

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

MAY 2014



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Sedgefield's 44th Mediaeval Fayre - Saturday 17th May

Door to door collections - Monday 12th May from 6 - 8 pm

If you are able to donate any non perishable foods, books, toys, bric-a-brac, raffle and tombola gifts these would be greatly appreciated. Sorry no clothing, shoes, bikes, medium / large pieces of furniture, Hi-Fi or TV. Please donate whatever you can as these items play a vital part in our fund-raising efforts for the community association on the day.

Collections will be made by members of the community association, who will be wearing SCA printed t-shirts or sweatshirts.

Monday 12th: Areas around Kerr Crescent, Pine Ridge, Mitford Court, Hardwick Rd, Durham Rd & North End.

Tuesday 13th: Areas around White House Drive, Hawthorn Rd, The Lane, St Edmund's Green & East End.

Wednesday 14th: West End, Station Road, Spring Lane, Queen's Drive & The Meadows.

Thursday 15th: Eden Dr, Thurlow Rd, The Orchard, Stockton Rd, Rectory Row and Village Centre

Winterton: Items can be left at 17 Winterton Avenue from Monday to Wednesday 6-8pm (collected Thursday evening.)

If you miss the collection van, or need something collecting at a more convenient time, please contact Wendy on 620206, Dudley on 620607, or John on 620042. Items can also be left at **Ceddesfeld Hall** from 12th to 15th May after 7.30pm.

The children's tableau procession (*more on p 2 about this*) begins its colourful journey to the village green at 10am, as the Fayre opens. Morris and other dancers will perform on the green and round the village throughout the day, while events in the arena on the Crosshill include falconry displays, mediaeval combat demonstrations and the traditional, fiercely fought tug-o-war! Fancy dress, face painting, Punch & Judy and much more take place on the village green and in Ceddesfeld Hall Park, which hosts living history group ACLE, Birds of Prey, bucking bronco, small children's rides and other displays, all adding up to what promises to be a bumper Fayre. Ceddesfeld Hall provides excellent morning coffees and scrumptious lunches, while the CAMRA Regional winning bar offers excellent value for money with guest ales and other refreshments. Stalls bedeck the village green all day, selling crafts and assorted wares, and the Grand Raffle is drawn at 3 pm (some exceptional prizes can be won.) Fairground rides and games stalls complete the entertainment. The church tower will be open for the day, not for the faint hearted, but the view is spectacular. A full programme of events will be available at the post office, library and other outlets shortly before the Fayre. Displays detailing sponsors & supporters will be in Ceddesfeld Hall and at the Information Stall on the day. The committee are especially grateful to sponsors and all who help in any way.

Fayre challenges strength of villagers. Recently, visiting teams have done very well in the Tug of War competition, often winning, but this year, Chair of the committee, Wendy Gill, would love to see a local team take the overall prize. She challenges pubs and local organisations to put a team together to compete, and promises the rewards will be well worth the effort. A special effort is being made to seek women's and young people's teams. There are trophies for best pub and youth teams as well as overall winners. You can enter on the day, but to help with organisation, please ring John Robinson on 620042 to register.

Harry Potter meets the Tweenies? The children's fancy dress competition always brings imaginative costumes and difficult decisions for the judges. We've had Bill & Ben the Flowerpot Men, George & the Dragon, fairies, princesses, character animals, jesters, Disney characters, even Cogsworth from Beauty & the Beast. This year will no doubt bring a grand array for the pleasure and delight of all. Eden Costumes is donating prizes for the children. So come on mums & dads, get those thinking caps on and let's have the biggest fancy dress competition ever.

Fab@Forty!

Sedgefield Lyric Singers celebrate 40 years of bringing people of all ages together to sing an amazing range of music, nurturing the musical life of Sedgefield and supporting good causes. Hear us sing on Mediaeval Fayre day in St Edmund's Church, as we warm up for celebratory summer concerts on Fri & Saturday 27th & 28th June. Look forward to seeing you there!

Sedgefield Farmers' Market is buzzing again!

Relaunch day dawned a bit breezy but bright and fine and within a very short time, stallholders were trading.

They couldn't have wished for a better fresh start - Sedgefield had really taken notice and the shoppers were out in force.

The community stalls were attracting lots of attention and it was noticeable how people were chatting and enjoying the lovely atmosphere. By the end of the morning some of the regular stalls had more than tripled their usual sales, and those who were new to the market were packing up (some sold out well before the end) and committing to come back.

