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# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

## May 2017

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



### Church 'Friends' welcome Co-op project fund-raiser

Sedgefield's ancient church could soon become a warmer and more welcoming building, thanks to the local Co-op.

Friends of St Edmund's have welcomed news that their group is one of three local groups chosen to benefit from the store's latest Community Fund project - the other two being the Girl Guides and Sedgefield Primary School PTFA.

For the next six months, Co-op members can opt to give 1per cent of what they spend on Co-op branded goods to the new church heating system appeal. Local residents who are not already Co-op members can obtain the necessary blue card from the local store and then simply register it at [membership.coop.co.uk](http://membership.coop.co.uk)

Alison Hodgson, secretary of the Friends group, said this week: "We are delighted to have been chosen to benefit from the Co-op's project. A new heating system will be a great step forward as we progress towards making St Edmund's a true community hub." The Co-op has already given the Friends' appeal a major kick-start by donating a third share of all cash raised from the sale of its 5p carrier bags.

For the last 6 months the Co-op Community Fund has been collecting money for local projects and on 19 April Hayley the store manager and her colleague Judith handed over a total of £3,388, divided between Friends Of Sedgefield Harriers, Sedgefield Primary School PTFA and Sedgefield Community Association.

Sarah Guest thanked Hayley and her team on behalf of the SCA Committee saying that the funding would be used to help improve the environment at Ceddesfeld Hall with new furniture and refurbishment.

### GP practice: Changes to Out of Hours Appointments

**That was then ...** prior to 1st April 2017, Skerne Medical Group offered urgent appointments to patients on Saturday mornings between 8am & 12noon, accessed either by telephoning 111 or 'walking into the surgery'.

**This is now ...** from 1st April 2017 and following a public consultation process, the Clinical Commissioning Group commissioned a new primary care service for patients requiring immediate medical care, outside of normal GP hours, through South Durham Health CIC.

This new service provides access to general medical services in a variety of locations across the area of Sedgefield and Easington between 6pm & 8pm Mon to Fri and on both Saturday and Sunday mornings from 8am to 1pm. Patients in need of immediate medical assistance outside of 'normal' GP hours (Mon-Fri 8am - 6pm) need to contact the NHS via 111, where staff will advise you of the location of the most appropriate service based on your need. (See summary right.)

This new service is not operated by Skerne Medical Group although our premises at Harbinson House, Sedgefield are being used by the staff who provide the service, for the convenience of patients living in Sedgefield and the surrounding area.

### May 4th: Local Elections

On Thursday 4th May we vote to choose our representatives on Durham County Council.

**The candidates are as follows:**

**BELL Alan: Liberal Democrat**

**BROWN David Ralph: Conservative**

**CARR Mel: Independent**

**GASSTON John Harold: Conservative**

**LUMSDON Rachel: Labour**

**ILLINGWORTH Tim: UKIP**

**MOORE Christine: Independent**

**ROBINSON John: Labour**

**SEYMOUR Jimmy: Independent**

**WILLS Gloria: Independent**

Elections to Sedgefield Town Council are uncontested this time. The number of candidates nominated matched the number of places available so the following were automatically elected as Sedgefield Town Councillors

- Allan BLAKEMORE, Independent
- David Ralph BROWN, Conservative
- Robert Mark CANT, Independent
- Vanessa CARMICHAEL, Independent
- Mel CARR, Independent
- Jo ELLIOTT, Independent
- Alda Eleonarda HUMMELINCK, Independent
- Chris LINES, Independent
- Julie Elizabeth TOWLER, Independent
- Alf WALTON, Independent
- Gloria WILLS, Independent

### Out of Hours Appointments

Unless you are suffering from chest pain, choking, severe blood loss, blacking out, suspected stroke or are unconsciousness - (in these cases you should ring 999 or visit the nearest A&E department) - you should telephone 111 between 6pm and 8am and at weekends, if you require immediate medical care.

**POSITION VACANT:  
PARISH HALL CLEANER**

Sedgefield Town Council seek to appoint a Parish Hall Cleaner to work 6 hours per week. Hours of work will be scheduled flexibly around Parish Hall bookings on Saturdays & Sundays. There will be additional hours Monday to Friday when cover is required for the Parish Hall Caretaker & Cleaner.

Payment : £7.50 per hour.

If you are interested in this position, please contact the Town Clerk for further information.

Sedgefield Town Council Offices,  
Sedgefield TS21 3AT  
**01740 621273**

[town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk)

**THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

Notice is hereby given that we, Lesley Dexter & Neil Edmenson, have applied to the Durham County Council in respect of the premises known as

**DURHAM HOUSE, 8 WEST END,  
SEDFIELD. TS21 2BS**

for the grant of a Premises Licence to permit the following licensable activities:

The sale by retail of alcohol (on sales only) from 00:00 – 24:00 Monday to Sunday inclusive. For residential guests and ticketed events only.

The full application can be inspected at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Annand House, John Street North, Meadowfield, Durham. DH7 8RS between Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm by appointment.

