



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

SEDGEFIELD NEWS



MAY 2018

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Partners work together to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour

By Inspector Sarah Honeyman

In recent weeks Sedgefield has seen a dramatic rise in numbers of youths gathering in the village on Friday and Saturday nights. Police have previously used dispersal powers to move groups of youths from areas where their presence is alarming residents. Whilst there has been some instances of minor criminal damage, arranged fights and one instance whereby a 13 year old female was arrested in possession of a knife, the vast majority of youths are well behaved and are not committing offences. It is clear that numbers have increased as youths are travelling from towns and villages far and wide to meet friends in Sedgefield. Many are dropped off by parents who view Sedgefield as a safe place to gather. It is certainly true that Sedgefield is a safe and nice place to live and visit.



In response to resident's concerns regarding the large numbers of youths a multi-agency meeting was held at Sedgefield Parish Hall on Thursday 19th April 2018. The photograph above shows some of those who attended.

Article continues on page 4

May's Sinister Twist

In spring winds, flowers bend and sway,
Sunshine's Tulips form a pretty bouquet.
Exotic Orchids nothing more, nothing less,
Delicate and loving, the flower goddess.
Daffodils swing with their heads held high,
Not long woken from the beds they lie.
With sinister twist, the last goddess of spring,
Dies, taking new life under her wing.
Green Jester the fool and his hobby horse,
Will find another as a matter of course...
Another sacred dance around the Maypole,
Entwining next years beautiful Soul...
The Unknown Poet 2018.



Mediaeval Fayre 2018 is on May 19th *Details in SCA news on page 6*

Door to door collections for the Fayre

Donations of non perishable foods, books, toys, bric-a-brac, raffle and tombola gifts this would be greatly appreciated. SCA are not able to take any furniture or clothes.

Monday 14 th May 6 – 8 pm	Kerr Crescent etc. Pine Ridge etc. Mitford Court etc. Hardwick Road etc. Durham Road & North End
Tuesday 15 th May 6 – 8 pm	White House Drive etc. Hawthorn Road etc. The Lane etc. St. Edmund's Green & East End etc.
Wednesday 16 th May 6 – 8 pm	West End, Station Road etc. Spring Lane etc. Queens Drive etc. & The Meadows etc.
Thursday 17 th May 6 – 8 pm	Eden Drive, Thurlow etc. The Orchards etc. Stockton Road, Rectory Row & Village Centre
Winterton	Please call John on 01740 620042 to arrange collection. Alternatively items may be taken to Ceddesfeld Hall.

Items can also be left at Ceddesfeld Hall each evening, 14th – 17th May after 7.30pm

HAVE A GO! On Sunday 6th May, at Sedgefield Farmers' Market, anyone can try dancing round the Maypole, with experts on hand to show how.

DEADLINE FOR JUNE EDITION

Tuesday 15th May

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Facebook pages for Sedgefield News &

Sedgefield Farmer's Market.

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Steve's Nature Diary MAY

May finds the breeding season well underway and with day lengths getting longer, not only can animals spend more time looking for food, but also there is opportunity for us to have a stroll after work. We are so lucky to have several nature reserves and green spaces on our doorstep including Hardwick Park, Bishop Middleham quarry and wetlands, Hurworth Burn and Castle Eden Walkway and many others.

On a warm day it can be worth visiting yet another site not too far away - Wingate Quarry Local Nature Reserve. This was Durham County Council's first nature reserve and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Habitats include grassland, woodland, wetland and scrub. Wingate Quarry was quarried for Magnesian Limestone rock, the soil is shallow, of poor quality and has a high lime content. This affects the types of plants which grow here and these are known as Magnesian Limestone grassland. Wingate Quarry is now a refuge for many of these rare plants. In fact the site contains over 34 species of wildflowers including Common Spotted Orchid, Birdsfoot Trefoil and Quaking Grass. One of my favourites that can easily be found is the Butterwort, a carnivorous plant which has sticky leaves and attracts flies. Once stuck the plant absorbs the nutrients to help it survive on the nutrient poor soil. It is worth spending some time looking near the ponds, you may see dragonflies and damselflies and, if you are lucky, Great Crested Newts. The site can be very good for butterflies but pick a warm sunny day and you may see commoner species alongside Marbled Whites and Dingy Skippers.



Top Left: Quaking Grass photographed by Bruce Shortland.

Clockwise from top right: Butterwort, Birdsfoot Trefoil and Common Spotted Orchid. Photos by Philip Precey.



