

SEDGFIELD NEWS

May 2019

Sedgfield through the years

With lots of interest in historic photographs and events in our area, Martin Peagam, *The Time Traveller* (right) from Sedgfield's Local History Society has agreed to provide snippets of history on a regular basis. Here are two tasters.

May 1919: 100 years ago

Sedgfield Cricket Club visited Hart Cricket Club; it was the first match for Hart club after a lapse of four years (the extended tea-interval being due to a small matter of the First World War). Sedgfield won the match. Cricket won the day. Celebratory drinks were scarce, though. Colonel Burdon MP enquired in Parliament when the wartime restrictions on the sale of beer and spirits would be lifted. The ravages of the Spanish Flu, which infected 500million people worldwide, of whom 50-100 million died between January 1918 and December 1920, had missed the

Sedgfield Asylum: it was reported that none of the 1,435 patients showed signs of the flu.

May 1819: 200 years ago

Lord and Lady Stewart left Wynyard Hall for a weekend tour of Durham, visiting Sedgfield, Durham City and Sunderland. At Sedgfield toll-bar, the horses were removed from their carriage and the village folk pulled the carriage into the village to great cheers. Lord Stewart left £15 at the Black Lion Inn for the locals to have a drink.

However, the visit was marred by an accident. One local, called Piles, slipped and fell under the wheel of



the carriage, receiving a broken leg. On their return from Sunderland on Sunday evening, Lord and Lady Stewart called in to assure themselves that the unfortunate man was being cared for.

For more information about your local history, visit the Facebook page of Sedgfield Local History Society or come along to one of our meetings

Plogging and Blooming

Despite the miserable weather, Northumbria in Bloom judges, Allannah Robinson and Janet Beakes, enjoyed their spring visit to Sedgfield on April 3rd. Bloom volunteers have been out in force as usual and Council gardeners Stephen and Ben produced colourful displays in beds and tubs around the centre of the village.

Durham County Council Civic Pride team continue to provide stalwart support. Sedgfield Ploggers (right) did a grand job litter picking on the Sunday before the event, a great way to celebrate Mother's Day! As we go to print, a plog of Winterton has just been completed.

Allannah and Janet will return for summer judging on Wednesday 17th July, followed on Tuesday 6th August by Keith Jackson and Lee Ann Bone from Britain in Bloom.

As well as horticultural excellence and environmental responsibility, community involvement is highly valued by both judging teams and is always outstanding in Sedgfield. Publicity Officer Norma Neal said, 'We make every effort to ensure that the judges know about the great work done by local groups and individuals, largely undertaken for love of Sedgfield and the people who live and visit here. Green plaques on the front of parish hall outline numerous awards from both Northumbria and Britain in Bloom. With continued effort and dedication, we hope to strike gold again this year.'



Volunteers needed!

Do you live in Naylor Road, Swyfte Close, Lisle Gardens or Caden Court?

If so, could you deliver 60 copies of Sedgfield News in your area? It's a great way to exercise and meet your neighbours! Please call Judith Edgoose on 07899 984 464 or email mail@toddschousefarm.co.uk.

The JUNE EDITION DEADLINE is Monday 15th May.

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Greener Sedgefield

A new Facebook group has been started, with the aim of helping people to reduce, reuse and recycle - and to share ideas on how to replace everyday items with sustainable ones. If that sounds like you, please come and join us.

Plastics are unavoidable and in some surprising places.

Teabags, chewing gum and most clothes contain plastic fibres. Plastic is cheap, quick to produce yet it takes centuries to decompose and a disappointing percentage is recycled.

There's a handy A - Z on the council's website of what they can take kerbside, but that **doesn't** mean everything else should be committed to landfill.

Carrier and bread bags are taken by Sainsbury's. Asda and Tesco also take other soft plastics in their carpark recycling bins. Some stores, like Lush, will take plastic lids, and charities including Ellie's Fund, a brain tumour charity, raise money by collecting various plastics.

We hope in each month's issue to discuss a sustainability problem and a potential solution, and in the meantime if you want more information, see the **Greener Sedgefield** Facebook page.



Sedgefield
Town Council



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TUESDAY 7TH MAY 2019

Sedgefield Parish Hall

COMMUNITY SHOWCASE FROM 6:15PM

featuring local groups and the opportunity to meet your town councillors who would love to hear your views!

**THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
COMMENCES AT 7PM**

Come along to hear what we've done over the last 12 months and our plans for the coming year

Followed by the presentation of the Citizen of the Year Award, Young Citizen of the Year Award and the Mayor's charitable cheques

Update: The Hardwick Arms

A work in progress, by Tony Magee

Shortly after The Hardwick Arms closed for refurbishment I met with Andy Popple, the managing director of EMA Group Holdings, the building's current owner, to hear details of the proposed changes. There was a busy feel in the ground floor area which had been taken back to the basics; walls to the brickwork, flooring to the boards etc. Andy is a proud north easterner who feels that heritage and aesthetics are very important in a place. He considers that Sedgefield is strong on both these points and that it is a growing community on the cusp of development. He is also impressed with how many local groups are involved in creating what he terms "a good social infrastructure".

The new development aims to retain "the very busy front bar" that locals have used since EMA acquired the property but also to create a new 'Herd and Herb' Restaurant and Lounge in the main body of the building to the right of the archway. The new bar area will be situated in the rooms to the left of the archway. On the same side, more towards the rear of the space will be a new Summer Café where patrons can eat both indoors and in the newly renovated outdoor area in the courtyard. The public bar will be completely dog friendly. All other areas will be open to guide dogs and buddy dogs.

Andy is confident (95%) that with his own experience of project management, an accomplished subcontractor on board and an excellent team of craftsmen and women the projected completion dates can be achieved. Having seen the progress made in the twelve days since the closure it is hard to argue that Andy's confidence is misplaced.



Bonnets at the ready!

DIDO members held their Easter Bring and Buy in the Parish Hall in April and raised £130. There was an Easter Egg Hunt and a raffle, and members took part in the Easter Bonnet Competition. Look at our group of beautiful ladies, wearing their own creations!



Trefoil Guild on Tour

Enjoying a well-earned rest in this beautiful garden (left) are Sedgefield Trefoil Guild members Janice Burnip and Liz Garner, caught on camera during a visit to Amsterdam. The trip was organised by NE England Trefoil Guild, (guiding for adults). Along with another 194 members, Janice and Liz toured the canals and visited both a living museum and the Keukenhof bulb fields. Sedgefield Trefoil Guild meet monthly on a Wednesday afternoon, our get-togethers often centred around enjoying a bite to eat.

To join us please get in touch with Jackie Postgate. Email mjackiep@aol.com



A warm welcome to the Upper Skerne

A cool wind may have been blowing outside but the Revd. Eileen Tarren was given a warm welcome inside St Mary's Magdalene's Church, Trimdon Village, when she was formally commissioned as an ordained member of the ministry team in the parish of the Upper Skerne.

Eileen moved to Sedgfield on her recent 'retirement' as a full-time minister and has now received the Bishop's permission to officiate in the diocese. She will serve on a part-time, voluntary basis in the parish of the Upper Skerne, which includes the Trimdons, Fishburn, Sedgfield and Bishop Middleham.

The Revd. Geoff Short, Team Rector (third left), who formally welcomed Eileen (second left) to the parish, was assisted at Sunday's service by the Team Vicar, the Revd Elizabeth Bland (right) and chalice assistant Suzanne Hopper (left)

"Eileen brings with her a wealth of experience and strong pastoral gifts. She will be a most useful addition to our team," said the Rector.

The offertory was donated to the Save the Children fund to assist with the emergency work in three southern African countries recently devastated by Cyclone Idai.

Triple celebration for local family

Sunday 7th April was a Red Letter day for one local family and also for the congregation at St Edmund's Church. It saw the celebration of a triple baptism of a mother and her two children in what the Team Rector, the Revd. Geoff Short, described as 'a very special and rare occasion'.

Mum, Laura Lucas-Hartley, son Joshua and daughter Jessica were baptised by the Rector, watched by husband and father Steve who was christened when he was just a few days old. Both Laura and Steve served in the armed forces until recently and are now looking forward to civilian life. They have worshipped regularly at St Edmund's since moving to the area.

Important news from Skerne Medical Group

Due to a reduction in the number of GPs working in our practice, we are currently experiencing great pressure on appointment availability. To help us ensure we use our time effectively, we need to ask patients to PLEASE:

INDICATE to our trained Receptionists the reason you are requesting an appointment, so we can book you a face to face or perhaps a telephone appointment with the most appropriate person in the shortest possible time.