Telephone: 03000 261016

Any representations about this application must be made in writing by **19<sup>th</sup> May 2017** and sent to:-

**Durham County Council, PO Box 617,  
Durham. DH1 9HZ**

or e-mail to [licensing@durham.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@durham.gov.uk)

**It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is unlimited.**

**The deadline for June copy is  
Monday 15th May**

**Contact Sedgefield News**

The editor: 07572 502 904

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Sport: [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)

**NB: NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR EVENTS**

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

*Steve's Nature Diary*

The natural world month by month: **May**

You may have read about various species that are increasing or decreasing and might wonder how we know this. Quite often it is due to an army of dedicated volunteers who spend some of their spare time surveying for particular species e.g. butterflies, bees, mammals, or birds. Local organisations like Tees Valley Wildlife Trust and Durham Wildlife Trust are always keen to receive records from members of the public or even better if you become one of these volunteers.

Last year 130 volunteers surveyed the rivers and becks of Durham and the Tees Valley looking for the distinctive signs of otter, footprints or spraint, or if very luck a glimpse of an otter disappearing under the water. They are also interested in hearing about your mink sightings – you may ask why?

Otters will eat a wide range of foods, given the opportunity, however they mainly eat fish. Mink, however, spread their diet much more widely, so while they do eat fish they also prey heavily on birds and small mammals. Unfortunately our native water vole is a favoured item on the mink menu and, as mink are smaller than otters, a female animal fits very snugly into a water vole burrow. This can result in the loss of an entire water vole colony from one predation event. The Trust urgently need to build a better picture of how widespread mink are in the North East, so it is important that all sightings are reported and recorded. So if you see a mink please let the Trust know – just some basic information such as date time and location.

**But how can you get involved this year?**

Durham Wildlife Trust are offering training to help people to learn how to survey.

There are sessions on:

Emperor Moths using pheromone lures; Chalk Carpet Moths, a calcareous grassland species; White Letter-Hairstreak Butterflies, a woodland butterfly with a white letter W on the underwing, as well as looking for Dragonflies and Damselflies at Low Barnes. Details can be found on the new look website <http://durhamwt.com/events/>



*Above: Emperor Moth, by Marjorie Baillie, The Wildlife Trust*

The British Trust for Ornithology each year organises several surveys, some of which the general public can get involved in. They use Birdtrack, an app to upload sightings, and for the second year running they are looking at House Martins.

We know surprisingly little about House Martins even though they breed alongside us, using our houses on which to build a nest made of hundreds of beakfuls of mud. We do not know why this species is in rapid decline in the UK. Currently, it is 'Amber listed' in the Birds of Conservation Concern listings, compiled by the UK's leading conservation agencies. The Nest Monitoring Study will involve volunteers making regular observations at individual nests to collect information about nesting activity. This study will be ideal for observers who have nests on their home or place of work. For more information visit [www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/house-martin-survey](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/house-martin-survey)





## Spring judging

Northumbria in Bloom judges Robert Germany and Anthea Stephenson enjoyed their spring visit to Sedgefield on a sunny April morning. They were very impressed by the impeccable standard of the floral beds created by council gardeners Stephen Young and his new partner Ben Gray, who are also responsible for the colourful tubs of flowers in the village centre. The new self-watering tubs have proved a boon, boosting the impact of vibrant bedding plants.

The judges also admired colourful displays created in Ceddesfeld Gardens by the volunteer Bloomers. Their major new project 'Stepping Through Time', has progressed dramatically since Robert's last visit two years ago. Victoria Conner, creator of the willow tunnels and creatures which have already proved so popular, joined the judges at the beginning of their walking tour. Final turning and tidying will take place over the next few weeks, ahead of planting of new shrubs in May and June. Further plants, including ferns and woodland bulbs will be added later.

Judges visited the Manor House, where owner Ean Parsons and Sedgefield mayor Chris Lines both spoke highly of the impact and value of gardens created there by Bloom volunteers.

The judges also admired attractive planting along the church wall and Vicar's Dash, Crispin Court, Rectory Row and the mixed border at Wykes Close, where preparations are well under way for a wildflower meadow to bloom in the summer. Beyond the village centre, planting in the Turnpike Bed and the vintage seed drill were complemented by a fine array of daffodils and zingy scarlet tulips.

Sedgefield in Bloom publicity officer Norma Neal said, 'The judges had nothing but praise and positive comments as we toured the village. Everyone, from traders and residents to council gardeners and grass cutters had pulled together with the Bloomers to make a great impression on this first judging day.'

**Summer Judging:** Robert and Anthea will return for summer judging on the morning of Wednesday July 19th.

*The judges, with Sedgefield in Bloom chairman, Howard Smith and Ian Sutherland*



## Letters & Thanks

### Christian Aid Week:

#### 14th - 20th May

It's that time of the year when we call upon our volunteer collectors again, to give freely of their time to deliver the envelopes and then call back to collect your donation. It is not always easy to catch everyone at home, but our collectors do try to call a second time. Christian Aid seeks to support some of the world's poorest people, so once again we ask you to be as generous as you can.