On one visit to Wingate Quarry, we came across an insect I had never seen before – we nearly stood on it! A black sausage shaped beetle with a bloated abdomen. On further investigation, using our field guide we discovered it was an Oil Beetle – so called because if attacked it exudes a toxic cocktail of oil which will deter most predators. With further research we found out that it has a complicated life cycle. The swollen abdomen is full of eggs and the females look for somewhere to dig a burrow to lay them in. When the hundreds of tiny larva hatch they look nothing like their parents; they are pale, thin and fast moving and immediately swarm up flower heads not looking for nectar but a lift. On each leg they have three hooks, and because of this are known as triungulins (from the Latin for three claws). They wait until a solitary bee comes along and then using their hooks they attach to the bee and hitch a lift back to their burrow. Here they eat the bees' eggs and feast on pollen before pupating and eventually emerging in spring. Oil Beetles are relatively rare so keep an eye out for them and if you find one let the Wildlife Trust know!

Looking for a home

WI Allsorts has just celebrated its first birthday and has already grown to 20 members. We are struggling for space in our current home so does anyone know of any community space with seating for 20 people, toilets, tables and a kitchen facility? We would hire it once per month. Please get in touch via our Facebook page.



Oldest wedding dress appeal

A search is on for the oldest surviving wedding dress in the parish of the Upper Skerne, which includes the villages of Sedgfield, Fishburn, the Trimdons and Bishop Middleham. The dress will become the centrepiece of a **'Weddings Then and Now'** exhibition at St Michael's Church, Bishop Middleham on Saturday 12th May, between 11am and 4pm. It will feature original bride and bridegroom wedding outfits, wedding memorabilia and photographs.

Team Vicar Michael Thompson said this week: "We are looking for dresses from across the decades and there's a prize for the oldest one we discover. We'd also welcome the loan of a tailor's dummy or a mannequin to display the dress".

The appeal has already produced dresses from the late 1940s to the modern day (the oldest so far is one from 1949, made from the silk of a parachute canopy). "We'd love to find one even older than that", said Michael. The exhibition will include wedding texts, poems and written anecdotes about specific weddings and wedding traditions, floral arrangements, stands from local wedding services, activities and crafts as well as refreshments, including wedding cake.

Entry is free but donations are being invited for St Michael's Boiler Fund. Further information is available at thenandnow@talktalk.net or by calling 01740 654966.

'A fantastic historical gem'

A visit to a Grade I listed Jacobean home near Richmond is being organised by the Friends of St Edmund's Church, on Thursday, July 12, as part of their annual social programme.

Kiplin Hall, (left) near Scorton, was built for George Calvert (Secretary of State to James I and founder of Maryland in the USA) and it is filled with wonderful furniture, portraits, paintings and personalia. Set in 100 acres of lovely gardens, "Kiplin Hall is a fascinating place in that it might just have been vacated by its Victorian owners", said Brian Mutch, membership secretary of the Friends.

The estimated cost of £33 includes the coach from Sedgfield, refreshments on arrival, a guided tour and lunch. Further information is available from Brian on 01740 622302 or secretary Alison Hodgson on 01740 620912.



A welcome donation *Above: Julie Ann of Hays Travel presents the cheque*

A foundation dedicated to improving the lives of sick and underprivileged children in the North East has been given a boost of almost £4,000. Hays Travel in Sedgefield recently donated a total of £3,990 to the Ellen Timney Foundation – a charity set up in celebration of the life of local mum and wife Ellen, who passed away in 2007.

Throughout her life, Ellen, was committed to helping others and was involved in a number of charity projects - it is the mission of the foundation to continue her work.

In October the Ellen Timney Foundation hosted their annual ball, where the team from Hays Travel held a raffle, raising £1995. Following the branch's application for match-funding from the Hays Travel Foundation, this amount was doubled.

Commenting on the success of the raffle branch manager of Hays Travel in Sedgefield, Julie Ann, said: "We're delighted to be able to donate such high amount this year, especially receiving match funding from the Foundation. We have worked alongside the Ellen Timney Foundation from the very start, and have helped to raise money that can really make a difference to the lives of the children the charity supports. We hope this donation will go some way to help them continue their great work."

Jane Morgan, daughter of Ellen Timney and chair of the foundation, said: "We are very grateful for the support we have received from Julie Ann and her team throughout the years. In addition, we would like to thank the Hays Travel Foundation for their tremendous support."

The initiative is part of Hays Travel's local community partnerships, through which retail staff work with local schools, charities and organisations, helping them to raise the funds they need to achieve their goals.

Sedgefield Local History Society remembers John Welford.

A small band gathered at the war memorial on March 29th to commemorate another of our Sedgefield men lost in the Great War 100 years ago.