ATTEND YOUR BOOKED APPOINTMENT OR CANCEL IT and give us as much notice as you can so we can offer the appointment to someone else. **In February this year, a total of 362 patients failed to attend a booked appointment, which equates to over 200 hrs of wasted clinical time.**

YOUR MOBILE NUMBER. We have a **text messaging service**, which enables us to send messages and appointment reminders to patients, so if you have a mobile phone, please provide us with the number.

REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS. Like many other surgeries we need **two working days** to process repeat prescription requests, so we can perform checks and maintain safety. We are receiving increasing numbers of requests for repeat medication to be issued urgently. This delays other patients' prescriptions and increases the risk of errors. If you do not currently order medication online please speak to our Receptionists about this convenient method.

CERVICAL SCREENING, also known as the "smear test", is a routine health check that identifies potentially harmful cells and changes on the cervix. It can reduce your risk of developing cervical cancer, which kills 2 women every day. It is important to make an appointment for screening when invited.

We have arranged a WALK IN SCREENING CLINIC at Harbinson House, Sedgfield on Saturday 11 May between 9am and 11:30am. Please come along if you know you are due a screening test or if you would like to ask any questions. No appointment is necessary.

Mothers' Day

Three great-grandmothers were among the congregation treated to posies of daffodils during the Mothers' Day service at St Edmund's Church, Sedgfield.

Mrs Doreen Richards, Mrs Yvonne Houston and Mrs Anne Eyley were presented with the flowers by youngsters who volunteered to help the Team Rector, the Revd. Geoff Short, during the service.

Everyone else in church on the morning also received daffodils donated by Sainsbury's supermarket. Lessons were read by mother and daughter Susan and Laura Wallace.



Pictured above with the young helpers are Mrs Houston (centre), the Rector, Mrs Richards (seated) and Mrs Eyley (right).



Humble Boy

The Players most recent production of Charlotte Jones' 'Humble Boy', performed in March has been hailed by audiences as being a huge success.

The play, which is loosely based on Hamlet, tells the story of Theoretical Astrophysicist Felix Humble (Tom Guest) who, plagued with self-confidence and social anxieties, returns to his family home to attend the funeral of his father. His difficult relationship with his mother Flora (Viv Jacobs) is pushed to the limit when it's revealed she has been having an affair with George Pye (Geoff Clifford-Brown), father of Felix's ex-lover, and unbeknownst to him the mother of his child, Rosie (Sarah Legender). Flora's neighbour Mercy Lott (Jean Hewling) and a ghostly apparition of Felix's father James (Terry West) serve to lead the plot along and allow Felix to come to terms with his grief, his lack of understanding of 'how the world works' and allow himself in some form to just 'be'.

A poignant and at times funny play was brought to life by Sarah Atkinson on a sumptuous garden set, designed by Walter Howell. Adam White developed a beautiful and moving soundscape that allowed the action of the play to unfold, leading to the final moments when Felix was finally able to scatter his father's ashes, and move on. Thanks must go to all the helpers working front of house, on prompt and backstage with this production, as well as to our fantastic audiences.

In April the Players performed two plays 'War Brides' by Marion Craig Wentworth and 'Beata Beatrix' by Gillian Plowman at the **Richmond One Act Drama Festival, part of the All England Theatre Festival**. Jacqui O'Meara and Terry West were nominated for Best Actress and Actor for their roles in 'Beatrix', whilst Walter Howell took home the award for Best Set as well as being nominated for Best Director. 'War Brides' won awards for Best Actress, shared by Sarah Legender and Viv Jacobs and Best Supporting Actress for Lucy Atkinson as well as winning overall, which means it will be moving on to the next round at the Washington Arts Centre in May. Keep your fingers crossed!

Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre: House to House Collections

Please support Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre by donating groceries, toys, books, bottles and bric a brac. Arrangements are as follows:

| Night | Areas/Estates |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Monday 13th May 6 – 8pm | Winterton. Kerr Crescent, Cunningham Court, Pine Ridge etc., Mitford Court etc., Hardwick Road etc., Durham Road & North End |
| Tuesday 14th May 6 – 8pm | White House Drive etc., Hawthorn Road etc., The Lane etc., St. Edmunds Green & East End etc. |
| Weds 15th May 6 – 8pm | West End, Station Road etc., Spring Lane etc., Queens Drive etc., The Meadows |
| Thurs 16th May 6 – 8pm | Eden Drive etc., The Orchards etc., Stockton Road, Rectory Row, Front Street & Village Centre |
| If we miss you! | Items can be taken to Ceddesfeld Hall from 7.30 pm Mon 14 th to Thurs 17 th May |

PLEASE NOTE: SCA are not able to take any furniture, clothes, shoes, bikes or electrical equipment. Unsold donations will go to The British Heart Foundation



Photographs by John Finlayson.