Last year we collected just over £3,900 from Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon. This amount was further increased by approximately £300 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.

Thank you all for your continued support.

*David & Margaret Glass*

### Thanks from Sue

I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes presents and cards at my retirement get together at the Dun Cow. It has been a pleasure looking after the pets and making friends over the years and now I have found time to do all the things I have struggled with while working.

I hope to keep in contact with everyone in future and to see you out and about. Thank you to Sedgefield news for including this.

*Sue Wears*

### Thanks from SACT

Sedgefield Area Churches Together took a stall at the April Farmers' Market to promote its activities in the local area.

It was lovely that so many people visited us, and the children had fun with scratch art and colouring.

Hot cross buns and a welcome cuppa were enjoyed by visitors and stall-holders around the market.

The beautiful paintings and cards kindly donated by a local artist were clearly appreciated; their sale helped to provide a generous donation towards the Foodbank.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way, including the market volunteers who erect the stalls.



## Elena's "Fashionistas" strut their stuff in a great cause

Many thanks from Elena Degan of Jayne's shop, to her models and to the members of Slimming World for their marvellous efforts at the Fashion Show on April 10th. Thanks also to everyone who donated raffle prizes and to the audience who came along to enjoy the show and to make their contributions to the fundraising.

**A magnificent £700 was raised for the Sir Bobby Robson foundation.**

## Letter from PC Todd

Crimes reported this month include burglary, theft and criminal damage. In Eastwell Close, thieves removed the keys to two vehicles after they had forced entry to a property via the patio doors. Later one vehicle was found abandoned and the other burnt out. Hardwick Hall suffered from more lead being taken from the roof and at the Total Garage two males took confectionary whilst paying for fuel. Damage was reported to the bus shelter in Durham Road where the glass panel was kicked out. Damage was also reported in Kerr Crescent where a door bell was pulled off and in Rectory Row the bottom panel of a garden gate suffered damage.

On a good note, a shoplifter was handed an 8 week custodial sentence for shoplifting in the Co-op. The offender had only just been released after a prison term for similar offences.

### Telephone Fraud:

Next, details of a disturbing recent case of attempted fraud to help prevent anyone else becoming a potential victim. Please be aware that phone

calls that are unexpected, apparently random and from people you have had no previous contact with, might be potentially dangerous to you. One such a call was made to a resident recently. The caller claimed that he represented an internet provider company and that they were phoning to repair the victim's internet and router. The caller then led the victim through a complicated series of questions and actions during which he informed the victim that she was entitled to £200 compensation as the problems she was having were their fault. At some point in that process the victim gave the caller her bank account details so that he could deposit the compensation in her account. After a pause to transfer the compensation to the victim's account, the caller informed the victim that he had pressed a wrong key and had accidentally transferred £4200 into her account. On checking her online banking, the victim found that a deposit of £4200 had indeed been made to her current account. The caller proceeded to tell the victim a sob story about how much trouble he would be in if he

couldn't get this money back and begged her to return it to him. He added that, as this whole mess was his fault, she need only return £3500 but that she would need to go to the post office to send the £3500 to SENEGAL by 'Moneygram'.

Fortunately, the vigilant post office staff were suspicious and the transfer of funds was not made. The victim, on checking her accounts more carefully discovered that the money that had appeared in her current account had been transferred from her own savings account by the fraudster once he had received her bank details. Please be careful and don't give anyone details of your account numbers and banking passwords. Reputable companies will never ask for these details over the phone (or in an email, for that matter) and so you can be quite sure that if anyone does ask for information like this **they are up to no good!**

**Pub Watch:** A meeting was held recently at the Golden Lion. No incidents were reported that required further action by members.

*Until next time, Keith*

## Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

The second Neighbourhood watch meeting of the year was held on Tuesday 11th April. PC Keith Todd provided details of crimes recorded in our locality between February 12th and April 11th 2017. These crimes comprised 4 thefts, 2 burglaries, 7 cases of anti-social behaviour, 4 of criminal damage, 1 robbery, 2 shoplifting incidents, an arson and a worrying case of attempted fraud; twenty two crimes in total.

The secretary circulated details, from Police UK public information, showing that the monthly average for crimes in the Sedgefield area for the full year ending January 2017 was almost 26. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th June.

**To contact Local Police & report any concerns, seek advice or pass on information to them, call 101. For advice/assistance contact Police Community Liaison Officer Faye Callan. Tel 101 Extension 742317. Email [Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk)**

## Helping the NHS to help us (see poster right)

I am sure that most of us have contacted the GP surgery at some point needing an appointment and been frustrated that we have been unable to book one on a day and time that is convenient to us. Meanwhile at the GP surgery, the staff have to deal with the frustration of patients not turning up for appointments, sometimes even those who have been given an appointment that day for something 'urgent'. Nearly 3,500 appointments were wasted or lost last year by people just not turning up.