John Welford was born in Coundon in 1892 to Thomas Welford and his wife Elizabeth Jane (nee Errington) of Sedgefield. In 1911, aged 19, John was a stone man, working in a coal mine, along with his father and younger brother James. Later, John became an asylum attendant, before signing up to the army in May 1915 at Bishop Auckland. He joined the Territorial Force of the DLI, serving in France, quickly gaining promotion to Sergeant.

The River Ancre, near the Somme, was the site of fierce fighting from 21st March to 5th April 1918. There, the first Battle of Dernancourt began on March 28th.

John Welford was killed in action the next day, aged 26. He is remembered in France on the Pozieres Memorial and also on the Winterton Memorial, now in St Edmund's Church.

Sedgefield LHS are grateful to the Village Veterans for their continued support. Also, on this occasion, to Martyn Evans, a SLHS Facebook friend, who was a great help in tracking down details on Sergeant John Welford of the 19th DLI.

Please join us at the war memorial at 10.45 am on Sunday May 27th, when we will commemorate Edwin Banks of the Northumberland Fusiliers.



Blues news

Back in January 2017, the little old blues club in Sedgefield was the scene for a piece of musical history, when a live CD was recorded at the Parish Hall by the winners of 2017 UK Blues Challenge winners, LaVendore Rogue.

So, what is the meaning of LaVendore Rogue (pronounced LAV, as in 'toilet', END, as in 'not the beginning', ORE, as in 'iron'). Well, who knows, but what is clear is that LaVendore Rogue are one of the most exciting bands to emerge on the UK Roots scene for many years.

They competed in the 2018 International Blues Challenge in the USA and the European Blues Challenge in Hell - not the one in the deepest darkest realms of the earth's core, but Hell in Norway.

Anyway, back to the album; the gritty performance captured the energy and power of their live shows and they are back, bigger and even more live than before!



So, save the date, Friday 25th May.

We ask you...will you relive that NIGHT IN THE NORTH moment or witness the attitude and swagger of Jo Jo backed by the sublime guitar playing of Joel Fisk for the first time? With support by Trevor Steger, tickets are in high demand.

For more information visit www.sedgefieldblues.com

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Goodbye to PC Keith Todd & Welcome to PC John Lamb

Before opening the meeting, Chairman David Hillerby gave a presentation of a specially engraved small clock from Sedgfield N/Hood Watch to Keith and thanked him for his service of over 22 years to our community. Individuals Poul & Karen Einshoi made a special trip to present their own gift and extend their personal thanks to Keith for his service. Along with N/Hood Watch they wished him every good fortune in the future. Keith accepted both gifts, expressing his gratitude, then spoke of his pleasure and satisfaction at being our Bobby at Sedgfield for so many years.

David also updated members of C/man Ken Saiger's situation and the difficulties he continues to experience; members expressed their concerns for Ken and hope he can obtain some improvement soon. David informed members that Ken is unlikely to be able to carry on as Chairman after October and that he will not be standing for re-election either; **it really is time for new volunteers to step forward or this group will probably have to fold at the AGM in October.**

Following approval of the previous minutes Keith introduced his replacement, PC John Lamb, who gave a summary of his 16 year career with Durham Police and described his personal reasons for requesting this post. John gave a commitment to provide the best service he can for the residents of Sedgfield urging the public to speak to him directly and tell him frankly and openly of their needs, which he will address to the best of his ability.

Keith then delivered his final report speaking in detail about the Recorded Crimes (11 plus 24 ASB incidents) that took place between 27th February and the 10th April. Aspects of last Friday's Antisocial Behaviour (6th April) were discussed. Policing on this occasion was carried out by members of the Special Constabulary. A report was delivered to the meeting of a young girl arrested for knife possession following a male's (alleged) threatening use of that knife. The Police issued one dispersal order, a lot of alcohol was seized and a "boogie box" was also confiscated. The "Specials" reported that there were more than 150 young persons out that Friday night! PC Todd went on to give details of the planned meeting on 19th April, being arranged by Police Inspector Honeyman, which will allow relevant agencies and organisations to come together to seek a solution to this unacceptable problem in Sedgfield.

Finally, Keith reported that, following his investigations, allegations of illegal betting outside the racecourse proved to be unfounded.

Following the meeting the agreed PACT priority was of course – tackling the ASB problem. **Next NH Watch Meeting is Tuesday 12th June 2018 – 7.00pm.**

Call 101 to contact Local Police to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information. You are advised to keep notes of the conversation & obtain an incident number. Below are the up-to-date police contacts. Please note any you may need, as we may not have space to publish them all every month.

Crime Prevention Officer: rona.stocks@durham.pnn.police.uk

Police Community Cohesion Officer: Faye Callan; Telephone 101 Extension 742317. Email Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk

PCC RON HOGG: www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Information-Hub/Contact.aspx

Partners Work Together to Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour

Continued from page 1

There were representatives from the local councils, county and town/parish councillors, Police, local schools, Restorative Hub, Youth workers and groups to name but a few. The meeting was positive, with attendees agreeing that there is a balance to be struck between residents feeling safe in their village and local youths enjoying being young people and enjoying meeting their friends in their own area.