Yet more new traders are expected soon and organisers are determined to keep the buzz going.

Strong men wanted! One or two strong young chaps would be a very welcome addition to the Farmers' Market team, for just a couple of half hours once a month! With luck, funding will soon allow the purchase of lighter, easier stalls but currently, the heavy gazebos have to be raised and taken down by volunteers who are not all as young as they would like to be! Please contact Roger Clubley on **01740 620609** if you would be willing to help.

**Sedgefield Farmers' Market - Sunday May 4th from 8.30am
on the village green - another Sociable Sunday!**

Children's tableaux to accompany Flower Queen

Last year the weather meant judging for the Best Tableau was done in the primary school, but this year we are sure those competing will pull out all the stops to make sure we have a bumper display on parade. Black Sheep Morris and Durham Rams Morris groups with knights from Dawn of Chivalry are all congregating to ensure the atmosphere which the parade creates doesn't diminish. Katy Robinson, Master in Charge of the Parade, is looking for new entries from local groups, schools, nursery & play groups and businesses. For more details ring Wendy Gill on 620206. Entries to assemble at the County Primary School, Sedgefield by 9.45am on Saturday 17th May.

A Bevy of Beauties!

At our April meeting our DIDO members were once again entertained by Adam Prest with his fantastic display of flower arrangements and his humorous stories of his experiences in the world of floristry. He very kindly donated the arrangements to our raffle and these are the lucky winners. Thank you Adam.



Poppy crosses - cost lowered

Did you read my article last month about 100 Poppy Crosses to be taken to the Western Front on the 26th July? The price to have a cross included was £10 plus £5 if you wanted a photograph. Well, there have been no takers, so we've dropped the price to £5 plus £5 for a photo of the site with your poppy on it. If you are interested, please let me have your name, address and telephone number asap. The deadline is 31st May and the money is to be used for Sedgefield's WWI weekend in August. My details are David Hillerby, Sedgefield Veterans, c/o 10 Boynston Grove, Sedgefield, Telephone 01740 621343.

Memorial bench in Hardwick Park

There is a new opportunity for sponsoring wooden 'memorial' benches in the Play Area at Hardwick Park. These will be a welcome addition for anyone spending a long period of time watching their children! If anyone would be interested in sponsoring one, please call the Park on 01740 621505.

Dr Ian Charles Fuller

Many people will be sad to hear the news of the death on April 9th, of Doctor Fuller at the age of 92 in a Nursing Home in Hampshire. He was a GP in Sedgefield from 1958 until his retirement and was well known and loved by many. He and Avril moved recently to Hampshire to be close to relatives. The family are keen that the people of Sedgefield should get the news and say that if anyone would like to donate in his memory, money should be sent to "Mountain Rescue".



Freda's 100th Birthday

Congratulations to Freda Stoddart, who celebrated her 100th birthday on Wednesday, 26 March, with her family, Margaret, Ian, Wendy and John. Her daughter Wendy tells us "Freda and my father George had a small holding at Thorpe Thewles where they used to raise pigs and chickens. They also had quite a large greenhouse from which they sold tomatoes and vegetables in the summer. They moved to The Meadows, Sedgefield several years ago when they realised they couldn't manage the small holding any longer. Mam loved her garden and received an award from the gardening club in Sedgefield of which she was very proud." Freda also used to enjoy going to Ceddesfeld Hall for coffee and going along to Thurlow to play cards and bingo.

Local farmer's success

In March, Stephen Craggs, from East Close on the A689 east of Sedgefield, was crowned Northern Farmer 2014 by ITV presenter Pam Royle at the Great Yorkshire Showground. The 'Northern Farmer' is a sort of country cousin of the Northern Echo. Stephen's award follows in wake of his success in the 2013 Milling Wheat Challenge. This is a national trophy and quite a scoop in a national competition whose other two finalists were both from the home counties, which are more suited to growing wheat for bread. Well done Stephen and the rest of his family and team!

Local History Society

Many thanks to the anonymous donor who kindly posted to me copies of the Church History of St Edmund's and The Story of our Village by Elizabeth Dunn of Sedgefield WI. Both written around 1960, they are valuable additions to the archive of Sedgefield Local History Society. We continue to make good progress towards our exhibition commemorating the first World War, to be held on Saturday July 12th in Ceddesfeld Hall. Any further family memories and donations or loans or photos from the period would be most welcome. Contact me on 01740 620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk.