Church repair fund boosted by "awesome" performance

A Spring concert in St Edmund's Church by the Sage Gateshead Chamber Choir was summed up in a single word by one member of the audience, attending his first ever choral evening - "awesome!"

The concert featured works by Bach, Rutter, Parry, Haydn, Whitacre, Esenvalds and Arlen, and it raised at least £840 to help with repairs to the church roof.

"We are extremely grateful to Musical Director Denise Stout and the choir for giving their services free of charge," said Parish warden Brian Mutch. Ron Eyley welcomed the choir and later thanked them for an outstanding evening's entertainment. He also paid tribute to the organising team at St Edmund's.

Below:

Musical Director Denise Stout is presented with flowers by Anne Eyley



DIARY: May 2019

Submit your events to diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

- Wed 1st** **Sedgefield WI.** Sedgefield Parish Hall. 7.30pm. AGM. Bring and Buy spare plants, seeds & seedlings. Members' Competition, 'A Plant Pot Holder'.
- Fri 3rd** **Veterans Coffee Morning.** Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-noon.
Sedgefield And District U3A. 2pm in the Parish Hall. Katie Bartle, Durham Police 'Cyber Security'. Members Free, Visitors Welcome £3 at door.
- Sat 4th** **Drop in Surgeries.** Cllr John Robinson. Bradbury & Mordon Village Hall 9-9.45am. Sedgefield Library 10-11am. Fishburn Community Centre. 11.15am-12 noon.
- Sun 5th** **Sedgefield Farmers' Market.** On the village green from 8.30am - 12.30pm
- Mon 6th** **Local History Society.** Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm. 'Comedy in Music' by Ollie Burton.
- Tue 7th** **Sedgefield Tea Dance.** Sedgefield Parish Hall. All welcome. 1pm-3pm. £2.50, incl. refreshments. For info call Joyce 622601 or Ann 629070.
Annual Town (Council) Meeting. Parish Hall at 7pm. Preceded at 6.15pm by a showcase of Sedgefield Community Groups; speak with and find out about local groups and what they do. Refreshments provided.
- Thu 9th** **Sedgefield Show Committee Meeting.** 8pm in Sedgefield Social Club.
- Fri 10th** **Sedgefield Country Market.** Parish Hall 10am-11.30am. Home baked produce, Crafts, Jams, Cards, Plants, Refreshments. For info call 629441.
- Sat 11th** **Sedgefield Twinning Association Quiz** Ceddesfeld Hall 6.30. *See below.*
- Mon 13th** **Methodist Wives and Friends.** Methodist Hall: 7.30pm. Gardening Talk by Marjorie Goodchild.
- Wed 15th** **Neighbourhood Watch Meeting.** 7pm in the Social Club upstairs room. All welcome. Free Entry.
- Thu 16th** **Sedgefield Memory Café.** 10.30am - 12pm @ Sedgefield Fire Station. *Please Note - for Dementia clients and their carers only.*
Sedgefield, Ferryhill & District Flower Club Coffee Morning. Parish Hall. 10-11.30am. All Welcome.
- Fri 17th** **Sedgefield Folk Festival Live Music Night Fundraiser.** Parish Hall. 7.30pm. Main Guest, Chris Bannister singing the music of John Denver. Also, Dave Harris and Christine Ringer (Blue Horizon) and John Wrightson Band. Tickets £12. Call Joan 621347.
- Sat 18th** **Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre.** For all the delights of the day, see SCA page 11
- Tue 21st** **Sedgefield Tea Dance.** Sedgefield Parish Hall. All welcome. 1pm - 3pm. £2.50 incl. refreshments. For information call Joyce 622601 or Ann 629070.
Sedgefield, Ferryhill & District Flower Club. 7.30pm in Sedgefield Parish Hall. Carol Grieves-"Dance". All Welcome. Members Free. Non Members £5.
- Fri 24th** **St Edmund's Church Coffee Morning.** Parish Hall (Main Hall). 10am - noon.
- Tue 28th** **Ladies Club.** Ceddesfeld Hall, 8pm. A talk on "The Titanic" by Chris Lloyd.
- Fri 31st** **Neighbourhood Watch Coffee Morning.** 10am in the Parish Hall, tombola, raffle, books, crime prevention display.
Sedgefield Blues Club. Stan the Band + Chris James & Martin Fletcher (Support). Doors open 7pm. Tickets £7.50. Contact details and further info at www.sedgefieldblues.com

