 01740 620042 or Pat 620607.

Proceeds to Sedgefield Community Association towards the upkeep of Ceddesfeld Hall.



Do you like to dance?

Add your NAME!

If you are looking for fun and friendship, why not try ballroom and sequence dancing for all abilities. If enough people are interested, classes will start at the end of September on Tuesday afternoons in the Parish Hall, initially on alternate weeks. You can come on your own, with a friend or partner but if we are going to succeed in making the class viable we need some idea of people who are interested. We have some names already but we need more.

Please give us a call: Ann 01740 629070 or Joyce 01740 622601.

Sedgefield Library

03000 269521

Open: Wed 9.30am-12.30pm

Thursday 10am - 6:00pm

Friday 1pm - 7pm

Saturday 9.30am-12.30pm

Craft Club: 10am-12 noon on

Thursdays 11th & 25th September

Come and join the fun!

Sedgefield Folk Festival - 4th to 7th September

This is the ninth annual festival and it promises to be an exciting weekend. Tickets are sold out for the two evening weekend concerts in the Parish Hall but there are still tickets available for the Friday evening concert at Ceddesfeld Hall and the Saturday afternoon concert in the Parish Hall.

There are many free events and activities during the weekend to which everyone is welcome. Children are invited to a story-telling session at Ceddesfeld Hall on Saturday morning at 9.30 am with Sean Cooney from the Young 'Uns. The usual ukulele, spoons playing and Northumbrian pipes workshops will also take place on Saturday morning and in addition the Young 'Uns will be holding a shanty singing workshop.

There will also be songwriting competitions and the annual World Spoons championship in Ceddesfeld on Saturday afternoon. Singarounds will take place at the Social Club on Friday evening and at Ceddesfeld on Saturday afternoon and evening and on Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm with a free buffet.

For further information call Joan Edmundson on 621347.

eBay business help

A workshop for people who may be interested in setting up an eBay business, at Sedgefield Cricket Club on September 4th from 9.30-12.30.

Contact Sarah Marshall, Rural Enterprise Development Officer
Tel: 07800 916932 / 0191 5863366
Email: sarah.marshall@edbs.co.uk

Dante String Quartet

Friday 5th September at 7.30pm

The final concert in Bishop Auckland Music Society's 2014 series in the Throne Room at Auckland Castle.

The Quartet perform widely throughout the UK and Europe and since 2007 have been Quartet in Residence at King's College, Cambridge. They perform Haydn's Quartet in B minor, op 33 no.1, Faure's Quartet in E minor, op 121 and Schubert's Quartet in D minor, D810 'Death and the Maiden'.

Tickets £12.50 (under 18 free) from Brian Varley, 01388) 60607 or pay on the door

Sedgefield Social Club

September events

Saturday 6th: Alan Stevens

Saturday 13th: Courtney Paige

Saturday 20th: Alec Blackwood

Saturday 27th: Ryan King

Cover charge of £1.50 per person

Members and Guests Welcome

Country Night

Mon 22nd: T.B.A.

Cover charge of £3 per person

All welcome (no membership necessary)

Concert room available for functions

Tel: 01740 620591 for bookings

Hardwick Hall Hotel

Hardwick Live Garden Party

Friday 12th September

Simple Minds, Scouting for Girls, The Sherlocks, Twister.

Adult tickets £36, Young persons £10, Children £5, available at the hotel or online at www.hardwicklive.co.uk

Saturday 13th September

The Jacksons, Adam Ant, Steve Harley & The Cockney Rebel, Hugh Cornwell & band ... and more
Adult tickets £49, Young Persons £15, Children £8, available as above

Weekend tickets also available

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Sports UPDATE with Sports Editor CHRIS LINES

If the first half of the year didn't see much success for British sport, the last couple of months have more than made up for it. In cricket, the England team has completely reversed its fortunes from the earlier part of the season with a comprehensive (in the end) defeat of India in the test match series. Rory McIlroy has won both the Open Championship and US PGA, in very different circumstances, which confirmed his status as the best golfer on the planet at the moment. Home nations enjoyed great success in Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and Team GB topped the medals table at the European Athletics Championships in Zurich. And England have just won the Women's Rugby Union World Cup. Quite a haul, all in all. Meanwhile, in Sedgefield...