Huge Opportunity

Hidden Jem's Lease is up in September and Jem is leaving to concentrate on other projects and spend more time with Family.

This is massive opportunity, a Child friendly Cafe by day, Bistro by night which already has great community support and a fab customer following

For more information contact
hiddenjems@icloud.com





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Sedgefield Hardwick School raises an incredible £2219.60 for Sport Relief

The children ran, swam and cycled the equivalent distance from Sedgefield to Kings Cross Station!
Pictured below, the staff 'limbering up' and the Year 4 swimming team at Spennymoor Leisure Centre.



Another award for Sedgefield Primary

Sedgefield Primary is delighted to have earned the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award, which recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's planning, policies, practice and ethos. A rights-respecting school not only teaches about children's rights but also models rights and respect in all its relationships. In such a school, participation runs like a thread through all aspects of school life. For children, knowing that they have the right to be heard in decisions which affect them boosts their sense of security and self-confidence, opening the way to developing and applying skills that allow them to realise their rights and to advocate for the rights of children everywhere.

At Sedgefield Primary the 'Family Groups' which comprise of children from Reception to Year 6, have been fundamental to the success of the RRSA work and are to be used as an example of good practice with other schools.

Mrs Cox, Headteacher, said "We have worked on becoming a rights-respecting school for over three years now and it is absolutely integral to our ethos and all we do. The impact it has had was recognised by Ofsted last year and was one of the reasons we were given an 'outstanding' judgement for pupils' behaviour and safety. Our children love to take part in Family Group activities. Younger children emulate the older pupils, who are fantastic role models, caring for, encouraging and nurturing younger ones. It creates a real feeling of family and belonging, and our children are very aware of others, going out of their way to support charities and take part in community events. They leave the school as articulate, confident, caring and responsible young people and we are proud that they will be the community minded citizens of the future.

Mrs Dodd and a selection of pupils who took part in the assessment for the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award



Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel Notes from the April Panel meeting

This was our first meeting following the retirement from Durham Police of long serving Representative Neil Langthorne. Chairman Ken Saiger paid tribute to Neil for all that he has done to support the village and specifically those numerous individuals whom he had personally helped over a period exceeding 30 years, from a career as an officer then most recently in the civilian post of Community Liaison Officer totalling more than 41 years of service in all; a fantastic achievement saying that Neil has been a true friend to Sedgefield residents and to Neighbourhood Watch in particular. Neil is wished the best of health and a long and happy retirement by all from Sedgefield.

PC Keith Todd also recorded his appreciation for all the assistance he personally had received from Neil Langthorne and paid tribute to his work in the Police force and for his exemplary service of over 41 years, an achievement few will match.

Local Crime Report. PC Keith Todd reported that there had been 5 reported crimes in Sedgefield over the last month; these included 1 theft, 2 commercial premises burglary and 2 of criminal damage. Keith gave details of the crimes and of actions taken as a result. There have been four arrests made in connection with these incidents, and two crimes are as yet not solved. There were also 4 incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded and these are all down to the same group of young persons and centred on the Co-op premises. Keith asked for assistance in identifying the youths. Keith reported on action taken by the Police Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit following the well reported issues with the Black Lion & Cross Hills (broken glass, intimidation, noise, litter etc.) These issues have been regularly reported by residents to the Police and the Town Council, over many years now, so this action was welcomed by members.

Big Issue. The current practice of selling adjacent the Co-op ATM and recent actions of the present seller was thoroughly debated at the meeting, following Keith's crime report. It is apparent that many people in the village are quite unhappy at the location and the pressure they receive from (all) sellers, to buy the product.

ASB: New reports were passed on to Keith who will follow up urgently. Finally, please try and report to the Police on 101, all out of place or suspicious vehicles and also any persons that cause you some concern; from these reports we will make our village & our homes even safer.

The Sedgefield Plan

With your help the 'Plan' is progressing well, the first phase has been to gather evidence, opinions and data to support and justify the policies that will be at the heart of our finished document. The Community Survey to which 24% of the households in the community responded has provided a strong basis for The Plan, the Young People's Survey that achieved over 350 responses added significant evidence and important opinions, the Business Survey that is underway as I write will provide evidence of the views and concerns of the business community. The two public meetings that so many attended have been a huge success adding new ideas and opinions as has the work of the four topic groups that we set up when we started the process.