Over the coming weeks partners will be working together to reduce the numbers of youths visiting from outside the village. Once this is achieved a working group from the partners will come together to explore funding opportunities with the aim of providing somewhere for the youths to meet.

Other partners will work with the youths to identify what they would like in relation to activities and work with local residents to provide reassurance and to mediate so that residents and youths have an understanding of each other's needs. There is a system used by partners that collates data from council, police and fire and the current data shows that in reality there are very few reports of actual ASB in the village it is more the perception created by large gatherings.

We will provide updates as our partnership work progresses. In the meantime I would appeal to parents to know where your children are, what they are doing and above all, not to supply their children with alcohol for their evenings out with friends.

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Ceddesfeld Hall



Home of Sedgefield Community Association

Despite the awful weather on Easter Monday, the children had a fun time. It was way too wet and slippery to go out onto the lawns and hunt for eggs, so we had 'eggciting' party games and activities in the main hall instead. Prizes (Easter eggs of various sizes) were given to all of the children who entered the decorated egg and Easter bonnet competition. Thanks to Joyce Snowdon for judging an impressive range of entries.

Sophie Green (aged 8), from Sedgefield Hardwick School won the draw to be this year's May Queen. Sophie and her attendants; Evie Legender (age 9), from Sedgefield Primary, Amelia Taylor (age 7), from Hardwick School, and Georgie Luke (age 5), also from Hardwick School, will lead the opening procession for the Mediaeval Fayre in a horse drawn carriage at 10 am.

Mediaeval Fayre: As usual, Sedgefield's two fantastic primary schools combine efforts to make a fabulous walking parade and show (not to be missed) on the day. This year's theme will celebrate the links and relationship between America and Great Britain. A little later in the day of course, Prince Harry will marry Meghan Markle. It's not only us who are hoping for a sunny day!

All of the other arrangements are now in the final stages. There is a wide range of new craft stalls and charity stalls as well as mediaeval displays, Living History, Tug of War, Birds of Prey, face painting, Punch and Judy and much more on the green and in the grounds of Ceddesfeld. Refreshments will be served all day at Ceddesfeld Hall by Sedgefield Bloomers, so don't miss out on your bacon butty or chocolate cake!

Many local businesses sponsor this event (SCA's biggest fundraiser) and various community groups support in the run up and on the day. Members of SCA help also by taking part in the big Raffle Draw, for which tickets have just been circulated. More tickets will be sold on the day. The event is run solely by local volunteers and all assistance (even if just for an hour on the day, or an evening collecting) is extremely helpful and makes a massive difference. The rota for collections and sorting (14th to 17th May) is up in the foyer at Ceddesfeld Hall, contact Sarah, Pat or Wendy, for a time slot on a stall. There is a free raffle draw for all volunteers.

SCA are looking forward to future events also: Sedgefield Day (June 23rd), SCA Beer Festival (6th & 7th July), Sedgefield Folk Festival (31st August, 1st & 2nd September), Sedgefield Book Ends, which runs between Saturday 29th September and 21st October. There will be more on these events next month, or visit the SCA website for further details.

For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 01740 620607, Sarah on 01740 622185 or visit our website on www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk

Our Projects Sedgefield Development Trust news



Sedgefield Energy Switch

ENERGY PRICES ON THE RISE AGAIN!

At the time of writing this article, British Gas has just announced that they are to increase their gas and electricity prices by 5.5% from 29th May. History tells us some, if not all, energy companies will follow suit. Our energy switching scheme's next auction takes place on 22nd May so if you have not participated previously, now might be a good time. Don't just take our word about the savings that have been achieved, talk to your friends and or neighbours.

For new participants to the scheme, if your contracts come to an end before the end of June, this is the registration period for you. This is also the auction for which you need to register if you have been part of the scheme previously and are either **First Utility customers** - your contract will end at the end of May, or **SSE customers** - if your contract ends before the end of July.

Registration opened on the 3rd April and **CLOSES ON 21ST MAY.**

Auction Day is 22nd May and Offers will issued from 4th June 2018.

Offer acceptance closes on 3rd July 2018.

REGISTRATION can be achieved in the usual two ways. If you are happy to register on line yourself, go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk and open the ENERGY SWITCH section. Click on the 'REGISTER NOW' button and follow the links to fill out your details. If you prefer to register and receive information through the post, or need any assistance, please call the Sedgefield Development Trust Helpline on **07980 134 594**. We will be more than happy to assist you or to complete registration for you.