Triathlon

Around the time you read this, a man from Sedgefield will be competing for Team GB in the World Triathlon Grand Final. Dave Hodgson only took up the sport (swimming, cycling and running in one race) in 2010, since when he has improved consistently at every event. Last year, he completed Ironman Wales (2.4 mile swim, then 112 mile cycle and a 26.2 mile run) in 11 hours. Training at 5.00am and cycling to and from work in Gateshead were all part of his training regime ahead of the event.

Long distance training takes its toll, especially when fitting it around a full-time job and a busy family life. With this in mind, Dave took the decision to "go short" this season and declared his goal to qualify as an 'age grouper' for Team GB in the World Triathlon Series Grand Final in Edmonton Canada, held at the end of August. Dave attended a series of World Triathlon qualifying events and succeeded in securing a place on the team for Canada. His event take place on 29th August, so we will have news of how he got on next month. *(Dave can be seen in action on the back page.)*

Squash

The new squash season starts again in September. With the first team newly promoted to Durham and Cleveland Division 1, the county's best players will visit Sedgefield Squash Club. A first choice Sedgefield team of Chris Gillespie, Matt Marshall, Stephen Rowsby, Robert Pearce and Oliver Walls means that the club expects to compete well in the division. No doubt the balcony will be packed with home support, which has to be worth a few extra points for the team!

Over the summer, the club and county junior champion, Robert Pearce, went to Madrid to compete in the Spanish Junior Open. Coming up against players of all nationalities, Robert finished a very creditable seventh. He had to compete in temperatures around 35oC, which significantly affects the way that the court plays. Robert eventually lost to the competition's number one seeded player, who himself went on to contest the final.

Saturday morning junior coaching starts again on 6th September. For the autumn term, these sessions will be free as a result of the Area Action Partnership funding that the club received at the end of last year.

The club hopes that this will encourage some more new juniors to take up the sport. Places will be limited, so please contact Simon Hill on 629417, snhill@btinternet.com, or through the club website, if interested.

Cyclo Cross

The sport of cyclo cross will return to Sedgefield again on Saturday 6th September, when the North East Cyclo Cross League Super Saturdays series begins in East Park. Starting with races for under 12s, the event is open to everyone and is a great way to try the sport of cyclo cross for the first time. Find out more about the sport and the Super Saturdays series at <http://neccl.co.uk/>.

Rugby Union

Sedgefield District Rugby Club would like to invite all adult players of any age and ability to go along and join the club. Training is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7.00pm at the Sedgefield Cricket and Rugby Club on Station Road, ahead of the upcoming season, which starts with an away fixture at Seaham on Saturday 6th September.

The club prides itself on being friendly, inclusive and open to adults of all levels of fitness and ability, including those who have never played rugby

but always fancied giving it a go. Now is your chance. The ability to enjoy the social aspects after a match would also be an advantage! More details can be found on the club website at www.pitchero.com/clubs/sedgefelddistrictrugbyclub or call/text the club phone on 07732 399541.

Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers will be involved in hosting/supporting two events in September, the Coxhoe Trail Run and Sedgefield Serpentine.

The Coxhoe 10k (approx.) Trail Run will be held on Sunday 14th September and will follow a route over old railway lines and quarry paths between Coxhoe and Kelloe. Find full details and the entry form at www.activelifecoxhoe.co.uk.

The Harriers will also hold their popular annual Sedgefield Serpentine race on Sunday 21st September, starting and finishing at the cricket club. The event is possible thanks to the generous sponsorship of local businesses U Hold the Key and Hardwick Moto X, along with Sweatshop, and Northumbrian Water who are supplying bottled tap water for the event.

The Serpentine will start at 10.30am and the scenic off-road course is on about 6.5 miles of beautiful paths around Hardwick Park and Bishop Middleham. The race will be followed by a barbeque in the cricket club grounds (thanks to 1st Sedgefield Scouts) and the Sedgefield Village Games family fun and games afternoon (see below). Advance entry is £9 for members of a club (£11 for unattached runners) and £2 more for entries on the day, with prizes on the day in various categories and gifts for all finishers. As well as runners, volunteers to help on the day will be very welcome. For more information contact steve@sforeman.com or visit www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/sedgefield-serpentine.