Sedgefield Twinning Association Quiz Night

Sedgefield Twinning Association's Quiz Night, with buffet supper, is being held to raise money for the September visit from Sedgefield's Twin Town of Hamminkeln in Germany. The ticket price, £10 per person includes a buffet supper and glass of wine/soft drink. There will be prizes for the winning teams and also a raffle. To attend, please contact Tim Jeanes on 623456, 07804289240 email tj.jeanes@btinternet.com or Alison Hodgson on 620912, 07484807503, email abhodgsons99@btinternet.com by May 8th at the latest.

Sedgefield Library

Tel: 03000 269521 Opening Hours:

- Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm
 - Thursdays: 10am - 6pm
 - Fridays: 1pm - 7pm
 - Saturdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm
- Thursdays 10.30 - 12.30:** Basic computing, tailored to your needs.
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Blade Taekwondo: Sat 10.30am
Call **01740 617882** for all enquiries.

May@Sedgefield Social Club

Sat 4th: Stenna
Sat 11th: Dave Lynn
Sat 18th: Courtney Paige
Mon 20th: Country Night - Dave Weston.
Sat 25th: Kara Morgan.

May Sessions - Sew Easy

Mon 13th & 20th: 6.30-9pm.
Wed 8,15,22 & 29th: 10.30am-1pm
Venue: Parish Hall Boardroom.

Ceddesfeld Acoustic Group

First Friday & last Wednesday of every month. All acoustic instruments are welcome.

St John Fisher Catholic Church Weekly Mass Times

Weds & Fri mornings, 9.45am.
Sunday 10.45am. Children's Liturgy during this mass in term time only.
Adoration Thursday evening 7pm.
Legion of Mary meeting every Friday morning after Mass.

To contact The Parish Office, email parishsecretary1961@btconnect.com

New Generation Church

Meeting in Sedgefield Parish Hall every Sunday in May at 10.30am.

Sedgefield Methodist Hall Non-Profit Playgroup

Mon, Wed & Thurs 9.30am - 11.30am in term time. For children aged 2 to 4.
Contact Barbara Smith
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Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch

Why Neighbourhood Watch?

It's easy to shrug it off and assume that Anti-social Behaviour or other crime won't happen to you or that nothing can be done about it. In fact, a great deal can be done to prevent it.

It has always been true that the Police cannot prevent or solve every crime alone but it is especially appropriate to remember that, in these times of more limited resources, each of us has a vital role to play by being a little more diligent and observant.

Residents of a community possess a special knowledge of their neighbourhood that the Police find hard to acquire. For example, a Police officer may not recognise someone in your garden as a stranger, but your neighbour might. It is this kind of awareness and willingness to help that is the basis of Neighbourhood Watch.

Residents need to work together with the Police to make Sedgefield safe and crime free, even if we have to look inwardly sometimes in order to address the problem head on. If you spot suspicious behaviour, contact the Police quickly with accurate information. This provides the best chance of successfully apprehending criminals.

Vital numbers: Police 101 or 999. Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

Crimestoppers is an independent charity: full anonymity is respected. There will be no names, no police statements, no courts. Contact by phone or online.

**Remember, crime isn't as common as you think... but don't be a victim.
Please lock up, stay safe and sleep well.**



Joint Ventures with Durham Constabulary

We are currently organising events with the Sedgefield Police Beat Team and this is the rundown:

Open Council Meeting 7th May

Neighbourhood Watch will have a stand in the Parish Hall from 6.30pm featuring a display of home security and crime prevention equipment by Rona Stocks, Crime Prevention Officer at Durham Police. All members of the public can come along for a chat with the NHW Team and ask Rona about her ideas and security measures. Remember the more difficult it can be made for criminals, the more likely it is that crime can be reduced.

NHW Coffee Morning 31st May at 10 am in the Parish Hall

Again, Rona Stocks will be attending together with NHW members and our Police Beat Team. There will be a raffle and tombola with some cracking prizes offered by local Sedgefield Businesses not to mention tasty home-made produce to accompany your coffee. It's an opportunity to meet friends and find out what Neighbourhood Watch is all about.

Cyber Security

Our presentation in April was delivered by Katie Cain, Police Cyber Crime Prevention Officer and was well received. Amongst the good advice given were simple techniques to make passwords more secure whilst keeping them easy to remember. Leaflets provided by Katie will be available at our other events.