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 6th May

Lots of good produce on sale as ever, and the entertainment for May will be dancing around the Maypole. Same old? Well not quite! This time, all children attending the market are welcome to have a go, and parents are welcome too! Come along and enjoy the fun.

The Sedgefield Village Action Group will be on our community stall market, providing information for all concerned on all the possible new housing that could be happening in Sedgefield.

Homework Help

Exam season is approaching, and, thanks to another volunteer coming forward and some shift in requirements, we have some capacity to help some more students with their homework, especially in a range of subjects up to GCSE level, and with biology up to A-level.

We are also able to offer some guidance in preparing university applications and interviews. If you'd like some help with understanding your homework or school notes, do get in touch with us at homeworkhelpsedgefield@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook. If we don't yet have anyone available in your subject area, we will do our best to find someone.

The same means can also be used to contact us if you are able to offer help - we are always keen to welcome more volunteers, as we'd like to be able to help more students and never have to refuse anyone who is looking for a hand, at whatever level.

We wish all the best to all students with their exam preparations!

Woodland & Wildlife

When volunteers returned in mid April to tidy rubbish from the site, they were delighted to find that, despite the wintery conditions they were planted in, our trees were coming to life. They will be keeping an eye on things regularly - the next step is to clear some of the ground around each tree to allow them to thrive. If you would like to be involved, please text or call 07803 269956 and leave an email address.

Contact SDT via individual project phone numbers & email addresses, or email sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk

Players Success!

As reported last month the Sedgefield Players have taken part in the first round of the All England Theatre Festival. It took place from 11th - 14th April at the beautiful Georgian Theatre in Richmond. They entered their version of Bertolt Brecht's 'The Jewish Wife', a playlet (mini-play); one of a selection of over 20 plays called 'Fear and Misery of the Third Reich'.

Written just before the Second World War, the play very openly, and very bravely for the time it was written, looks at the rising difficulties that the people of Germany were facing with the growing Nazi Party and the rise of the Third Reich. The Jewish Wife investigates the Nuremberg Laws which stated that a married, mixed couple, where one of the partners was Jewish, could not be allowed and must be divorced, or both would face public derision and eventual arrest and death at the concentration camps. Judith Keith, the Wife in question, makes the decision to leave her husband, something that was happening all over Germany.

Brecht developed a very specific style of theatre for his productions, aimed at education rather than entertainment, allowing an audience to see the whole rather than the individual, and known internationally as the 'Epic Theatre'. His *Verfremdungseffekt*, roughly translated as distancing techniques, allow an audience to examine their own thoughts and feelings about a specific event or subject, but with Brecht's own political and social views very much at the forefront.

In directing our version of 'The Jewish Wife' I had 5 actresses play one role, a risky move in a competitive environment, where a group are expected to justify their decisions. I also had Stage Directions read aloud by an actor, and all actors on stage throughout. All these elements of *Verfremdungseffekt* allowed me to demonstrate the political motivation of the piece, and make it a truly Epic Piece of theatre. And our night at Richmond could indeed be described as Epic. Adjudicator Ben Humphrey of the Guild of Dramatic Adjudicators, praised the Players' bravery and commitment to the style. We went on to win awards for Best Set, Best Actress, for all 5 actresses who played Judith - Sharon Davey, Sarah Atkinson, Jacqui O'Meara, Viv Jacobs and Sarah Legender, as well as winning Best Production. So we will take the play on to the next round at Saltburn in May, to compete for a place in the English Final! This won't be the last time we perform the play however, as the Players' June production is the full version of 'Fear and Misery', which we have renamed 'The Jewish Wife and other plays'.

The show runs from 14th - 16th June at the Parish Hall and you are guaranteed to see something very different from anything the Players have done before. Tickets are available from www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk. Get them as soon as you can because seating will be limited. TG

Photographs are from the Players' award winning evening at Richmond.



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With a programme of standards from the 'Great American Songbook', Alex Ord, pianist, composer, music producer and church organist, will be in concert at the Parish Hall, with Peter Ayton, pictured below left, one of the best jazz bassists in the north of England.



The performance is one of a series of concerts, classical and contemporary, sponsored by Valjanord Productions, performed by Alex and guests throughout the North. They are specifically aimed at giving a much needed boost to Alzheimer's UK, who fund research into the treatment of the disease.

It's a great opportunity to hear two multi-talented musicians with established reputations. Tickets for the concert will be available at the door for £7. Further information is available from Alex on 01429 880070.

