

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

May 2015

There was Easter fun & games in Ceddesfeld Gardens The lovely Easter event is pictured here and you can read about it on page 3 in the regular SCA article. But this month thoughts turn to

May 16th - the 45th Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre

- a great family fun day on the village greens and in Ceddesfeld Park. The Flower Queen and her attendants in a horse drawn carriage will lead the colourful walking parade to herald the start of the Fayre and a packed programme of entertainment throughout the day, in the arena and parklands.



On the Green after the parade, attractions are the Fancy Dress Competition, Country Dancing, Durham Rams and Stockton Morris, Mediaeval knights demonstrations, the Tug-of-War, all the usual Craft Stalls and of course, the Fun Fair.

In Ceddesfeld Park you'll find Punch & Judy, Birds of Prey, ACLE - Mediaeval Crafts, Bucking Bronco, Children's Rides and a Bouncy Castle. Let's hope that the weather is kind to us!

Door to door collections are between 6 and 8pm, as follows:

Monday 11th May: Kerr Crescent etc., Pine Ridge etc., Mitford Court etc., Hardwick Road etc., Durham Road & North End

Tuesday 12th: White House Drive etc., Hawthorne Road etc., The Lane etc., St. Edmund's Green & East End etc.,

Wednesday 13th: West End, Station Rd etc., Spring Lane etc., Queens Drive etc., The Meadows etc.,

Thursday 14th: East End, Thurlow area, The Orchards etc., Stockton Rd, Rectory Row & Village Centre, and Winterton, where residents may also leave items at 17 Winterton Avenue, Monday to Wednesday 6 - 8pm.

Please support the Fayre by donating groceries, toys, books and bric-a-brac etc., but please - **NO CLOTHES, SHOES, BIKES, MEDIUM / LARGE PIECES OF FURNITURE, HI-FI OR TVs.** Articles can be left at Ceddesfeld Hall Rectory Row each evening during that week after 7.30pm. For more information contact John Robinson; 620042, Pat Buckley Atkins; 620607 or Wendy Gill; 620206.

The deadline for the June edition is Friday 15th May

Send News & adverts to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com 07572 502 904 55 White House Drive, TS21 3BU

Diary items to eventssedgefieldnews@outlook.co.uk / 17 The Lane Sport to chrisjlines@aol.com

The Trusty *Updates from Sedgfield Development Trust*

An extra special Farmers' Market

The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) will be at our Farmers' Market on Sunday morning, 3rd May. They operate three helicopters, 365 days a year, across the North-East, North Yorkshire and Cumbria. GNAAS crews respond to around 1,000 call outs each year and on board they have specialist trauma doctors and paramedics, who bring accident and emergency expertise to the scene. Whether it's in a city centre, village or a remote mountain, their medics respond to wherever they are needed in the shortest space of time. What a fantastic asset to us all.

A market special for May Day weekend - Maypole dancing!

Richmond Clog and Morris will be on the village green with children from Sedgfield Primary School, putting into practice what the youngsters learned at a dance workshop on the previous Friday afternoon. We hope to show our own dancers next month. Please send your snaps to sedgfieldnews@hotmail.com

Please support the dancers and GNAAS - visit Sedgfield Farmers' Market on Sunday, 3rd May. Stalls open from 8.30am and there will be music



Children dancing many years ago

Sedgfield Switch savings now top £40,000

Sedgfield residents continue to show their interest in the Development Trust's initiative to help people reduce their energy costs with an additional 25 people already registering in the latest period which opened on 24th March.

Although the response to the initiative and the resulting savings have been excellent, the more people who register with the scheme the greater the bargaining power becomes at the auction with the energy companies. So, the more people who register, the greater the savings potential becomes. Sedgfield still remains the only non-council to be a part of this nationwide initiative, but our results have not gone unnoticed, as we have had contact from other organisations to find out about our success. CONGRATULATIONS to all those who have joined the scheme, not only have you saved yourselves money but you are a part unique group. Let's keep it going!

So don't forget you can register up to the 18th May in one of two ways:

On line yourself, by going to www.sedgfieldweb.co.uk/energyswitch and simply clicking on the 'REGISTER NOW' button – or, if you prefer to register and receive information through the post, or need any assistance, please call the Sedgfield Development Trust Helpline on 07980 134 594

Remember if you have previously registered, you can re-register, as you may make additional savings over and above your previous offer, by telephoning the ichoor helpline on 0800 0488 285. Don't forget to give them any information that may have changed since your previous registration i.e. supplier or tariff if it has changed.

The average savings of those who have switched so far has exceeded £200 per year. Let's see if we can drive it even higher.

DIDO

World Book Night—Members received copies of free books at their April meeting. The books are given in the hope that they will be passed on to as many people as possible, to encourage more people to read. They included Custard Tarts and Broken Hearts by Mary Gibson; Street Cat named Bob by James Bowen; and The Moaning of Life by Karl Pilkington.