Sedgefield Show

Our Beat Officer, PC Lamb has invited NHW to join the Police Team at Sedgefield Show in August and so we are planning a joint effort which could involve police dogs and motorbikes

Anti-social Behaviour

This is our No 1 priority as of now and it is highly appropriate to offer our congratulations to PC John Lamb and Amy Jorgeson for their hard work and dedication in tackling this problem.

Whilst not totally eradicated by any means, the incidence of ASB has been notably reduced. However, work will continue in the same vein to ensure we can further reduce the problem as far as possible.

Please note that this includes the Zero Tolerance approach stated in the Police Notice outlined here last month which will involve Social Services and lead to a criminal record where appropriate.

This is where your support is essential as parents, guardians and neighbours in the true sense of Neighbourhood Watch.

Do you know where your teenagers are on an evening and who they are fraternising with?

Two important facts should be borne in mind:

- 1) The majority are good kids who can be led astray by one or two influential but misguided ringleaders;
- 2) The majority of incidents are committed by young Sedgefield residents, not people from other areas.

Therefore, the bitter pill to swallow is that the perpetrators are from this Community; they are your neighbours, and the solution lies within your Community.

Local Police. Call 101 to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information. Always keep notes and ask for an incident number.

Crime Prevention Officer Rona Stocks -
rona.stocks@durham.pnn.police.uk
Police Community Cohesion Officer Faye Callan - 101 Extension 742317.
Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk

Confidential email address -
John.lamb@durham.pnn.police.uk
 Any information we receive will be developed and acted upon.

Steve's Nature Diary for May

I made an early spring visit to one of my favourite local sites, Durham Wildlife Trust's Bishop Middleham Quarry Nature Reserve - primarily looking for butterflies and although the sun was shining it was a little on the cool side and I didn't see any. The reserve at this time of year can look very bare which makes it easier to spot the multitude of deposits left by dogs or should I say left by inconsiderate owners who think because it's a nature reserve they don't need to pick it up! What I did see however, was a number of spring migrants which had recently returned from the Sahel area of Africa. There were around a dozen Sand Martins flying over the quarry looking for insects to feed on and then prospecting new nest sites above the existing quarry on the other side of the road. It is good to see them back after making such an arduous journey. When you read this, many of the migrants will be back from their travels and you will have the opportunity to hear the dawn chorus again with birds such as Blackcap, Willow Warbler and Chiff Chaff in full voice.

Going back to butterflies (if you visit the reserve in May you should see more than I did), the newest findings from the annual UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme led by Butterfly Conservation reveal that last year's heatwave may have given several species a boost but 2018 wasn't a good year for all butterflies. More than two-thirds of UK butterfly species (39 of 57) were seen in higher numbers than in 2017, with two of the UK's rarest, the Large Blue and Black Hairstreak, recording their best years since records began.

But despite the upturn, 2018 was still only an average year for the UK's butterflies. Around two thirds of species (36 of 57) show an apparent decline since records began 43 years ago with 21 of these showing significant long-term declines. It was also a surprisingly poor year for some garden favourites. The Small Tortoiseshell slumped by 38% compared to the previous year and the Peacock was down 25%, whilst the migratory Red Admiral crashed by 75% after a good year in 2017.

This long term decline is mirrored in a range of other species from water voles (now missing from 94% of the places they once lived) to toads (numbers have dropped by 68% in the last 30 years alone). With this in mind, The Wildlife Trusts have produced an updated animated trailer of *The Wind in the Willows*. This has revisited the riverbank 100 years later to discover how the world has changed. And it's not a pretty sight. Rivers are choked with pollution and litter, trees are torn down to make space for development and grass gives way to concrete. But sadly, this picture is far from a fantasy. The release of the *Wind in the Willows* trailer launches a new campaign for a Wilder Future. The campaign is calling for Nature Recovery Networks to protect existing wildlife sites and map out where wildlife ought to be. This will join-up important places for wildlife and also allow more people to live closer to nature. If you would like to see the film and support this campaign visit <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wilder-future> and play your part in nature's recovery.



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.

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 18th May, during the Mediaeval Fayre between 10am and noon 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 £426 as a result of gift aid declarations.