We now embark on the second phase that will see us write and publish a draft plan, to assist us we have in partnership with the Town Council appointed planning consultants to support us with advice, guidance and technical input. But we still need your help and valuable assistance with this crucially important community project.

Defining and developing policy is fundamental to our success, so we would welcome your input to the process as follows:

Land use, impact and implications. To enable us to define how the future growth and development of the community should be managed, so for example your ideas on the existing and on new green spaces, young people's facilities, preservation of the conservation area and securing buildings for community use, views and character are just some topics that should be included.

Car Parking. It is a subject that concerns us all, so what are your views on how to solve the problems now and in the future?

Alternative sites may enable the community to grow less obtrusively, so what do you think and where might they be? Let us have your view or idea by email info@thesedgefieldplan.co.uk or drop a note into the town council offices for David Bowles' attention or call me on 07887935847.



From PC Keith Todd ...

Fortunately, we don't suffer from many burglaries in our area, but overnight 22nd /23rd March someone decided to enter Chisholm's Bookmakers, no doubt looking for cash. They will have been disappointed as no cash is left in the shop overnight.

Another crime reported recently is damage caused to a vehicle in Oak Tree Crescent.

Reports of rogue trader fish sellers who sell poor quality fish at inflated prices have been touting for business in Sedgefield. Please be careful when dealing with these people as some may not be genuine. If you don't want it, need it or didn't ask for it then I would suggest you don't buy any fish from door to door sellers.

Pub Watch

This month's meeting was cancelled due to my work commitments but I can report that no incidents were reported from any member premises during the month.

P.A.C.T. Meeting

This month's meeting was held after the Neighbourhood watch meeting when the results of last month's priority were given.

This was to monitor speeding traffic along the B1278 road between Sedgefield and Fishburn. This is a 40 mph road but we found that many motorists only slowed down when observing a police presence.

Until next time, Keith

Local Police - 101

CPO Duncan Gill 01325 742714

Neil Langthorne 01325 742755

Parking Shop 0191 3846633

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Sedgefield Residents' Forum

No scheduled meeting in April, so just some updates. As highlighted in last month's Jottings, the planning applications have been submitted for the Eden Drive site. Many residents have experienced problems in accessing the County Website and submitting their views on line. The problem has been highlighted to DCC but you can register your concerns by telephone to the case officer, Henry Jones, on 03000 263960 or by email to henry.jones@durham.gov.uk.

The petition which the Forum has circulated has had a terrific response and thanks must go to those residents who have worked so hard on this. We will be submitting the completed petition to DCC before the end of the month, and are awaiting a response from Central Government as we have asked for their support for our request for a delay in any planning decisions until our Neighbourhood Plan group have gathered more of our community's views. There are several other developers preparing to submit planning applications in the coming weeks, so watch out for information.

The Neighbourhood Plan group have done a great job with the first questionnaire in gathering community views, special praise must go to those individuals who led on the Young People's survey and of course to our young people who gave a great response and have made it very clear how they value life in Sedgefield. There is still crucial information required on where our community would accept any future development so again watch out for

information and make sure you register your views.

The Annual Town Council meeting will take place in May - try to get along and hear what has been happening. Our long standing Town Clerk Lesley Swinbank will be retiring and we will be welcoming a new Town Clerk. The Forum thank Lesley for all her help and co-operation over the years and hope that she will still be active in community issues.

The Forum are still questioning the work on the woodland at Neville Drive; £26,000 is supposed to have been spent by DCC on tidying and upgrading the woodland from the s106 money allocated to the village, but there seems little evidence of work to that level of spend.

The next Forum meeting is 7pm, May 5th in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. Although it is a Bank Holiday the meeting will still go ahead as it was going

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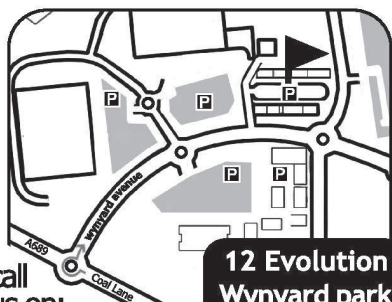
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May Events Diary

Friday 2nd

Sedgefield Village Veterans Coffee Morning Parish Hall 10am-12pm. Tea coffee & cakes, all welcome.