DIDO would like to thank the family of the late Edith Ferguson and Sedgfield Charities for their kind donations to DIDO.

Edith will be sadly missed by us all.

At our recent fashion show of clothing supplied by Bon Marche, members rose to the challenge and became models for the day. They were very professional and looked great and everyone got a discount of 20% off purchases over £20.



Spring cleaning Sedgfield

A group of environmentally conscious Year 7 students from Sedgfield Community College recently volunteered to take part in Durham County Council's annual event, The Big Spring Clean. On Wednesday 25th March the students scoured the village, collecting any litter they came across. It wasn't long before they had filled numerous bin bags of rubbish. The students involved received much praise from local residents and they were also greeted by the Sedgfield in Bloom 'Bloomers' who were equally impressed by their attitude and enthusiasm. The event gave the students an opportunity to understand the impact that litter has on a community and to feel that they were helping Sedgfield to 'bloom'. A big well done to those students.



Northumbria in Bloom

The Council gardeners and the enthusiastic Bloomers, pulled out all the stops to put on an impressive show for the spring judging on April 22. Colourful beds and tubs in the village centre, glowing daffodils everywhere, and shrubs and perennials coming into flower. A great deal of work has also gone in to the Manor House, Crispin Court, Rectory Row, Malton Terrace Herb Garden and the Turnpike Bed at Beacon Lane. Snowdrops recently planted either side of the church path will look lovely next winter. The wildflower meadow at Wykes Close has been scarified and re-seeded. It may not be much to look at just yet, but in a few weeks it will be a blaze of colour. The judges will be back in July. If you would like to help, contact Norma on 620091 or norma@neal.myzen.co.uk - or just turn up at the lych-gate any Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. The Bloomers are always grateful for spare plants or bulbs you may wish to donate or to those who pick up litter when they see it. See the diary page for the next Bloom fundraising event.

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

Hedges are now in leaf and bloom. Blackthorn's white flowers have faded and are starting to develop into sloe berries (which ripen in the autumn and can then be used to make sloe gin!).

The main white flowers seen in hedges are now the classic May time blossom of Hawthorn. Common names for Hawthorn include May Flower, May Blossom and White Thorn and the ship the Mayflower was named after the Hawthorn tree. The word "haw" comes from the old word for hedge, for which this tree has been used extensively. The flowers are gorgeous but smell somewhat unpleasant as they are pollinated by flies and insects that are attracted to carrion. The blossom and resulting insects attract a range of birds which feed on them. Many birds synchronise their breeding so that their chicks hatch at a time when food is abundant.

Scientists have been recording when the first Hawthorn blossom can be seen and this technique of studying the times of recurring natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate, is known as Phenology. It includes a range of natural occurrences such as the first cuckoo to the first horse chestnut flowers, and you may have seen that the Woodland Trust and Springwatch have teamed up and are asking for members of the public to let them know when they see 5 seasonal events. They are hoping to piece together the speed these events are first seen across the country from south to north; seven-spot ladybird, oak leafing, hawthorn flowering, orange-tip butterfly and the swallow returning from Africa. By the time of reading this some of these may have already happened, but you can still take part by visiting and registering at www.naturescalendar.org.uk and inputting your sightings. The website also allows you to look at a map of the UK and see just how things are developing. The Woodland Trust, The Wildlife Trust and other environmental organisations believe that climate change is one of the major threats to habitats in the UK. Phenology offers real evidence that climate change is happening now and that it is already having a significant effect on our wildlife. Trees are coming into leaf sooner; some spring flowers are increasingly being seen coming into bloom in November and December; butterflies are appearing earlier; and the Red Admiral butterfly, the Chiffchaff and Blackcap (two woodland birds) are increasingly over-wintering in the UK. Watch out what is happening this May!

Skerne Medical Group

Dr Jones and Partners will be changing their name in June to the 'Skerne Medical Group'. When choosing the new name we wanted to reflect a common theme across our 4 sites. Following extensive research the unanimous decision was to base the name on the river Skerne, which threads through our practices in Sedgfield, Fishburn, Trimdon Colliery and Trimdon Village.

We are all very excited to be launching our new name and brand and we would like to reassure all of our patients that there are no changes to any of our Doctors or staff. The practice will continue to be owned by the eight partners, Doctors Jones, Larcombe, Hearmon, Robertshaw, MacDougall, Anderson, Robinson and Taylor. Our new brand is on display at all of our sites and we look forward to a formal launch in June.

For peace of mind

Sedgfield Fire Brigade is currently carrying out home fire safety checks in the local area. Anyone who lives in Sedgfield, Fishburn, Bishop Middleham, Bradbury, Mordon and the surrounding rural areas are covered by the Sedgfield Crew.