So to improve the situation for everyone, the Skerne Medical Group is reminding us all to **cancel appointments that are not required**. 3,500 appointments equates to 111 GP days. Just imagine the difference that all that extra GP time could make if it could be used for seeing and treating patients.


# 3,464

## PATIENTS

DIDN'T ATTEND THEIR APPOINTMENTS IN 2016

Demand for appointments is at an all-time high. Cancelling your unwanted appointments will help everyone who needs to see a Doctor or Nurse. Please help the system and do not let valuable appointments go to waste.






THIS WASTED

# 53,377

MINUTES OF CLINICAL TIME

OR






# 111

GP DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

**WHY DOES IT HAPPEN?**

Here are some reasons why patients didn't turn up.

-  "I FELT BETTER BY THEN"
-  "I JUST FORGOT"
-  "I DIDN'T HAVE TRANSPORT"

**CAN'T MAKE IT? DON'T NEED IT? THEN CANCEL IT!**


Please get in touch if you can't make it or no longer need to see us. This way we can offer your appointment to someone else who needs it.

**CALL THE PRACTICE...**

SEDGEFIELD 01740 620300  
 FISHBURN 01740 620264  
 TRIMDON COLLIERY 01429 880284  
 TRIMDON VILLAGE 01429 880254

**...OR GO ONLINE**

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Molly Smith BSc. (HONS) MCSP SRP  
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Saturday 20th May - all the fun of the Fayre!

## The 47<sup>th</sup> Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre



SCA are now in the final stages of the organisation of this year's Mediaeval Fayre. The day begins at 10 am with the procession of the May Queen and the children's walking parade.

On the green, as well as the fairground rides, there is an array of stalls (books, tombola, groceries, white elephant, coconut shy, raffle) as well as a range of charity and craft stalls.

Events include mediaeval displays, Living History, tug of war, country dancing and children's dancing. On Ceddesfeld Hall lawns you'll find face painting, Punch & Judy, Birds of Prey, and new this year, the fabulous Police Interceptors. Refreshments are served all day in Ceddesfeld Hall and the bar is open.

Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre is run entirely by **volunteers** and the organisers are appealing for a bit of help on the day, or in the week leading up to the Fayre. Just one hour pledged will make a real difference, so if you can spare an hour or two to help on the stalls or in the refreshment hall, then please get in touch or sign up to help with collections on the roster in the foyer at Ceddesfeld Hall.

### Door To Door Collections take place in the week before the Fayre.

If you are able to help with collections and/or donate any non perishable foods, books, toys, bric-a-brac, raffle and tombola gifts this would be greatly appreciated. **Sorry though, we cannot take clothing, shoes, bikes, medium or large pieces of furniture, Hi-Fi or TVs.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May<br>6 – 8 pm    | Kerr Crescent etc. Pine Ridge etc. Mitford Court etc.<br>Hardwick Road etc. Durham Road & North End  |
| Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May<br>6 – 8 pm   | White House Drive etc. Hawthorn Road etc. The Lane etc.<br>St. Edmund's Green & East End etc.        |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May<br>6 – 8 pm | West End, Station Road etc. Spring Lane etc.<br>Queens Drive etc. & The Meadows etc.                 |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May<br>6 – 8 pm  | Winterton, Eden Drive, Thurlow etc. The Orchards etc.<br>Stockton Road, Rectory Row & Village Centre |
|  | Also, from Monday to Wednesday, 6 – 8 pm, residents may leave items at 17 Winterton Avenue.          |

Articles can also be left at Ceddesfeld Hall each evening 15th -18th May after 7.30pm. If you miss the collection van, or need something collecting at a more convenient time, please contact any one below. For further details visit [www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk) or contact Wendy on 620206, Pat on 620207, John and Maxine on 620042 or Sarah on 622185

## More of the fun of the Fayre

**There are prizes to be won at the great Tug of War so why not enter a team of eight?**

On the green, don't miss Escafeld Knight, with their mediaeval demonstrations, battle enactments and challenges for the youngsters.

Escafeld also have their Living History and Mediaeval crafts display in Ceddesfeld grounds, alongside Punch & Judy, Children's rides and entertainment, the beautiful Birds of Prey and ACLE.

St. Edmund's Church showcases Lyrics choirs, Northumbrian Pipers, an organ recital and trips up the church tower.

**Last but not least - have you bought your Raffle Tickets?**

**There are always fabulous prizes!**

## The Trusty



News from

**Sedgefield Development Trust**

### Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 7th May on the Green

Despite the coincidence of the Bishop Auckland Food festival, we had another record market in April, with a total of 18 stalls around the green. We were very pleased to reach this level and it shows just how successful the market is becoming. If you've never tried the market, you might be pleasantly surprised by what you find if you pop along for a look.

For May we're hoping to add a local brewery and a garden compost maker. Watch our Facebook and twitter posts for stall details.