Sedgefield & District U3A 2pm Parish Hall. Members Free; Guests £3 at the door. Speaker Wendy Holmes; George Don't Do That! The life of Joyce Grenfell. For more information call Brenda on 01740 629574

Sunday 4th

Sedgefield Farmers' Market from 8.30am on the Village Green. New traders and community/charity stall. Come out for a Sociable Sunday morning!

Monday 5th

Local History Society Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm. Chris Lloyd "Darlington's Covered Market"

Tuesday 6th

Chair-based Exercise Class Parish Hall 11am.

Sedgefield Garden Club 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Talk on Tatton Park Show by Garry from Finchale Training College, Durham. All welcome

Wednesday 7th

Sedgefield WI Parish Hall, 7.15pm Annual General Meeting, Discussion of Resolution; Talk by WIA; Bring & Buy your spare plants, seeds & seedlings. Members' Competition, a favourite vase. Visitors are always welcome.

Thursday 8th

Sedgefield Show Meeting at 8pm in the Nag's Head. All welcome

VE Day service 10-30am on the Green at the Sedgefield War Memorial. Do come along and join us to show your respect for the dead of all wars, not just WWII.

Friday 9th

Country Market Parish Hall 10-11.30am. Home baking/Jams/Cards/Plants/Crafts

Saturday 10th

Sedgefield Veterans present **Darlington Community Wind Band** in Sedgefield Parish Hall. Tickets are £5 from Council Offices or online via Paypal at www.sedgefieldveterans.co.uk. Doors open at 6.30pm for 7pm start.

Monday 12th

Methodist Wives & Friends Edinburgh Woollen Mill Fashion Show

Tuesday 13th

Ladies' Club Visit to Whickham Hermitage Community Garden. (May 27th TBA)

Friday 16th

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning, Parish Hall, 9.30 -11.30am Enjoy coffee/tea and delicious scones

Sedgefield Folk Festival Concert - details on opposite page.

Saturday 17th

Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre on the Village Green and at Ceddesfeld Hall **Exhibition** by Sedgefield Art Group (details opposite page)

Monday 19th

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

Sedgefield Family History Group (branch of CFHS) 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall. Norman Welch, "Not all nuts are from Brazil" NB Sedgefield Branch hosts Cleveland Family History Society's AGM straight after Mr Welch's talk. Visitors always welcome. For more information visit www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk or telephone 620367

Tuesday 20th

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Pamela Alexander, Northumberland & Durham demonstrator; "Crystal Clear". All welcome. £7.50 non members, £5 members.

Regular Meetings

New Generation Church

Service on Sundays, 11am, Parish Hall

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

Winterton Wayfarers

Walking Group - Weekly Sunday walks, 5 - 10 miles. Contact 620034 or 620434

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

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Church, Mon-Thurs 9:15-11:45. Spaces for 2+yrs. Call 620923

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

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

Sing for Health

Methodist Church Hall, fortnightly on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays from 1 - 2pm

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 on 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.

May at Sedgefield Library

Opening hours:

Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Thursday 10am - 6:00pm

Friday 1pm - 7pm

Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Craft Club: Thursdays 8th & 22nd

10am-12 noon

Sedgefield library in association with Age UK, for the over 50's and carers. Book early and don't miss out!

Thursday 22nd May, 1 - 3pm.

'Hand massage'. Another chance to try a hand massage before choosing a great book. Call **03000 269521** to book

Sedgefield Social Club, May

Saturday 3rd: Ryan King

Saturday 10th: Ray Denton

Saturday 17th: Maggie Newman

Saturday: 24th Ray Peachey

Saturday 31st: Alan Stevens

Cover charge £1.50 per person

Members & Guests welcome

Country Night, Mon 19th: Ron Spence

Cover charge, £3 pp. All welcome; no

membership necessary

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Sedgefield Art Group: Meetings and Exhibition

The group meets in the Methodist Church Hall from 6.30 - 8.30pm on Tuesdays. Tuition is provided and new members are welcome (*find this in the Regular Meetings column from June onwards*).

There will be an Exhibition of their work on Medieval Fayre day, Saturday May 17th, in the Methodist Church Hall, 10am - 3pm. Entry is free.