The home fire safety check consists of a talk on fire safety around the home and also the installation of **FREE** smoke alarms. If you, or any of your friends or neighbours, require a visit from our crews please feel free to contact our Community Safety Team via any of the following: Phone 0845 2234221, Email csequiries@ddf.fire.gov.uk or visit www.ddfire.gov.uk.

Many thanks, Sedgfield Fire Brigade

Ceddesfeld Hall

Home of Sedgfield Community Ass'n

A beautiful sunny Easter Monday was perfect for our 15th free Annual Easter Egg Hunt, attracting families from Sedgfield and nearby villages. Almost 80 children and their families eagerly searched Ceddesfeld Park for the evasive chicks to exchange for chocolate treats. Whilst the search went on, Sedgfield Mayor Cllr. Mel Carr and his Mayoress Ann had the difficult task of selecting the winners of the Easter competitions.

Winners were: **Easter Bonnet** U5: Ellie Cook, Ethan Jones. 5-8yrs Daisy Lucy Heslop, Ava Jones.

Dyed Egg Under 5: Ethan Jones, Emilia Heslop. 5-8yrs Lucy Heslop, Ava Jones, Ruby Heslop.

Decorated Egg Under 5: Hannah Davey, Ethan Jones, James Murray Blakemore. 5-8yrs Ellen Parry, Ava Jones, George Davey. 9yrs and over - Sadie Mekins, Hannah Savage. There were so many good entries in the 5-8 years class, that the judges awarded special awards to John Parry and Eleanor Savage.

The Flower Queen this year is Daisy-Mae Collitor, age 8, who attends Sedgfield Primary School. Her attendants are Chloe Laidlaw, age 11, from Castle View School, Sunderland, Maisie Wakes, age 6, from St Williams and Sophie Green, age 5, from Hardwick Primary School.

Mediaeval Fayre Day is fast approaching. Household, evening collections will be made during the week running up to the day and any volunteers wishing to help between 6 pm & 8 pm can add their names to the list in the Hall foyer, ring Pat (620607) or Wendy (620206) or simply turn up. Many hands do make light work and there's also a free drink for all helpers. For more information visit www.sedgfieldsca.org.uk

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Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch

Notes from the April Panel meeting

Chairman Ken Saiger called for two minutes silence to remember Edith Ferguson, a much valued and respected member of our little team, who passed away recently. Secretary reported progress on action on residents' personal safety fears and traffic issues with the Hospital roundabout, adjacent roads, damage to verges etc. on road to Sainsbury's. Durham County Traffic Asset Manager is to investigate in person and will meet our representatives at site.

Information was kindly provided by Acting Community Liaison Officer Craig Hilton, on **Safer-Homes**, a joint project between Durham Police and Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service. See www.ddfire.gov.uk/safer-homes-project for information. In a nutshell, Police and Fire visit vulnerable and elderly residents' homes to carry out Fire Safety and Security inspections, make recommendations and getting equipment such as smoke alarms, door & window alarms, door chains, security lights etc. installed at no cost to them. This is an excellent scheme and we encourage anyone who fits the criteria to refer themselves or anyone they know. Call **0191 3755561** or email saferhomes@ddfire.gov.uk. Beat Officer Keith Todd informed us that he had already utilized this scheme helping three members of the public who were victims of crime. Please note the scheme is not just for victims; it is very much aimed at helping the elderly and vulnerable in the community - a very real crime prevention initiative.

Crime Report: 11 Crimes have been reported since our February meeting:

7 Thefts; 1 Mugging/Theft; 1 Damage; 1 Burglary & 1 Assault.

Police Communications: Members' main issue was the lack of meaningful contact from the Police. Without notification, it seems the Voice Connect system is no longer usable or being used and that Police now rely on the Internet to communicate with the public, including N/H/Watch. Keith gave an example of where this had been successful, but not one person present thought they could see themselves using this successfully and explained to Keith just why! Members believe this change means they are now not being effectively used as eyes and ears to assist Police and coupled with other communication difficulties, they are feeling more and more ineffective in keeping Sedgefield a safe place to live.

Despite our misgivings we still ask members & residents to please keep trying and report all out of place or suspicious vehicles and also any persons or activities that cause you some concern to Police on tel.101 – it will help to make our village & our homes even safer. **The next NH Watch meeting will be held on Tuesday June 9th**

The Sedgefield Plan

Last month we reported that progress with the plan was shrouded in uncertainties caused by the negative report on the Durham County Council Local Plan by the inspector. We also reported on the outcome of an encouraging 'health check' of the plan, its assertions and policies carried out by the Queen's Council appointed by Planning Aid. We have restructured the plan to meet requirements suggested by the QC so the document is now in 6 sections, 4 of which are supporting data to the principle 2 sections, containing important planning policies for land use and business development that we have discussed and honed with the community in surveys, public meetings and discussions. They will soon be available to read on the plan website www.thesedgefieldplan.co.uk.