The Community Stall will be taken by The Lions Charity. For entertainment - well, after the last two May market drenchings, we really hope that the children of Rectory Row School will finally get the chance to show off their dance routine around the Maypole. Third time lucky? Fingers crossed for fair weather, good photos and happy children!

The Farmers' Market email address is [farmersmarket@sedgefieldweb.co.uk](mailto:farmersmarket@sedgefieldweb.co.uk)

### Sedgefield Energy Switch

**A brief reminder that the current Registration period opened in April and closes on May 22nd with the Auction 23rd May. Offer letters will be sent out from 5th June and acceptance closes on 4th July.**

**If you need help to register, please call our dedicated phone number - 07980 134 594 - leave your contact details and someone will contact you. If you are confident online, to register, go to [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk) and click on Energy Switch.**

We'll bring news of some of the other SDT projects next month.

### Art Exhibition on Fayre Day

Sedgefield Art group will host its annual exhibition in the Manor House on Saturday 20th May from 10am - 4pm.

If you are visiting the Fayre, please drop in and enjoy the variety of artistic talent on display. The group meets on Tuesday evenings (6.30 - 8.30) term time only, and is tutored by the well known local artist, Derek Slater. Admission to the exhibition is free.



BRIGHT WATER

### Bright Water Wanders

A series of Guided Walks are taking place around the area, organised by Bright Water with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.



They feature interesting parts of the Skerne catchment area, in walks of varying distances and levels of difficulty. The walks continue through summer.

For more information and for the timetable of walks you can look at the following website; [www.discoverbrightwater.org](http://www.discoverbrightwater.org) or call **01915843112** to book a space.

These are the walks for May:

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May @ 1.30pm**  
**Heworth & Preston le Skerne**  
**5 Miles**

This walk starts in Aycliffe Village and takes in Heworth and Preston le Skerne, both of which are the site of deserted Medieval Villages. We return to Aycliffe via Ricknall Mill and the banks of the River Skerne.

Difficulty: Easy, relatively flat walk.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May @ 2.00pm**  
**Bishop Middleham**  
**3 Miles**

Journey with us as we explore the site of the former Prince Bishop's Castle and Deer Park Wall, Castle Lake and the River Skerne. The meeting point is St. Michael's Church which will be open for refreshments after the walk.

Difficulty: Easy, relatively flat walk.



Keep up with Bright Water on social media



### Sedgefield Blues Club

#### Friday 26th May at 7pm - Eugene Bridges plus Half Deaf Clatch

This month Sedgefield Blues Club will host Eugene Bridges, the legendary blues guitarist and superb entertainer in the style of BB King and Robert Cray. This is a man blessed with a level of craftsmanship far beyond his years and is the man who may just hold the gift to the future of blues. If you like your blues music laced with soul, funk, gospel and rock and delivered with buckets of class and warmth, then Eugene should not be missed.

Drawing from his obsession with pre-war country blues, Half Deaf Clatch, aka Andrew McLatchie, has been impressing audiences all over the UK for the last six years with his raw down-home blues sound and his original song writing.

Described as a Slide Stomp Blues Machine he has been nominated in the finals of the British Blues Awards eleven times in the last four years.

Tickets are £12, from the usual places. [www.sedgefieldblues.com](http://www.sedgefieldblues.com) or 07957104434.

### Ceddesfeld Open Mic

The next open Mic Night at Ceddesfeld Hall will take place on Saturday 6th May with doors opening at 7.00. Performers enter for free but please get there early if you want to book a performance slot to avoid disappointment. We welcome all kinds of performances, not just music and look forward to seeing you there.



**OPEN MIC NIGHT**

**CEDDESFELD HALL**  
**SATURDAY MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> @ 7.30**

£3 ENTRY ON THE DOOR  
 BAR AVAILABLE  
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 T\_GUEST56@HOTMAIL.COM  
 FOR INFO

### Sedgefield Races Celebration

To Celebrate 90 years of being a limited company, Sedgefield Racecourse are giving away 1927 Grandstand and Paddock tickets to their May 4th event. All you have to do is text SEDGFIELD to 60777 to claim your free ticket. After the racing there will be entertainment from X Factor's Michael Rice and soul songs from Ashley Tweddle. An event not to be missed. See poster below.



**CELEBRATE RACING SINCE 1927**

**THURSDAY MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**AFTER RACING ENTERTAINMENT**  
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**ASHLEY TWEDDLE**

**MICHAEL RICE**

**LES WAITS**



## Couch to 5k... it could be you!

In January a group of self-declared 'couch potatoes' joined a beginners running group. Led by Sheree Lyons, a run leader and member of Sedgefield Harriers the group started with simple warm up exercises and some gentle jogging.