Concert in Parish Hall

A night of music to raise funds for the Sedgefield Folk Festival will take place in the Parish Hall on Friday 16th May at 7.45 pm. The main guests are Happy Cats (Marty Craggs, ex-Lindisfarne) supported by Jack Burness and John Wrightson Band, with Bertie Draycott as compère. There will be a buffet but people need to bring their own drinks and glasses. Tickets are £11 and can be obtained from Joan Edmundson on 621347.

Bradbury & Mordon Village Hall Association

Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale in Mordon Village Hall

Saturday 10th April 10am-12noon. Cakes, Books, Plants, Preserves, Bric-a-Brac, and a Colouring Corner for the Children. Donations appreciated, drop at Hall 4-6pm Friday 9th April or contact Sue Howells, Bradbury 01388 720129

Fiona Avery, Mordon 01740 620634, and your donation will be collected.

Admission £1.50 Adults, children free. Includes coffee & biscuits

All funds raised for Hall maintenance.

Coffee morning in aid of the Parkinson's charity

Serenity Care will be holding a Coffee morning at the parish hall between 10am and 1pm on 29th May, with all profits going to the Parkinson's Disease Charity. Lots of attractions, including cake stalls, books, bingo, raffle, tombola and many more activities, will be available to all. Everyone is welcome to come along. Serenity Care are also including themselves in a weight loss challenge (staff who are wanting to lose weight for charity) and their chosen charity is Domestic Abuse. To sponsor or for information please contact us on 01740 238020.

Butterwick Hospice Mid-Summer Classic Car Drive

Sunday 8th June - Entries close Tuesday 27th May

This new event is designed to promote awareness of the Out-Reach Day Hospice at the Richardson Hospital in Barnard Castle.

The 95 mile drive will start at the Jersey Farm Hotel, Barnard Castle and finish at the Bowes Museum. It is open to all classic cars built before 1st January 2000 and any interesting car subject to the organizers' discretion. The route will visit Teesdale, the Northumberland Fells and Bollihope Common. Route notes will be issued at the start.

The oldest car will start first at 10am thereafter in age order at one minute intervals. The entry fee of £30 per car includes morning coffee at the start and a soup & bun lunch for two at the lunch stop.

For entry and general queries contact Helen Kirby on 01388 660644 or email helenkirby@butterwick.org.uk.

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Sports UPDATE with Sports Editor CHRIS LINES

We have reached that time of year when the traditional winter sports are reaching the finale of their seasons, while their summer counterparts are underway. So it is that football and rugby union teams are preparing for their last few games, while cricketers are donning their whites and athletes are lacing up their track spikes. Meanwhile, the first of golf's major championships has been and gone and the tennis world is preparing for its imminent run of clay court tournaments and the French Open towards the end of May.

That same transition is taking place here in Sedgefield, so over the next couple of months I will try to round up the end of season results for some of our teams, while bringing news of early progress by others.

Squash

A team of seven from Sedgefield - Jonathon Slee, Stephen Rowsby, Robert Pearce, Peter Redshaw, John O'Donnell, Chris Rowsby and Lewis Neasham (photo opposite page) travelled to Douglas on the Isle of Man recently, along with seven supporters, for a weekend of squash. Lewis was 'adopted' by the Chester le Street Five on the way over on the ferry, so the team became six. For the lower third of the Sedgefield team it was intended to be a fun event, combining squash with socialising, but the top four players had their sights set on winning the blitz. 14 teams entered the competition and on the first day Sedgefield were leading the way on cumulative player points scored.

The second day started well, with Sedgefield winning their first match. The semi-final against Norton 'A' proved to be a hard fought match and it came down to the last game with Jon Slee just needing to maintain a score within 10 points of his opponent. He lost by seven and as a result, for the first time in five years, Sedgefield went in to the final, against tough opposition Kessingland Lads 'A'. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, the team lost, but came a creditable second and won £150 in prize money.

Between 5pm on 28th March and 5pm on 29th, Sedgefield Squash Club held a 24 hours squashathon in aid of Sport Relief, with continuous play on court throughout that time. The night-shift was completed by seven of our older juniors (under supervision from Gary Hetherington), who came armed with squash rackets and sleeping bags. From Saturday morning onwards, the younger juniors braved the residual odour of teenager, to keep play going until the adults took over from mid-afternoon. In total, a fantastic £220 was raised for Sport Relief.