The town council will manage the consultation with statutory bodies and the steering group will finish a final draft of the plan prior to the town council submitting it to DCC for independent inspection. Early submission is critical because the policies of the DCC local plan are no longer valid and we must rely on the saved policies of the defunct Sedgefield Borough Council and specific comments in the inspector's interim report as the basis for the Sedgefield Plan and planning decisions going forward. Stuart Timmis, Head of Planning and Assets at DCC, confirmed this, and said on 9th April that, depending on the outcome of negotiations on options in the interim report, it will be 18 months to 3 years before a new Local plan is in place. The emergent Sedgefield Plan has 'weight' in the planning process because it is well advanced and submission for inspection strengthens that position. So it is crucial that this community with leadership from the town council, who commissioned the steering group, submit the plan for inspection urgently if the village is to be protected from rampant development. We are a community under siege and need to work together to combat unchecked development. As you read this much more will have happened and we will try to keep you informed, so keep an eye on the press and the website and make your views known whenever you need to.

The Sedgefield Plan Steering Group

PC Todd's report

Crime in and around Sedgefield village remains low, but one crime stands out as particularly nasty. A female resident recently had her handbag snatched from her grasp by an unknown male before he made off in a silver Vectra driven by an accomplice. Enquiries continue to identify them. Another despicable crime was the theft of a mobility scooter from outside Homebryth House. A group of youths were seen riding the scooter around the car park before it was eventually abandoned in the lake at the Hardwick Country Park. Shame on the youths responsible for this mindless theft and damage. Could anyone with information regarding these youths contact me at the Sedgefield office.

Other crimes reported include theft of a leaf blower from a works vehicle parked in Durham Rd. In The Orchard, wheel trims and front grille from a vehicle. Finally, by the time you read this I will be celebrating my completion of the London Marathon on 26th April. I may have aches and pains for a few days but there's still time to sponsor my achievements. Please go to my 'Just Giving' page on the internet and donate to my chosen charity, the ABF Soldiers Charity. Thank you in advance.

PACT

A meeting was held recently after the NHW meeting. Persons present decided that the Pact priority for the coming month would remain the inconsiderate parking of vehicles near to the entrance of Salters Lane Industrial Estate. Please, if you visit the nearby shops consider other road users and the congestion your vehicle may cause.

Pub Watch

At a meeting held recently in the Social Club. no incidents were reported which required further action from members. Until next time, Keith

Local Police 101

CPO Duncan Gill **01325 742714**

Parking Shop **0191 3846633**

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From a mobile: 0300 330 06 50

TYPETALK: 08444 111 445

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Employability Pit Stop

Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) offers a free service for people living in Trimdon, Fishburn and Sedgefield who are out of work or at risk of redundancy.

'Employability Pit Stops' are drop-in sessions to help people overcome barriers to employment. Attendees will develop skills to produce a targeted CV, how to job search successfully and develop interview techniques. The project will also offer support to access universal job match, writing job applications and provide information on universal credit. Trained advisors will offer advice and support to anyone wishing to find employment on Fridays from 1 - 3pm at Sedgefield Library. There are sessions in Trimdon and Trimdon Village on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday. For more information contact Leigh Ann at PCP on 01325 321234, email leigh.ramsay@pcp.uk.net or visit www.pcp.uk.net

Extra funding for community groups

New community safety and crime reduction projects will benefit communities in County Durham and Darlington after an increase in funding announced by Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner, who has teamed up with local grant-making charity, County Durham Community Foundation (CDCF) to deliver The Community Safety Fund. This fund was originally managed through the PCC's office with initial funding of £100,000 and has recently received £50,000 extra funding from the CDCF as a result of this new arrangement. Barbara Gubbins, Chief Executive of the CDCF commented: "This is an exciting new partnership which means that groups who have a particular focus on safety and crime reduction initiatives will be able to access additional funding. We look forward to working with the PCC and his team," whilst Mr Hogg added: "Ultimately this is excellent news for the area, as residents will benefit from even more community safety initiatives throughout County Durham and Darlington." Community groups and voluntary sector organisations can apply for funding to help improve community safety and reduce crime by visiting the County Durham Community Foundation website, **www.cdcf.org.uk**.