Finally, winter has departed the scene! As the weather warms (and occasionally brightens) up, the traditional summer sports are starting to emerge from hibernation. Sedgefield Cricket Club has been raring to go for a while, but the extended bad weather meant that opening fixtures of the season were delayed. By the time you read this, Sedgefield's junior and seniors teams should have seen some action and I will provide regular updates here during the summer. Meanwhile...

Rugby Union. The Sedgefield first team have had some challenging encounters in recent weeks, due to both the weather and opposition teams jostling for final positions in the league table. Wintry conditions at Richmondshire resulted in a very dismal spectacle, ending in a 0-3 defeat, after Sedgefield declined the opportunity to kick a late penalty for a draw and instead went looking for the winning try without success. One of the highlights of the season then came in the local derby at Newton Aycliffe. Sedgefield dominated from the start and tries from Ollie Lines (3), Dan Lawson (2), Graham Brennan, Dom Ryan, Rob Wade and a penalty try resulted in a 53-0 win against a woeful Aycliffe.

The Beast from the East returned for a league and cup double header against Darlington. Sedgefield overcame testing conditions to record a memorable 17-7 victory against one of the region's oldest clubs, and progress to meet Sunderland in the cup semi-final. This was followed by the visit of Bishop Auckland to Sedgefield. The rain again made conditions difficult for both teams, but Bishop handled them best and Sedgefield were outmuscled and consigned to a 10-22 defeat.

The most recent encounter to report on was a 51-12 defeat against promotion chasing Hartlepool. Despite the defeat, results elsewhere confirmed Sedgefield's place in Durham & Northumberland Division 2 for next season.

Although several of their regular players have had to step up to first team duty, the Sedgefield Saxons have acquitted themselves well recently, with a run of victories over Whitby II (42-0), Acklam Hustlers (22-14) and Bishop Auckland III (52-40).

Athletics. With Spring here at last, there's a glut of road running and track and field events for members of Sedgefield Harriers to choose from. Junior and senior athletes have been very active recently, producing some great early results. An impressive total of around 40 Harriers tackled the popular Hartlepool Marina 5 on 15th April (*some are pictured below*). The first Sedgefield runner to finish was Kieran Walker, covering the five-mile course in a very quick 26:02, finishing fourth overall. Only a week after running Manchester Marathon in a rapid 2:45.46, Justin Cox was the next Sedgefield athlete to finish in 28:52, followed by David Bentley in 29:44. First Sedgefield lady was Lisa Darby in 33:34 (third in the V45 category), followed by Julia Atkinson-Tait in 37:05 (second in the V50 category) and Jane Spink in 38:17. Three Sedgefield Harriers tackled the world-famous London Marathon, in very warm conditions that added to the challenge. First over the line was Gary Thwaites in 3:12.33, two weeks after recording a new personal best of 2:56.22 in the Paris Marathon. The next Harrier to finish was Daniel Probart in 3:58.33, followed soon after by Tracy Henderson in 3:59.59. Well done to all.

Meanwhile, junior and senior Harriers have been taking part in a variety of track and field events, with some notable performances early in the season. April saw the start of the North Yorkshire & South Durham (NYSD) series, which are open meetings on week day evenings that encourage athletes to try out whichever events appeal on the night. The first NYSD meeting in April saw a large contingent of Sedgefield Harriers of all ages descend on the Eastbourne track in Darlington, where they tackled the high jump, javelin (after a special coaching session earlier in the same week that had been led by club member and enthusiastic thrower Jane Spink), 1500m and other disciplines. There were some Sedgefield winners on the night and plenty of athletes stepping out of their comfort zones to try something new. Like most grass roots sport in the region, the NYSD meetings are only made possible thanks to the commitment of loads of volunteers. A regular among those is Tim Dredge from Sedgefield, who officiated in the high jump at Eastbourne, and is always a great champion for athletics and other sports.

Squash. April saw the traditional end of the squash season, and Sedgefield Squash Club certainly ended it in thrilling fashion. On 20th April, members were treated to the Club Championships finals night, with 10 finals across junior and senior categories, culminating in the Club Closed Championship Final. Congratulations go to Olly Walls who regained the club champion's crown after a hard-fought victory against final debutant Dan Toas. With the combined age of the finalists being 37, this was another victory for the club's well-earned reputation for junior development.

But even that was trumped by the outcome in the Ladies Championship Final, which saw 13-year-old Jess Weatherspoon triumph in a five-game thriller against club captain Emma Allen. Jess becomes, by some margin, the youngest ever club champion - and it would be hard to find a more popular winner. The evening also saw hugely enjoyable finals across age groups from under 11 to over 60. Members, families and friends then headed to the Parish Hall on 27 April for the annual presentation evening.

All of the above caps a fine year for Sedgefield, in which the men's and women's teams secured hugely creditable high league finishing positions. Well done that club!