Meeting every Saturday morning in Hardwick Park for an hour they amazed themselves with their progress and at the end of the 10 week programme 8 of them completed their first 5km (3.1miles). They celebrated by running their first park run in Hardwick Park on 8 April. Supported by Sue, Helen and Ali, fellow Sedgefield Harriers, Sheree encouraged Emily, Kelly, Ronnie, Barbara, Steve, Jenny, Danielle and Sheila around the 5km course, cheered on by family, friends and fellow park runners. And some of them have already been back to run again. They were all motivated to get fitter, lose weight and feel healthier, but there were other unexpected benefits too. "I joined the group hoping to get fit and lose weight" said Kelly, "but I also gained friends, confidence and a feeling of pride".

**If you are inspired, why not join the next group?** Absolutely no experience of running is required. The next **free** 10 week course starts on Saturday 13 May. Meet outside Hardwick Park Visitor Centre at 11am.



Sheree, far right, with her successful runners and fellow Harriers (Steve had already run off!)

## A Sedgefield winner in the VW Racing Cup

Father and son, Simon and Owen Walton had a weekend of mixed emotions in the opening round of the VW Racing Cup supporting the British GT. Driving for Swanflight the first racing took place at Oulton Park in a big grid of 27 cars. Driving a brand new pair of Audi TT's built from scratch over the winter, qualifying was tricky in the wet weather, as the drivers and cars have undergone very little wet weather testing. Owen managed to qualify 15th and Simon qualified 22nd.

With the track drying up but spots of rain still coming down and grey skies overhead looking to open any minute the team made a bold decision to use slick tyres in the hope that the circuit had a dry line and the rain would hold off for the 20min race. That gamble paid off with Owen fighting his way through the pack from 15th to 1st on lap 8, setting the fastest lap of the race and holding his position to come through the chequered flag as the winner. Simon also made good progress and managed to bring the car home in P14 making up 7 places.

Race 2 and a reverse grid put Owen in P6 and carrying the 40kg of championship ballast. Although he had a poor start he didn't lose any places, getting up to P5 and then holding P3 and P4 the full duration of the race. Then on the last lap, with two corners to go, disaster struck with Owen losing all brakes at Druids. The car went into the barrier, over it and in to the trees.

Thankfully Owen is completely fine, walking away from the crash. However, the team will have a lot of work to do to get the car repaired to come back fighting for the next race at Rockingham on 30 April. Meanwhile Simon finished a respectable 10th and with his car in one piece.



Thanks to @djnelsonsports for the photos of Owen Walton on the podium and on the track.

## Green-fingered volunteers wanted at Care Home

Willowdene Care Home on Lizard Lane, between Sedgefield and Fishburn, are looking for volunteers to help with a gardening project to revamp the home's gardens. They would help with various general gardening activities in the home's grounds and dementia-friendly garden area, including potting plants, planting flowers and bulbs, tidying up borders etc. Input from volunteers on suggested plants and landscaping ideas are welcome, as are any donations of flowers, shrubs etc.

**Anyone interested please contact Activities Coordinator Angela Penman, or Home Manager Carole Christmas. Tel: 01740 771310.**

## Business Networking Breakfast The next in Sedgefield Business Network's series of regular networking breakfasts is on 23rd May at 8 am.

Hosted and sponsored by Eclipse Fitness & Personal Training, and sponsored by Business Durham, the event will be held at the Eclipse gym in St. Luke's Church, St. Luke's Crescent, Winterton Park, Sedgefield.

Guest speaker Sarah Slaven, of Business Durham, will speak briefly about funding opportunities for new and growing businesses in the area, and will be on hand with a team to answer individual queries, supported by Steve Barker of Bankfield Finance.

Anyone in business in Sedgefield or the local area is welcome. There is no charge for attending the breakfast, but prior registration is essential. Please contact [sedgefieldbn@gmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldbn@gmail.com) by May 18th to register and to join the mailing list, or see our Facebook page or Twitter for further information.



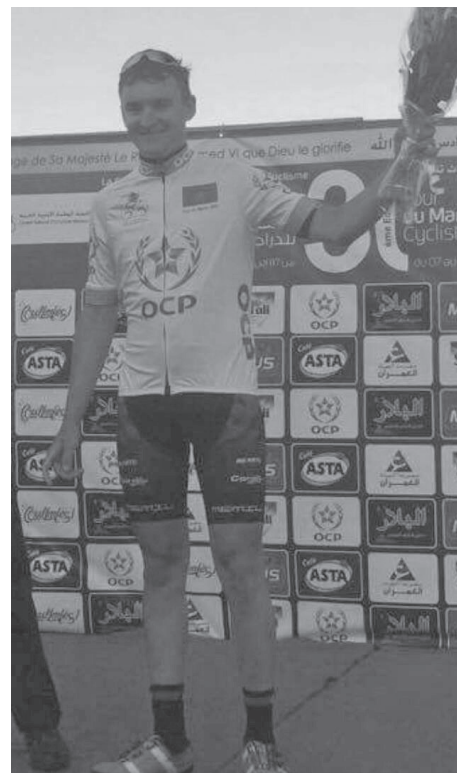
## SPORTS UPDATE

email [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)

This is a tricky month for compiling the sports update. It's not that there isn't plenty of news to report from Sedgefield – that's very rarely a problem! The snag is that some of it won't be happening until after the print deadline for Sedgefield News. Sedgefield District RUFC will have played their final fixture of the season just as I send this document to the editor, while various runners from Sedgefield will be making their final preparations for the London Marathon the following day. A few days after that, the annual Neptune Relays event will draw athletes from all around the North East to Hardwick Park, and then 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April will see the finals nights of the Sedgefield Squash Club Championship for senior and junior players (if this does happen to appear through your letterbox in time, you are welcome to pop along to the club and watch the action). So, there's an awful lot going on as always, but I can't yet share many of the details or results, because I don't have them (the notable exceptions are below). That's a shame, as they might provide a welcome distraction from the tail end of the football season for supporters of several of the North East's well known clubs...