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WHAT'S ON IN MAY?

with Events Editor,
Paul Anderson

Friday 1st May

Sedgefield and District U3A: *Dr Peter Edwards* "A Beginners Guide to the Galaxy! At the Parish Hall from 2pm. Members Free, guests £3.00. Everyone Welcome - for more information phone Brenda on 01740 629674

Sunday 3rd

Sedgefield Farmers' Market on the village green, from 8.30am to 12.30pm

Monday 4th

Local History Speakers: TBA

Tuesday 5th

Sedgefield Gardening Club Ceddesfeld Hall 7.30pm. 'Plants for different places' Presented by Diane Nichol-Brown. All welcome

Wednesday 6th

Sedgefield W.I. A.G.M. Parish Hall at 7:15pm Members' Competition - A Sea Shell. Bring & Buy spare plants, seeds and seedlings. All welcome (£3.50 inc refreshments)

Thursday 7th

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

Friday 8th

Sedgefield Country Market Parish Hall 10-11.30am. Cakes, produce, crafts, cards and plants for sale. A perfect opportunity to enjoy a tea or coffee and cake while meeting friends, whilst a warm welcome awaits everyone

Saturday 9th

Sedgefield in Bloom Dance Night with The Old School Band in the Parish Hall. Tickets £9 to include pie and pea supper, available from the Town Council offices. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Monday 11th

Methodist Wives and Friends Andrew Hall - Wood Carving Demonstration

Friday 15th

Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer in the Parish Hall 9.30-11.30 come and meet up with friends.

Monday 18th

Meditation group The Welcome Room at St Edmund's. 7 - 7:30pm. All welcome for a short time of reflection.

Sedgefield Family History Group (Branch of Cleveland FHS). Ceddesfeld Hall 7.15pm. "The History of the Fairs & The Fairground" by Trevor Carroll. www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk or telephone 620367

Tuesday 19th

Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club Parish Hall 7.30pm. "Safari Sunset" with Liz Bishop, North East Area Demonstrator.

Saturday 23rd

Ray's Charity Ride Out 10am Westgate Road Newcastle, then onto The Manor House, Ferryhill 12pm, for a family day of fun with a BBQ, Tombola, Raffle, face painting & plenty of other activities all for £5.00. Raising Money for Alzheimer's North East and Auckland Park Hospital.

Tuesday 26th

Ladies' Club Ceddesfeld Hall. Durham Rug Makers

Looking ahead...

10th Annual Folk Festival, 4th-6th September. As summer approaches, preparations are well under way for the 10th Annual Folk Festival which takes place during the first weekend in September.

Preparations begin with a fund raising event in the Parish Hall on Friday, 15th May, headed by Kieron Goss, an international folk artist from Ireland and supported by Pipe Dream and John Wrightson Band. Tickets for this event are already virtually sold out.

Friday 1st May

Sedgefield Village Veterans

Coffee Morning at the Parish Hall from 9.30am

New Pathways Together

A new dementia support group
Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre,
(opposite Tesco)

Every Wednesday, 11am - 12 noon

Contact Dorothy Bowman on
01325 308094 for more details

Sunday May 24th

Hardwick Park

Annual Charity Dog Show

In aid of Stray Aid

Fun day for all the family.

Dog classes, stalls, refreshments,
bouncy castle, magic show.

Registration for dog show
from 10am.

Tel 0300 9994247

World War 1

Commemorations

with Sedgefield Local History
Society and Village Veterans
10.45-11am at the Veterans' Flag

Thursday 7th May

William Affleck Anderson

Monday 25th May

Cecil Aubrey Lowes

All welcome

Summer Concerts

Auckland Castle: Bishop Auckland

Bishop Auckland Music Society presents a series of concerts. This month ..

Soprano & Piano

Friday 8th May

7.30pm

in The Throne Room

Tickets for individual concerts are £12.50.
Ages 18 and under, are welcome free of charge. Please send S.A.E. with payment to the Treasurer, Brian Varley, 11 Dene Hall Drive, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6UF, Tel 01388

Sedgefield Library

Wednesday 9:30am - 12:30pm
 Thursday 10:00am - 6:00pm
 Friday 1:00pm - 7:00pm
 Saturday 9:30am - 12:30pm
 Tel: 03000 269521

Amended times for the Pop In Club

Tuesdays 9.30am - 12 noon
 Wednesdays 10am - 12.30 pm
 Thursdays 1 pm - 3.30pm

Paul's pick of the month...