Sedgefield Harriers

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Sedgefield Harriers' Annual General Meeting will be held on

Wednesday 1st October at 8.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall (following Wednesday training). Members are advised to take their seats from 8.30pm.

The meeting will review the accounts of the club, confirm the committee for the forthcoming year and discuss any other business appropriate to the Annual General Meeting. Stakeholders in the club but who are not senior members are welcome to attend but will not be eligible to vote.

Sedgefield Village Games

The Sedgefield Village Games (SVG) team is working on several exciting projects at the moment. Two of the key areas of activity are bursaries and events. As has been reported before in Sedgefield News, SVG offers bursaries to talented young sports people, to help them achieve their potential as competitors or volunteers. Recently, three awards were made, to cyclist Ben Hetherington, climber Esme Hart and athlete Abie Hearmon. We'll bring news of the progress of Ben and Esme in future issues.

Abie was awarded a bursary to help her fulfil her ambition of being a volunteer at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, after which she sent back this report:

"Being a volunteer at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games was one of the best things I have ever done. I was part of the Field of Play team at Hampden Park. Overall 50,00 people applied, 15,000 were successful and there was 600 volunteers based at the athletics venue. I started two weeks before the games and was involved with setting up the training venues, assisting athletes and handing out equipment. It was inspirational to watch the dedication to training, diet and wellbeing required to reach such a high standard. I got to see behind the scenes of a major competition and talk to famous athletes such as Greg Rutherford, Lord Seb Coe and Usain Bolt, and hold a few medals! (*photo on page 1*)

"The opening ceremony was on Wednesday 23rd July and the athletics started a few days later with the marathon in the morning and track and field in the afternoon. Working in the tunnel beneath the stadium and on the track was fantastic, both watching the athletes in action and the post race formalities such as interviews, doping tests and the appeals process. The atmosphere in Glasgow was amazing and I'd like to say thank you to the Sedgefield Village Games for assisting financially towards the cost of attending training sessions and travel and accommodation during the games."

Hopefully, Abie's experiences in Glasgow will inspire her and she will continue to progress as a runner herself.

Back home, the Sedgefield Village Games will host its third annual family fun and games afternoon at the cricket club on Sunday 21st September, from 1.00pm until 5.00pm. As in previous years, this event will be free to attend, and there will be loads of sports equipment for people to try, a barbeque, organised (but probably quite silly) games with prizes and music/entertainment. Everyone will be welcome. Find out more about the Sedgefield Village Games at www.sedgefieldgames.com, where you can also download the bursary application form.

Football

The football season is up and running, nationally and locally. For the first time in many years, Sedgefield has a Saturday league team, with Sedgefield NETPark FC moving to the Durham Alliance League. At the time of writing this, the season has started well with three straight wins. Games kick off at 2.00pm and NETPark FC play home ties at the community college. All support will be welcome. If you are reading this before the last day of August, the next home match is on Saturday 30th, versus Wheatley Hill WMC. More from all of Sedgefield's Saturday and Sunday league football teams during the season.

That's all for this month. As ever, send any sporting news to chrisjlines@aol.com.

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Your Letters

Church maintenance

Speaking as someone who admires the church building and feels that it is an asset to the village, I was still amazed by the insert in last months edition of the News. Why on earth should the people of Sedgfield be asked to meet the cost of routine maintenance to the building? The church is owned by The Church of England who are the largest landowners in England (and possibly Britain) and perhaps the richest. It is their property so let them look after it not come creeping around the village rattling their begging bowl. I would suggest that when the bowl rattles, we all remember that just last year, against the clearly stated wishes of the people of Sedgfield, the Church sold off some of 'their' land to be used for another unwanted housing estate. I can't recall just how many millions they received but surely they could have spared enough for this. After all, they think so much of the building themselves that they insisted on inserting a condition in the sale to the effect that any new building works could not mask the view of the tower. I hope that the tower remains for future generations to admire, but not at my expense.

A F Mowat, 15 The Gables, Sedgfield.

A great photo of Dave Hodgson in Triathlon action. Story in Sports Update on page 10



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