Trumping the club's Isle of Man team's achievements in the 'international' arena, Oliver Walls travelled to Oslo to compete in the U15 Norwegian Junior Squash Open at the start of April. The first matches were played in a box league with Oliver winning all three of his games 3-0, against Norway's Gard Aasness Ackerstrom and Daniel Estensen, and Sweden's Tor Carleke. Moving into the semi-final to play number one seed Pavel Shsherbina from Russia, Oliver produced his best squash of the weekend to win 3-0. In the final he faced Sweden's Christoffer Segerstedt, again winning 3-0. This was Oliver's first international title.

Closer to home, the North East Coastal Challenge saw a good entry from Sedgefield competing at Redcar Squash Club. Jessica Weatherspoon finished fourth in the girls U11s, with Chloe Hill reaching the semi-finals of the girls U13s plate, and James Knowlson competing in the boys U13s. In the final of the boys U17s, Oliver Walls lost 1-3 to Northumbria's Jamie Todd (nationally ranked 16), with Dan Toas reaching the semi-finals. And finally, Rob Pearce won the boys U19s, beating Redcar's Luke Mabbutt 3-0. The current England Rankings see Oliver Walls at eighth in the U15s, 61st in the U17s and 136th in the U19s. George Peden is 140th in the U17s, Dan Toas 167th in the U17s, and Rob Pearce is 33rd in the U19s.

Finally, the English National Championships, held at the University of Surrey in Guildford, produced great results for Rob Pearce who, after the disappointment of losing his first game, battled through to the Plate Final of the Boys U19s, losing to Middlesex's Paddy Harrison 3-0. Oliver Walls then achieved his best ever result in a national championship, finishing sixth in the Boys U15s, losing to number one ranked England player Tom Walsh of Sussex in the quarter-finals.

Football

Sedgefield NETPark FC have joined the Durham Alliance League for next season. This is a big change for the club, switching from Sunday mornings to Saturday afternoons, and to a higher standard. For further information and if you're interested in playing or getting involved with the club, please contact David Ryder on 07515 020766 or Graham Kime on 07834 552180.

Sedgefield Youth FC would like to thank club sponsors Right Lines Communications and LM Windows for their support this season. A big thanks also goes to all of the committee and coaches for their hard work, plus Dave Smith, Ian and Jordon Parkin for refereeing the team's home fixtures. The U9s and U13s are about to finish another season playing grassroots football in the village. If anyone would like to start and coach a new youth team please contact David Solly on 07580 052867.

Athletics

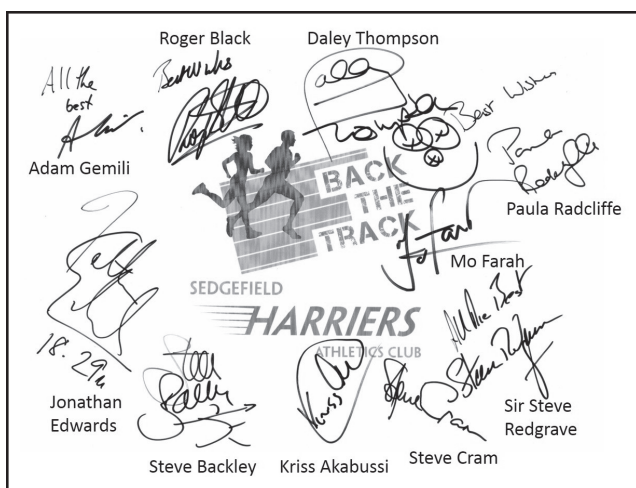
The outdoor track and field and road running season is well and truly underway, with Sedgefield Harriers already running, jumping and throwing at events throughout the North East, UK and even abroad. Performances by juniors and seniors have been very encouraging so far, with personal bests and medals aplenty. I will report some of the key results so far next month.

Meanwhile, the club continues to work hard to move forward its athletics track project. Good progress is being made behind the scenes, in both planning the logistics for building the track and in fundraising efforts. At the same time, famous names from the world of athletics and Olympic sport continue to show their support for the "Back the Track" campaign, including the likes of Sir Steve Redgrave, Mo Farah and Paula Radcliffe (below). All of this helps to raise the profile of the Harriers' aspirations to build a track here in Sedgefield, which can only help.