So this review was of the Sedgefield Farmers' Market - not to be confused with Sedgefield Country Market, which I visited for last month's edition. Same thing I hear you say; oh no - same principle but very much different, especially this one. April's Farmers' Market had a very special twist. Not only was it swamped in the glorious sunshine of an Easter Sunday, but sweet music of a folk type nature wafted through the air. The music was being performed by 'Ceddesfolk', who in no doubt should be checked out; very good indeed. So, keeping a low profile from the 'Boss' and not to be confused as a mystery shopper, I had a mooch around and was not disappointed. It's so worth a visit for the purchase of great local produce, from simple vegetables to exotic fish, great looking pies, savouries and sweets to wood carvings and cheese. The market is held on the first Sunday of every month, and free Community Stalls are available for local groups, clubs, charities and other organizations who wish to promote themselves to the market customers. If you would like to take up the offer of a stall, please call Olwen Downs on 07717721874. Details of May market are on p2

Classic & Vintage Vehicles - calling owners & enthusiasts

Butterwick Hospice's Vintage & Classic Vehicle Events begin in May and they visit **Hardwick Country Park, on Tuesday 16th June from 5- 8.30m.** This event is always well attended and owners must register in advance to avoid disappointment. Scooters, tractors, classic, vintage cars, light haulage and motorbikes are all welcome. Entry is a minimum donation of £2 per event and proceeds go to the Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland. We hope for bumper attendance at our fundraising events in order to sustain this fabulous facility. For more information visit www.butterwick.org.uk/vintagecars, or call Lynn Albury on 01388 603003.

Regular Events, Meetings and Get-togethers

Acoustic Evenings 1st Fri & 4th Wed. Ceddesfeld Hall 8.30pm All welcome.
Bereavement Support Group 3 - 5pm. Thursday, St. Edmund's Church
Bridge Club Ceddesfeld Hall Sunday & Tuesday 7.30pm Beginners welcome. 620434
CAB Fortnightly Advice Sessions Wed 10am-3pm Advice & Information Centre
Café @St Catherine's Friendly chat & Fishburn gossip! Fridays 9.30-12.00
Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group Small friendly group 10am-12.00 Thursdays
Ceddesfeld Hall Pre-School Mon, Wed, Friam; Children 2+years. 620934
Community College Bowls Mon 4-8pm. Carpet/Short Mat, Coaching, 623198
Craft Club Swinhoe Room, Ceddesfeld Hall, 2nd & 4th Tues 7.30-10pm Tel: 620656
Eddies@4 Sundays For 2-6 year olds. 4pm, Welcome Room, St Edmund's. 621125
Fishburn Art Group Youth & Community Centre, Butterwick rd. Monday 9.30am-12
Fishburn Taekwondo Tues & Thurs 6pm, Youth & Community Centre. 07743455065
Lyrics Choirs Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall. SLYC 6pm Adults 7.30pm. All welcome.
NECP Concertina Workshop 2nd & 4th Sun1pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. 01642 588197
New Generation Church Every Sunday 11am at the Parish Hall. All welcome.
Rotary Club of Sedgefield Wed 7.30pm Bob 07831270892 / Mel 07530315331
Round Table 1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members welcome. Carl 07775644598
S'field Art Group Tuesday 6.30-8.30pm Methodist Church Hall. Tuition, all welcome
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S'field Players Parish Hall, 7.30, Sunday & Wednesday. SPYS Sunday 6.30. 620091
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Sports UPDATE

with Sports Editor, Chris Lines

As we march into May, the domestic football season is reaching its finale. If you're a supporter of any of the North East clubs, then there's a good chance that these are nervous times for you. As I type this, most of the region's teams are either striving for promotion or working hard to avoid relegation. There's no point outlining the various permutations here, as the situation will have no doubt changed again by the time you read this! Well, I'm sure that the neutrals are enjoying it, even if the North East public is not.

Talking of football, it's the end of an era for the grass roots game in Sedgfield, as NETPark FC is set to fold. The club has competed, in various guises and leagues, since 2001, and has enjoyed many highs and lows over the years. Sadly, it has proved impossible to maintain a strong enough squad of committed players for the club to continue.

As someone who was involved with NETPark FC for several years, I would like to pay tribute to David Ryder, who invested a huge level of energy and commitment over the years to run this club, with its roots firmly in the local community. I know that there were many other contributors over the years, on and off the pitch, but David was the common denominator throughout. So it's farewell to NETPark FC, along with the ritual Lionel Ritchie joke and much more. On the plus side, Mr Ryder is one of the driving forces behind Sedgfield Youth FC, which is going strong ...

Youth Football

After another successful season, Sedgfield Youth FC will hold its annual trophy presentation night on Saturday 9th May at Sedgfield Cricket Club. On the night, the club will be holding a raffle to raise some funds for future seasons. At the moment, Sedgfield Youth FC fields two teams, the under 10s and under 14s, and both are already preparing for next season with a series of friendly games over the next few months. The club is keen to start up new teams, as the management is regularly asked to do this by parents. However, it will only be possible with the input of enough volunteers. If you would like to get involved in supporting the club or can make a donation to the presentation night raffle please contact David Ryder on 07515 020766 - your help would be greatly appreciated.