### Cycling

Talented young Sedgefield cyclist Ben Hetherington, pictured right, continues to make very encouraging progress in the sport. Aged 21, Ben is now a member of the Memil Pro Cycling team and rides regularly in races around the world. During April, he tackled the Tour de Maroc, a 10-stage race in Morocco that is part of the UCI's (Union Cycliste Internationale) Africa tour of events. The event involved 1500km of riding across the north part of the country and almost 40 hours on the bike. During the first four stages, Ben was a proactive rider, regularly getting involved in breaks from the main peloton. On the fifth day, Ben once again forced the pace and was part of a breakaway. At the foot of the stage's long and hard climb, he got away with five others and they worked well together. With 20km to go, Ben made a solo break and despite a headwind and the chasing bunch of sprinters, he managed to stay ahead and claim the stage win, the biggest victory of his career to date. Ben went on to finish 27<sup>th</sup> overall in the Tour de Maroc, a very impressive result at that level for a young rider. I will bring you more news as Ben continues to compete in road races this year.



*Cyclist Ben Hetherington celebrates his win*

### Squash

The Sedgefield Squash Club season is drawing to a successful close. The senior teams have now completed their campaigns, with the men's first and second teams consolidating their respective positions in Divisions 1 and 2 of the county leagues. It was even better news for the men's third and fourth teams, who both secured promotion from their divisions - a great effort. The ladies' team narrowly missed out on a place in the final of the County Cup, and finished their league season in good form.

Although the playing season is drawing to a close, important dates in the Sedgefield Squash Club diary are looming, with the AGM in Ceddesfeld Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm. The following evening, the club presentation evening will be held in the Parish Hall. Contact Chris Rowsby on 01740 621125 for more details or add your name to the list on display inside the club. All nominations are welcome for the unconventional "DAFTA" awards for acts of amusement or stupidity! From 11<sup>th</sup> May, Sedgefield Squash Club will launch a new Club Night, which will run every Thursday until the end of August, from 6:00-8:00pm. The night is open to all current and potential members of all standards and costs just £3 per session (this is in addition to the long-standing Saturday afternoon session which continues as ever).

### Sedgefield Village Games

The team behind the Sedgefield Village Games (SVG) initiative is currently planning activities for later in the year. Meanwhile, SVG will continue to offer its supply of sports equipment for community use (e.g. some of the kit is made available each month for younger visitors to the farmers' market).

A recent audit of the equipment means that the team knows exactly what it has in storage, so if community groups are interested in using any of it for events, they should contact SVG. Email [sedgefieldvillagegames@gmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldvillagegames@gmail.com) or search at [www.facebook.com/sedgefieldvillagegames](http://www.facebook.com/sedgefieldvillagegames)

One of the objectives of SVG is to support talented young sports people from Sedgefield with bursaries. Ben Hetherington (see cycling) was given assistance when younger that helped him to cut his teeth in cycling competitions outside the North East. For more information visit <http://sedgefieldgames.com/bursaries.html>.

### Athletics

Several junior Sedgefield Harriers represented County Durham in the North East Regional Sportshall competition towards the end of March. There were Sedgefield athletes in the under 11 and under 13 boys teams, and in the under 11 girls team, all of whom finished second in their respective competitions. Meanwhile, the under 13 girls team won and four Sedgefield Harriers have gone to represent the North East (as part of the County Durham team) at the Sportshall UK final in Manchester in April. You guessed it – the event takes place too late in the month for me to report on it in this issue! I will include details next time.

That's all for this month.