Thank you all for your continued support. *David & Margaret Glass*

Your Letters

Ball Game correction

After reading your article on the 2019 Ball Game I want to correct you on one point. The ball is "alleyed" when it is kicked in, and recovered from, the Spring Lane beck, not when it is thrown up to start the game. I have played and followed the Ball Game since about 1947. In those days there were two alleys, the Spring Lane one, and a now filled-in pond at the bottom of North End near the garage. Also, in those days there were unwritten rules; the game was between the farmers and the tradesmen with the farmers kicking one way and the tradesmen the other.

The ball was supplied by the church, and the then Church Warden, a Mrs Ward, took the ball to every house in the village before Shrove Tuesday to solicit donations.

The Church Warden always started the game, and if the ball was not alleyed before 6.00pm it went back to the church. In later years, both my father and an uncle started the game as the oldest known resident. *Vic. J. Wright*

How times change!

I was most amused by the letter in last month's News, concerning horse manure in the Winterton estate. How times change! I recall my father and another gardener down the street having a gentleman's agreement that when the Co-op milk horse left a deposit either side of an imaginary line in the road, that dictated which of them could collect it for their gardens. Sometimes the line was known to move a bit, in favour of whoever was there first with a bucket & spade!

The other gardener was a postman so worked shifts & would often win the race. There must be very few keen gardeners in Winterton.

Alan Patterson

Ceddesfeld Hall

Home of Sedgefield Community Association

Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre

Saturday 18th May will be a fantastic community event, for the family. The 'Greatest Showman' theme runs across the day, starting with the children's walking parade at 10 am and free 'Circus Skills' activities will be taking place on the lawns at Ceddesfeld. There's a wide range of new craft and charity stalls as well as mediaeval displays, 'Living History', tug of war, 'Birds of Prey', face painting and much more.

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 the fayre and community groups support it in the run up and on the day. The fayre is run solely by local volunteers and all help, whether for an hour on the day, or an evening collecting, is extremely helpful and makes a massive difference.

The timetable house to house

collections is on p 4. The rota for collections and sorting (13th - 16th 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 Future Events

We're also looking forward to Sedgefield Day, June 22nd, SCA Beer Festival; 5th & 6th July, Family Fun afternoon; 3rd August and the Sedgefield Folk Festival; 6, 7 & 8th September, and ...

Book Ends

Now in its third year, Sedgefield's own book festival (this year entitled 'Pebbles in a Pond') will run from Saturday 28th September and 20 October. We have some exciting new events lined up! There will be more on these events in the coming months or visit the new SCA website (see right) for further details.

For information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, call Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 01740 620607 or Sarah on 01740 622185. Find us on Facebook & www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk

Sedgefield Development Trust Projects

Working for the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Fishburn

Energy Prices Still Rising

Our energy switching scheme's next auction takes place on 21st May so if you have not participated in our scheme previously, now might be a good time. Don't just take our word about the savings that have been achieved, talk to friends and neighbours.

For new participants to the scheme, if your current contract comes to an end before the end of June, this is the registration period for you. For those people who have been part of the scheme previously and your contract ends before the end of July, this is the auction for which you will again need to register.

May Auction Key Dates: Registration closes 20th May. Auction Day 21st May. Offers issued from 3rd June. Offer acceptance closure 2nd July.

As before, if you are happy to register on line yourself, go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk open ENERGY SWITCH, click on 'REGISTER NOW'. Follow the links and fill out your details.

If you prefer to register and receive information through the post, or need any assistance, please call the Helpline, 07980 134 594 and we will be more than happy to assist, or to complete your registration for you.

Note for Online Registrants: We received a number of phone calls to our helpline after the last auction from people who had not received their personal offers. In all cases their offers had been posted by their computers into the Junk or Trash folders rather than the Inbox, so please check these folders for any emails which you might expect relating to our scheme.

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Our Market has grown steadily, and it's not just bigger month on month compared with previous years, but the range of produce is greater. Stallholders tell us that they like coming to Sedgefield because the customers are knowledgeable about food, it is a lovely setting and the people are good for a chat. Compliment for our customers - that's you, readers - so thank you! If you have ideas about how the Market or our range of produce should develop, or know of local producers you would like us to invite, talk to me at the Market or get in touch (see below).

Remember, every market gives you a chance to get yourself or your friends, one of our Sedgefield Farmers Market shopping bags; they are re-usable, can be cleaned, and mean you can refuse plastic bags for ages. This is about reducing plastic waste and its impact on our planet.

Sedgefield Community Association will have the community stall this month. Find out more about the Mediaeval Fayre and everything else that SCA does.

As I write, the exceptional sunny weather looks set to last, so let's hope for an exceptional May market too! It would be great to have sun for the Maypole dancing this year! Both adults and children are welcome to join in the fun.