Ironman Triathlon

Sedgfield resident Jean Gillespie will be taking part in an ironman triathlon, in Klagenfurt in Austria, on 28th June this year. Jean recently turned 60 and is tackling the event as a new challenge. The race will consist of a 2.4 mile open water swim, followed by 112 miles of cycling, and rounded off by a full 26.2 mile marathon run. Competitors will have to complete each section within a time limit, before moving immediately on to the next.

Jean is an active sportswoman. She has run marathons and was Sedgfield Squash Club ladies' champion for two years in a row. Until recently, she had never been a swimmer or cyclist, but then decided to take up this new sport, joining Durham Triathlon Club and now aiming for the daunting ironman distance. Over the last 18 months, Jean has trained extremely hard but has enjoyed every minute, learning from fellow triathletes and following a very strict programme.

Jean has trained in the individual disciplines, but also used Platinum Physiotherapy in Coxhoe to help strengthen and condition her body through a range of classes. Her family has also participated in the training and particularly enjoyed a 'holiday' to the sports resort Club La Santa on Lanzarote!

Jean will be raising money for the charity Cardiac Risk in the Young, in memory of her brother who died tragically years ago, at the age of just 26. We'll be following Jean's progress in Austria and will share news of how she gets on when we have it.



Squash

The official Sedgfield Squash Club season concluded at the end of April with the club championships. Once again there was a high level of participation from members and many people came along to watch and support both the semi-finals and finals. In the men's club closed competition final, Chris Gillespie versus Matt Marshall provided a mouth-watering prospect, both due to the quality of the players, but also because it was destined to be one of the most closely fought finals for some years. Chris and Matt did not disappoint, with a superb match of determination, agility and skill, which Matt eventually won 3-2, after being only two points away from potential defeat in the fourth game.

In the ladies' competition, Emma Rowsby clinched her fourth finals victory with a 3-0 win over Linda Cummings, while Oliver Walls won the junior final, beating George Peden in another superb match. Elsewhere, both Jack Stephenson and Jessica Weatherspoon did brilliantly to contest and win two junior finals each in the same evening. The season's full roll of honour reads as follows, winner then runner-up:

Club Closed: Matt Marshall, Chris Gillespie

Ladies Closed: Emma Rowsby, Linda Cummings

Junior Closed: Oliver Walls, George Peden

Men's Plate: Daniel Toas, Stefan Reay

Ladies' Plate: Sharon Brown, Sue Smith

Over 40s: Mal Bell, Chris Bunting

Over 50s: Jeff Sinclair, Gary Hetherington

Over 60s: Rob Emery, Ken Turner

Girls: Jess Weatherspoon, Gemma Hill

Junior Racketball: Jack Stephenson, David Worthington

Under 15s: James Knowlson, Alfie Phillips

Under 13s: Jack Stephenson, Charlie Phillips

Under 11s: Jess Weatherspoon, Alexander Young

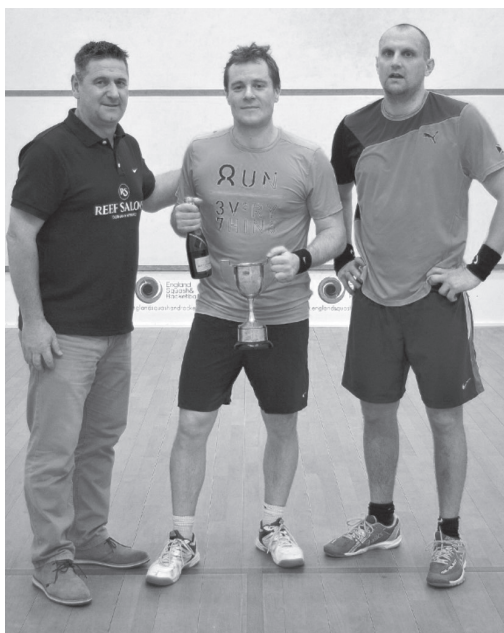
Pictured right are the Ladies' finalists 2015



Squash continued

At the club presentation evening, the following additional awards were presented. Men's Player of the Year was Leon Lamb and Ladies' Player of the Year, Emma Rowsby. Junior of the Year was Richard Flanagan and Club Member of the Year, Ken Turner.

Men's finalists 2015 are pictured right.



Athletics

Members of Sedgefield Harriers have enjoyed a good start to the summer track and field and road racing season. I'll provide a full update on the junior and senior highlights so far next month, but for now, I have some news of early success. As always, plenty of Harriers took part in the Hartlepool Marina Five Mile road race at the end of March. In a big and competitive field, the senior men secured the team prize with three great runs by James Oldfield (fifth overall), Kieran Walker (8th) and Paul Weir (11th). There have already been plenty of other great performances by club members of all ages – more next month.