**As always, please send any sports news to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)**

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# May 2017 DIARY

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| Date     | Event   |
|----------|---|
| Mon 1st  | <b>Local History Society.</b> Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45:pm. Kate Middleton's family History - Brenda Graham<br><b>Buggy Cardio and tone.</b> Hardwick Park 11.30am to 12.30pm. Meet in Car Park. <b>Also on Mondays 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.</b>   |
| Tue 2nd  | <b>Sedgefield Gardening Club.</b> Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.30pm. "Orchids in Malaysia" by Chris Barker. For information phone Ann Oliver on 01740 620084.<br><b>Ladies Club.</b> Ceddesfeld Hall Info 620296  |
| Wed 3rd  | <b>Sedgefield WI.</b> 7.15pm Parish Hall. Annual General Meeting & Horticultural Bring & Buy; please bring spare seedlings, seeds, plants, cuttings. All Welcome.   |
| Thu 4th  | <b>Durham County Council Elections.</b><br><b>Local History Society &amp; Sedgefield Veterans.</b> WW1 Commemorations at 10.45am at the War Memorial.<br><b>Buggy Cardio and tone.</b> Hardwick Park 11.30am to 12.30pm. Meet in Car Park. <b>Also on Thursdays 11th, 18th, 25th.</b> |
| Fri 5th  | <b>U3A.</b> Parish Hall 2pm. Malcolm Pratt on The Role of the Lord Lieutenant of County Durham. Members free. Guests welcome £3 at the door. 629276<br><b>Sedgefield Veterans Coffee Morning.</b> Sedgefield Parish Hall 10am to 12 noon.   |
| Sat 6th  | <b>Friends of St Edmund's Coffee Morning.</b> In church 10am - 12noon.<br><b>Sedgefield Players</b> present 'The Regina Monologues' at the Northern Round of the All England Theatre Festival, Saltburn   |
| Sun 7th  | <b>Sedgefield Farmers' Market</b> on the Village Green from 8.30 am<br><b>Sedgefield Players</b> present 'The Regina Monologues' as Saturday.   |
| Mon 8th  | <b>Methodist Wives and Friends.</b> 7.30pm In the Methodist Church Hall. Sue Peat.  |
| Tue 9th  | <b>Ladies Club.</b> Ceddesfeld Hall. Info 620296  |
| Thu 11th | <b>Sew Easy.</b> 7 - 9 pm fortnightly. Boardroom, Parish Hall. Info, G. Wills 622447<br><b>Sedgefield Show Meeting.</b> Social Club 8pm. Info, Ann Oliver 01740 620084  |
| Fri 12th | <b>Sedgefield Country Market.</b> Parish Hall 10 to 11.30am. Home Baked Produce, Crafts, Jams, Cards, Plants, Refreshments. information phone 01740 629441.   |
| Tue 16th | <b>Ferryhill, Sedgefield &amp; District Flower Club.</b> Parish Hall, 7.30pm. Demonstration by Carys Harrison entitled "Have Passport will Travel". Members free; Non Members £5.   |
| Fri 19th | Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning. 9.30 - 11.30am Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. Come & meet friends and enjoy coffee & scones.  |
| Sun 21st | <b>Local History Society &amp; Sedgefield Veterans.</b> WW1 Commemorations, 10.45am at the War Memorial.  |
| Tue 23rd | Business Networking Breakfast 8am. Eclipse Gym, St. Luke's Church, Winterton.   |
| Thu 25th | <b>Sew Easy.</b> As above   |
| Fri 26th | <b>Sedgefield Blues Club.</b> Eugene Bridges. Tickets can be purchased online at <a href="http://www.sedgefieldblues.com">www.sedgefieldblues.com</a> or by calling 07957104434.  |

## Looking ahead to Open Farm Sunday

**Sunday 11th June, 11am - 4pm at Hopper House Farm.** Sharon and Stephen Brown are taking part in this year's Open Farm Sunday - a nationwide initiative whereby farmers are encouraged to allow the public to visit a working farm. The event is free and suitable for all the family. The farm has 200 dairy cows which are milked through 4 automatic milking 'robots' (as featured in Sedgefield News some years ago.) As well as seeing the cows being milked there are the younger animals and calves. The Browns' milk buyer, Arla Foods, will provide goodie bags and

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**Thursdays Wiggly Bookworms** 2.15pm term time only, for pre-school children. £2/session, booking essential.

## Sedgefield Social Club

Saturday 6th May: Ray

Saturday 13th May: Tony Burnett

Saturday 20th May: JoJo

Monday 22nd May: Country Night, Brian Gibson

Saturday 27th May: John Conlon

## Fitness Classes @The Hub

### Sedgefield Community College

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**For tennis, wheelchair rugby & other sports, call the Hub on 01740 625326**

## New Generation Church

Every Sunday at the Parish Hall

**NB. Now at 10.30**

## Church Guide Launch

Friend's of St Edmund's will launch their new guide at the church coffee morning on **Saturday 6 May** from 10am-12noon. Artist Kev Stevens will be signing limited edition prints of the 'Pickled Parson'. Treasure hunt for children, cake stall and raffle. All very welcome.

## Folk Festival Fundraiser

**Saturday 13th May**

**Concert in the Parish Hall at 7.45pm**

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Tickets £11. For information or to book, call 01740 621347.

## Open Farm Sunday continued

quizzes for the children as well as free samples of their products. There will also be refreshments for sale. Hopper House Farm is situated a mile past the Racecourse on Racecourse Road. Why not pop along take a look at how some of your food is produced?

Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the Publisher or the Editor. We strive to be impartial & independent. We reserve the right to edit copy & will not publish letters of unknown authorship. Please send your contact details with correspondence.

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