Above: Sedgefield Squash Club team - Isle of Man Runners Up 2014



An impressive array of signatures! Famous names from the world of athletics, all lined up to Back the running track being campaigned for here in Sedgefield

That's all for this month. As always, please send any sports news to

Chrisjlines@aol.com

Sedgefield in Bloom

Northumbria in Bloom judges Eileen Burn and Ann Burns were very impressed when they visited Sedgefield for the spring judging on a gloriously sunny day in early April. They could see evidence of a great deal of hard work around the village; flower beds and tubs prepared and maintained by council gardeners Stephen Young and Roy Cairns, spring bulbs everywhere you look and vibrant planting along the church wall and the Vicar's Dash bring the centre of the village to life.

Volunteer Bloomers have also been busy in the Wykes Close wildflower garden, the herb garden at Malton Terrace, Ceddesfeld Gardens and the Manor House rose garden which should be blooming away beautifully for the summer judging in July and August.

Raised beds at Winterton Allotment and Community Garden have also been spruced up in preparation for the hand-over to Sedgefield Sprouts. Under the leadership of council chairman Chris Lines, this budding group of young gardeners plan to use their home-grown produce to create delicious healthy meals.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of judging day.

Floral displays outside (and inside) local businesses make a huge difference. The judges also commented on the lack of litter and graffiti. A great community effort.

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Your Letters

Farmers' Market

My wife and I read about the renewal of the Farmers' Markets in the Sedgefield news and we were along bright and early on Sunday morning.

What a very pleasant surprise. It was a significant improvement since the last time we attended which was quite a while ago.

There was an excellent and varied range of stalls. Fair to say we spent a bit more than we had planned but no regrets! We knew about Parlour Made (cheeses) already but there's no harm stocking up a little. The bread from RISE was really high quality and fresh that morning. We bought pies from I Love Pies me, because we love pies we do! There was lady selling goose eggs which we are yet to try and a stall (Spicy Monkey) selling some very tasty and spicy sauces. They've been sampled already and I'll be back for some more next time. A final mention for the vegetable stall – can't remember the name but he had first class and very reasonable produce.

We've a few things to get through yet and some went into the freezer.

Well done to the organisers and we will certainly be back next month!

Derek Mansfield

Bereavement Support

I am looking to set up some training in preparation for facilitating a bereavement support group, and am arranging three to four 2 hour sessions in Listening Skills to be delivered by Margaret Charters, who is a qualified counsellor. The intention is for the groups to run over a period of 6 to 8 weeks, with 3 to 4 'listeners' working with a small group of recently bereaved people. Following this there will be a short break before the next group is formed, ensuring that this is not an open-ended group and enabling you, the listeners, to have a rest. If there are enough listeners, the commitment will not be too onerous. Call me on **01740 620909** or **07443423114**

Panny Pighills, APA-in-training. 13 The Orchard, Sedgefield

Housing development in Sedgefield - Parking!

I visit Southern France for many months every year. A few years ago the pretty village of Beaulieu had no more parking space for locals, shoppers and visitors. Their solution was to demolish the local small supermarket (SUPER U) in the middle of the town, build two floors below ground level, then build the super market on top, back at street level; now you can shop safely and out of the weather, with the usual parking restrictions-free for the first hour.

Suggestion: Could the Housing development and the CO-OP in our village cooperate and develop the site, with two levels below ground level and have delivery access at the rear. The front of the store to stay the same. This solution has been adopted in many tourist Honey Spots. Parking will be the biggest problem and we have got to move with the times. My guess will be 60 more cars in the village during the day.

Jeff Wragg. Ps. I have lived in the village for 46 years.

Christian Aid Week, 11th-17th May

Arrangements for this year's Christian Aid Week house to house collection should be well underway by the time you are reading this, and once again our dedicated collectors are giving their time freely to call on you. We ask you to give as generously as you can.

Christian Aid seeks to support some of the world's poorest people. Last year we collected just over £3,700 from Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon. This amount was further increased by approximately £362 as a result of Gift Aid declarations. If you are a UK taxpayer, the amount you give can be increased (at no extra cost to you) by simply completing the details on the envelope. Christian Aid can then reclaim the tax you have already paid. Thank you all for your continued support.

David & Margaret Glass

Breakfast-time goodwill!

Mel & Ann Carr & the Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield would like to thank everyone who supported the Charity Breakfast. The weather was dry and sunny, 80 people enjoyed breakfast in the Mayor's home from 10-1pm. They joined in the games and supported the raffle. We raised £713.50 for Parkinson's UK, so a very BIG thank you to everyone who came and also to those who gave donations.



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