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

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Your Letters

Shameful behaviour

An open letter to the thieves who stole a mobility scooter from the Homebryth House Car Park early on Good Friday evening. When you had enjoyed your fun with the stolen scooter, you dumped it in the lake in Hardwick Park, rendering it unusable. The owner of the scooter is a widow in her eighties who can only walk a short distance due to various health and mobility problems. She relies on her scooter to go shopping, to the bank and the library and to visit her friends etc. Her family live some considerable distance away so cannot help on a regular basis.

Your callous and thoughtless actions have destroyed this elderly ladies independence and caused her considerable distress. One day you too will get old and may suffer poor health and decreasing mobility. Perhaps then you will realise and hopefully regret the your behaviour on Good Friday.

Name and address supplied

Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May

Is it that time of the year already? Well, yes once again we are asking our dedicated volunteer collectors to give their time freely to deliver the envelopes, then call back to collect your donation. Christian Aid seeks to support some of the world's poorest people, so we once again ask you to be as generous as you can. Last year we collected just over £3,800 from Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon. This amount was further increased by approximately £362 as a result of the gift aid declarations. If you are a UK tax payer, the amount you give can be increased by 25% (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. It is not always easy to catch everyone when they are at home, but our collectors will try to call back a 2nd time. Thank you all for your continued support.

David & Margaret Glass

A day in the life of a Hardwick Park outside volunteer

The alarm clock rings insistently. It's no pleasure being hauled out of your dreams into the reality of a cold, dark winter's morning. Ah, but it's ok, it's Wednesday, Hardwick Park day. Today will be interesting, active, companionable and possibly entertaining. So, breakfast eaten, it's time for a kit check: hat, gloves, scarf, boots, wellies, waterproofs and a complete change of clothes just in case of accidental immersion in water (a rare but not unknown occurrence). All present and correct, so I'm ready to go.

Wednesday is the main day for volunteers at Hardwick. We number a dozen or so in all, and at 10am we are ready and waiting to be told by our enthusiastic Ranger what our tasks will be today. No two days are the same, even in the same season, so we never know until this point quite what will be in store for us. In summer the focus is on keeping the grass down, and we wield strimmers and mowers with enthusiasm. Occasionally we may get to use the ride-on mowers. Don't be deceived though; it's not as luxurious as you may think, what with molehills to bump over and face-level brambles to dodge. Come late summer, we go low-tech to rake cut-down wild flowers and grasses, and pitchfork it onto the trailer. It's deceptively arduous and we hope a member of the public will stop to talk to us so we can lean on our rakes and take a breather.

As autumn comes, planting and pruning take priority, while one day is spent dredging a 200 yard stretch of the Serpentine. We lean precariously from a wet grassy bank into the stream to rake in leaves, branches and assorted debris, bringing forth foul and lingering smells from the rotting depths. People give us an unusually wide berth, but the ducks appreciate our efforts in stirring up new food supplies, and they mosey on in with enthusiastic quacking. Some of us especially enjoy constructing a 'dead hedge', weaving pruned branches into a framework of stakes to create a natural-looking barrier which doubles as a shelter for wildlife.

Our Ranger either joins in with the work or drops by regularly to make sure we are happy, with all the right tools and not busily cutting down the wrong plants. We work in teams so there is always someone to chat to. We have all had different walks through life, everyone's story is interesting, we are never far from a laugh. The time zooms by. We bring different skills and knowledge to the tasks in hand, too. Some are immensely capable at anything from fencing to felling trees, some have an extensive understanding of the countryside; others simply enjoy being outdoors helping in the park. I fall into the latter category and try to make up for my townie lack of competence with enthusiasm and a semblance of hard work. So if you see us when you're in the park, do come and have a chat - we're always happy to stop for a few minutes!

Soon it's the end of the day and time to down tools, survey our finished work and make our way to the Rangers' cabin. Homeward bound, it's satisfying to feel that, as well as having a very enjoyable day, I have also made a small contribution to the maintenance of this lovely park. *Suzanne Hopper*

Station Road Playing Field Village Green registration

Thank you to everyone who provided evidence supporting this application for registration. I have over 120 responses, either as completed questionnaires and/or letters; also over 200 photographs and videos submitted as evidence as to the field's use some going back to the early 1970s. It is not too late if you wish to complete a questionnaire or if you have additional evidence that you would like to include to the registration authority. If you have not yet signed the back of "Map A", I will be contacting you soon.

We are now collating all the information and will make the final submission just as soon as I have all of the information and signatures to the map. Once the submission is made the registration authority may just accept and grant "village green" status to the field. The registration authority may choose to hold a "public inquiry". This sounds very grand but it means that an officer appointed by the registration authority will meet 10-15 locals to discuss their knowledge of Station Road Playing Field and ascertain the actual use of the area over the past twenty years.

If you have any further information or have not yet completed a questionnaire please contact; *N Holmes & Rachel Myers (0191 3839397) 620763 or email holmesway@hotmail.com*

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