New email addresses for SDT and its projects

We are now using email on our own domain, and although it results in long email addresses, they are predictable when you get used to them. The change will be gradual, and we will keep track of mail from old addresses, but if you receive a message from a new address, please add it to your Contacts. The full list is on our Website and Facebook page, but here are some projects...

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Sedgefield News: | news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk |
| Energy Switch: | energy@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk |
| Farmers' Market: | farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk and for |
| Charity stall & music: | charitystall@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk |
| Woodland & Wildlife: | woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk |
| Homework Help: | homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk |
| DIDO & Sew Easy: | dido@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk |

Sport in Sedgefield

Email club reports to Chris Lines: chrisjlines@aol.com

Youth teams - please call Tony Magee on 07837 114 271 if you would like him to report on your club or matches

It's a sure sign that summer is on its way when athletes unscrew their long cross country spikes to replace them with the shorter alternatives for the track, and when the sound of willow and leather colliding accompanies a stroll along Station Road. This also means that some traditional winter sports seasons are drawing to a close. Not all of the final results and league standings have been confirmed at the time of writing this update, but I will share details as they emerge over the next couple of months. Meanwhile...

Squash

Five junior girls from Sedgefield Squash Club recently represented Sedgefield Community College in the National Schools Squash Championships, and almost walked away as gold medal winners! It is the first time that the college has entered the competition, encouraged by the number of girls playing regularly at Sedgefield, and supported by the club's coaching team.

The club's ladies' champion, Jess Weatherspoon, was joined by ladies' team regulars Jenny Walker and Lauren Pryn, plus Kate Wallace and Katelyn Craig, who completed the squad.

With early round draws against frequent finalists - and champions - from Dame Allan's and Gosforth Academy Schools in

Newcastle, expectations were realistically low, but fighting performances and victories against the other opposition, saw the college's team qualifying for the KS4 Plate Finals at Nottingham's prestigious Squash & Rackets Club. After a comfortable quarter final victory against Moreton Hall from Shropshire, the girls faced another boarding school, Downe House, from Berkshire, in the semi-final. In a close fought encounter, the school came within one point of making the final, agonisingly losing by the narrowest of margins against the team that went on to win gold comfortably. The girls overcame their disappointment to easily win their third-place play-off and bring home bronze medals.

This is not only a fantastic achievement for the girls and the community college, but also a great reflection on the current health of both girls' and junior squash at the club. Sedgefield boasts a record number of girls entering club competitions this year, and with some of the juniors now moving into the senior team, the future is looking bright.

Junior coaching takes place from 9:00am-1:00pm every Saturday during term-time, from September to July. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please contact the club via its website or email info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.



Photo: Back row, L to R—Jenny, Jess and Kate; Front row, Lauren (left) and Katelyn

Football

A couple of months ago I reported that Sedgefield St. Edmund's FC had progressed to the semi-finals of the Durham County Cup competition. St. Edmund's were drawn away to Boldon Shack and it proved to be a very closely fought game. The teams couldn't be separated over 90 minutes and the final score was 1-1. It went straight to penalties and unfortunately, Boldon prevailed. As the cliché goes, St. Edmund's will now concentrate on the league and aim to finish as high as possible in the Premier Division of the Durham & District Sunday League. At the time of writing this, the team is sitting in fourth place.

Cricket

There's still time to sign up for the EBC's All Stars Cricket coaching scheme at Sedgefield Cricket Club, which will begin at 5:15pm on Friday 24 May and run for eight weeks. All Stars is open to girls and boys aged five to eight and every child who is registered at www.allstarscricket.co.uk will receive a well-equipped kit bag. Parents who take their youngsters along to the sessions can also take the opportunity to pop into the recently refurbished bar, which also shows all of the latest televised sport (including events on Sky and BT Sport). The clubhouse is available for event hire and all money raised is ploughed back into the club. A key component of the club's success is a membership system which provides reduced price drinks for its members and represents more investment back into a community facility. Annual social membership costs only £10 (enquiries can be emailed to sccmemberships@outlook.com or you can complete a form at the bar). Keep up with everything happening on and off the pitch at Sedgefield Cricket Club by liking the club's Facebook page or following @Sedgefield_CC on Twitter.



In the photo above is Katelyn Craig, who completed a 3.5 mile sponsored swim - that's 224 lengths - and made it look easy! She has raised more money towards her Rangers International Camp in Canada. Congratulations!