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



Sedgefield Village Action Group (SVAG)

We are still trying to fulfil what we promised and keep residents informed about planning applications and represent the majority view at planning committee meetings. We attended the planning meeting of The Turners' site and whilst acknowledging that the site needs development we pointed out that Durham County Council (DCC) had said the industrial/commercial land would never be given change of use permission to housing land. DCC claim there was little prospect of the Turners site securing future industrial commercial development so granted permission for housing. We further commented that Sedgefield did not need a further 71 houses and suggested retirement/care facilities and bungalows would be more appropriate so reducing the pressure on traffic congestion and need for school places; of course, there will still be further pressure on the already 'stretched' GP practice. It seems there is still the possibility of the type of accommodation being looked at when final planning is agreed.

Then there is the proposed development of the stables/horse field. If this development is given approval it will be the 'death knell' for the Stockton Road entrance to the village (for some time now, DCC officers have wanted this entrance to the village closed hence the access road from the A689 roundabout through the new Eden Drive estate). Further, if the stables/horse field is granted permission it once again opens up the prospect of applications on the 3-cornered field, the proposed 150 on the field opposite the stables field as well as other areas of open green fields.

Survey work has been carried out with a view to open up Old Beacon Lane for further house building on the green fields to the side of the Beacon Lane estate etc.

So, we still have a battle on our hands to protect the character of Sedgefield and this can only be done if the community come together to take action.

SVAG will continue to try to keep you informed, however we are a small group of active people and finance for leaflet drops etc. is very limited. We will have an information stall at the Farmers' Market on **Sunday May 6th**. Please come along and talk to us. Comments can be sent to sedgefieldVAG@gmail.com or 0752 3457584.

You may be aware of the problems with our **Neighbourhood Plan**. Sedgefield Town Council held a public meeting in February asking what the public wanted to happen, but have since, for what they feel are valid reasons, ignored that community view and are taking a different route - sadly without any further consultation with the community. It is up to STC to keep the public informed re the Neighbourhood Plan and we can only hope that this happens. (You can of course contact them yourself.)

To end, here's a relevant comment from the Northern Echo 'There needs to be better community engagement, more listening, greater visibility of our political leaders, less condescension, and an appreciation that this is not just a wave of Nimbyism, but a genuine concern about what is happening to the local environment'.

Christian Aid Week 13th-19th May #StandTogether

It's that time of the year when we call upon our volunteer collectors to again give freely of their time, to first deliver the envelopes, and then call back to collect your donation. It is not always easy to catch everyone when they are at home, however the collectors do try to call back a second time.

If we fail to call when you are at home and you wish to give, you can drop your envelope off at St. Edmund's Church on Saturday 19th May during the Mediaeval Fayre between 10am and noon. Look out for us at the Christian Aid table. 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 under £4000 from Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon. This amount was further increased by approximately £350 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



Damage to sculpture

Sedgefield in Bloom volunteers were angry and disappointed to discover the damage done to the Dashing Vicar when he was forcibly pushed over during the Easter weekend break. Standing in the Stepping Through Time garden at the entrance to Ceddesfeld Hall, the willow statue provides a focal point for the major refurbishment programme of that area. As well as reflecting the important heritage of the Hall, the figure has already become a firm favourite, attracting praise from residents, visitors and Bloom judges alike.

Visiting judges are always impressed by the community spirit usually so evident in Sedgefield, but clearly missing from the people who caused this wanton damage. The statue is secured very firmly, so it must have taken a good deal of effort and more than one person, to dislodge it.

Below, Sedgefield In Bloom volunteers inspect the damage.



The creation of the garden took two years, and involved a great deal of heavy work, much of which was undertaken by a small group of volunteers, all retired and many battling serious illness. In addition, considerable cost was involved, including the purchase of the Dashing Vicar, designed and created by local artist Victoria Conner of the Willow Barn. 'The Bloomers work tirelessly all year round' said Chairman Howard Smith 'but we are now preparing for spring and summer judging - our busiest time of the year.

We receive terrific support from the community and have a proud record of winning numerous gold awards.'

'We will not be beaten by this setback and will continue in our efforts to keep Sedgefield blooming beautifully.'

Police are actively investigating the matter and would appreciate public support. CCTV footage of Ceddesfeld Gardens may shed more light on the situation.

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DIARY: MAY 2018

Submit your events to diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Tue 1 st	Sedgefield Gardening Club: 7.30pm in Sedgefield Parish Hall. "Sedgefield in Bloom." Talk by Howard Smith. All welcome.
Wed 2 nd	Sedgefield WI: Parish Hall 7.15pm. AGM - Discussion of Resolution; Presentation of Competition Trophy; Talk by WIA. Bring & Buy spare plants, seeds & seedlings; Members' Competition, a brooch.
Fri 4 th	Sedgefield Veterans' Coffee Morning: Parish Hall, 10am to noon. U3A: 2pm in the Parish Hall. Pamela Petty: "An Entrepreneur's Daughter". Members free, Visitors welcome, £3 at the door.
Sat 5 th	Drop in Surgeries: Cllr John Robinson. 9 – 9.45am Bradbury & Mordon Village Hall; 10 – 11am Sedgefield Library; 11.15 – 12 pm Fishburn Community Centre.
Sun 6 th	Sedgefield Farmers' Market: Locally produced food and this month, Maypole dancing for children - on the village green from 8.30am. New Generation Church: <u>Services take place on each Sunday this month in Sedgefield Parish Hall @10.30am.</u>
Mon 7 th	Sedgefield Local History Society: Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm. "The Sanctuary Knocker", a talk by Arthur Dodds. Further info: Suzanne Hopper 01429 882250.
Tue 8 th	Sedgefield Town Council Annual Town Meeting. 7pm @ the Parish Hall. Ladies' Club: Ceddesfeld Hall, 8pm. "Create a Stimulation of The Senses." A talk by Dr Alan Pearson.
Thu 10 th	Sedgefield Show meeting: 8pm @ Sedgefield Social Club
Fri 11 th	Sedgefield Country Market: Parish Hall 10am to 11.30am. Home baked produce, Crafts, Jams, Cards, Plants, Refreshments. For information call 629441.
Mon 14 th	Methodist Wives and Friends: Methodist Church Hall 7.30pm. "Something to Inspire You" by Rosemary Hall.
Tue 15 th	Sedgefield, Ferryhill & District Flower Club: 7.30pm @ Sedgefield Parish Hall. Demonstrator-Janine Gray- "Simplifyfication". Members-£5.50, Non Members-£8.
Fri 18 th	Sedgefield Folk Festival Fund Raising Music Night: 7.30 @ Parish Hall. Main guest: Kieran Goss. Support: John Wrightson Band and John Weighell Tickets £12. Tel 621347. No bar - bring your own drinks
Mon 21 st	Sedgefield Family History Group: The Methodist Church Hall, Sedgefield @ 7.15pm. A talk by Ann Fell. "The Lord Giveth & The Lord Taketh Away: A story of 19th Century Emigration".
Tue 22 nd	Ladies' Club: Ceddesfeld Hall, 8pm. "Paton & Baldwins". A talk by Chris Lloyd
Fri 25 th	St Edmund's Church Coffee Morning: Parish Hall. 10am-12pm in the Main Hall. Sedgefield Blues Club: A night with Lavendore Rogue + Trevor Steger. See article page 3. Doors open 7pm. Tickets £15. Visit www.sedgefieldblues.com for contact details and further info.
Sat 26 th	Memory Cafe Open Day: 10am - 3 pm @ Sedgefield Fire Station. Classic cars, crafts, flower arrangements & plants, entertainment, raffle, cakes, refreshments. Everyone welcome.
Sun 27 th	Sedgefield Local History Society and The Village Veterans: 10.45am at The War Memorial. World War 1 commemoration of Edwin Banks of The Northumberland Fusiliers. Sedgefield Methodist Church: 3.30 to 5pm. Children take your parents to 'Messy Church': an afternoon of crafts, stories, games and refreshments.
Tues 29 th	Inner Wheel Fashion Show: Parish Hall @ 7.15pm. Fashion by House of Fraser - Beauty Products by Estee Lauder. Proceeds to Alzheimer & Parkinson Societies. Tickets £7. Available from Ann Carr 01740 629070.

Sew Easy : changes to meeting times. The Thursday evening session will no longer take place. Instead the group will meet in the Parish Hall as follows:

Monday evening: 6:30 to 9:30pm. (*Monday sessions will not take place on Bank Holidays or if the room is booked for other purposes.*)

Second Wednesday morning: 10:30am-1:30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

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Craft Group: 1.30pm 2nd & 4th Fridays
Book Circle: 2pm 3rd Friday

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Metafit with Donna Wed 7.05 - 7.35pm

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Sedgefield Social Club

Saturday 5th May: Rose

Saturday 12th May: Bobby Joe

Saturday 19th May: Ben Dillon

Monday 21st: Country Night:

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Saturday 26th May: Elizabeth

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Fishburn Art Group

Fishburn Art Group is looking for new members. The group meets every Monday from 9.30am till noon.

Anyone interested is welcome to visit on any Monday - to see what goes on and meet existing members.

For further info call Julie Underwood on

07770 972 988 or

email underlogs@talktalk.net

If you would like your activity featured on this page, please email

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