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SEDGEFIELD NEWS April 2016 fbo

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

Spring has sprung!

Regardless of the weather, two infallible harbingers of spring appeared recently crocuses on the church bank and Sedgefield Bloomers out and about weeding, tidving and clearing leaves. Spring judging takes place on Wednesday April 13th at 10.30 am. Our council gardeners Stephen and Roy provide the colourful tubs, beds and many of the hanging baskets which make the centre of the village so attractive. In addition, Bloom volunteers plant and maintain project areas including the 700 bed on the church bank, Manor House rose garden, Crispin Court, Malton Terrace Herb Garden, the Turnpike Bed and agricultural heritage area at Beacon Lane and the wildflower meadow and borders at Wykes Close. 2016 sees the beginning of a major new project to improve the large area to the left of Ceddesfeld Hall entrance gates. During the school Easter holidays, contractors will clear overgrown ivy and some ear-marked trees, opening up the area for attractive new planting and other items of environmental and historical interest. Contractors will also be working to begin improvements to the roadside beds near the Scout hall on West End.

Having won gold and Best Small Town on numerous occasions plus the Best Overall award in 2013, Sedgefield has now moved up a notch into a new category - Champion of Champions. This pits us against other high achievers including Durham City. Naturally, Sedgefield in Bloom volunteers in collaboration with the town council and head gardener Stephen Young will be pulling out all the stops to win gold. Everyone can help by joining the battle to keep the village free of litter and weeds and by making sure your own garden or commercial premises is well looked after. Generous sponsorship and fundraising helps to provide additional planting and materials. New volunteers are always welcome. Join us at the lych gate on Wednesdays at 10am and help bring that Champions cup home!



Appeal for Christmas tree stands

No, its not an April Fool! There may still be over 250 days to Christmas but the festive season is already very much on the minds of a team of volunteers at St Edmund's Church in Sedgefield. They are planning a special Christmas Tree Festival but are in desperate need of tree stands.

"We are expecting at least 35 trees to be sponsored and would like anyone doing a spot of Spring-cleaning or sorting out the attic who comes across a stand that is no longer wanted to get in touch with us," said church member Anne Eyley. All the trees will be decorated by the staff of local firms or club members, to represent their business or activities.

Believed to be the first of its kind at St. Edmund's, the festival will be staged in the church from December 3rd - 8th, and will include a number of social events. The profits will be used to further the work of Butterwick Hospice and DFW Adoption. If you can help please contact Anne on 01740 645854.

Steve's Nature Diary

Recently, I have been several times to RSPB Saltholme looking for a rare bird and missed out every time! I did see lots of common ducks including Mallard, Tufted, Pochard, Widgeon and Gadwall and also a rare female Smew (which had been around for a few months) but the Penduline Tits I was looking for eluded me. These Southern and Eastern European birds (pictured) are rare visitors to the UK and are related to our The natural world month by month



garden birds but have finer bills. They are about the same size as a Blue Tit but the male has a black mask, grey head and reddish brown back and can been seen feeding on reed heads; some people got very good views but not me. It did get me thinking about the tit families that visit our gardens.

You may not realise but there are three species that are very common visitors, all looking similar with blues, yellows and blacks, but easily separated if you get a good look at them. The largest of the three is the Great Tit, easily recognised with its yellow underparts and a black band on its belly – the male has a wide black band and the female has a narrow uneven band. The next two the Blue and Coal are similar sized but the Coal Tit has a black head with white cheeks whilst the Blue Tit has a blue and white head. Long tailed Tits are occasional visitors to gardens and quite often appear in small flocks making a high pitched srih srih srih call and look like a tiny pale ball with a tail. The final two tits are the Marsh and the Willow who both look very similar with a brownish body and black cap and are really difficult to differentiate unless you hear them call.

Seeing common birds close up in the garden can give you as much pleasure as a fleeting glimpse of a slightly rarer one. Either might count as a favourite wildlife experience. The Wildlife Trusts would like to know about your favourite wildlife experience from a list of over 60 - and also a bit about the special moments that you had along the way. Possible experiences range from dazzling bluebells to swooping sand martins, from writing poetry amongst the daffodils to eavesdropping on nightingales.

You can visit http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/lovewildlife and cast your vote - there's a voting button on each experience page - and tweet about your wild adventure using #lovewildlife. Share the wonder!

House of Eden



Children's Nursery www.edennursery.co.uk Bishop Middleham Manager, Natalie Richardson 01740 651224

Fishburn Manager, Carol Woods 01740 620683

Outdoor Gym Equipment

Sedgefield Town Council is exploring the potential for the provision of outdoor gym equipment in the vicinity of the Eden Drive play area. This kind of equipment has become increasingly popular around the country, with items often located together in parks and described as 'fitness stations'. They are aimed at adults - and the older generation in particular - and are designed to give people free, easy to access opportunities to include realistic keep fit activities into their daily lives. The town council may be able to secure some funding to purchase a quantity of equipment for the community, but before pursuing the project, needs to establish that there is a demand for it. If outdoor gym equipment is of interest to you, and which you would consider using, please let the town council know. Email angela@sedgefield.net, call 621774 or pop into the council offices.

Sponsorship for Football Strips

The children of Sedgefield Primary School have begun playing football matches in brand new strips, following sponsorship from YoungsRPS. The sponsorship was the result of an application to the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), which is an initiative designed for parents and teachers to source funding for school projects outside of school. Julie Nuttall, from Sedgefield Primary School, took advantage of the PTA by sending applications to various companies in order to request sponsorship. This led to YoungsRPS, a local property business, agreeing to provide all new strips for both the male and female football teams.

The children were given the opportunity to vote on the design of the strip, and have already played their first match sporting the new kit, winning last week's game in the School Central League.



Lynn Walters, a manager at YoungsRPS, said: "We are always looking at ways to support our local community, so when I was approached by Julie from Sedgefield Primary looking for funding to provide equipment for the school football, we were only to o happy to help. Having watched my own children playing years ago for the same team in coloured tabards it was a natural choice to offer to buy them a full new kit. I hope the new kit brings them luck and success!"

The children were enthralled about receiving the sponsorship: "It's really nice because we've always had mismatched kits, and now we look like a proper team. It's also a sign that we respect our school." "Everyone is happier and we aren't separate from each other, we are finally one team."

Sedgefield Primary will play their next match with pride, on Thursday 24 March.

Join the crusade

February 2016 marked the first birthday for Coxhoe Crusaders, a Back 2 Netball Club based at the Active Life Centre in Coxhoe. In its first year the Club has gone from strength-to-strength, recruiting over 30 members, some of whom are from Sedgefield and the surrounding area.

The Club has attracted sponsorship from local businesses, Lofty Solutions, PJA Motors and Cassop Village Partnership, to purchase new team kit and from Hope Construction, for a set of netballs. Support towards running costs has been received via grants from County Durham Community Foundation and Coxhoe Parish Council. Coach and Club Chairman Vince Robson said 'We would like to say a big thank you for the support we have received it will help us to build a solid future'.

Crusaders are extending an invitation for ladies to join them. Training takes place each Wednesday, 6.30pm-8pm, at the Active



Life Centre in Coxhoe. Sessions are designed to suit adults of all ages, abilities and experience. New members are always welcome and will be allocated a 'netball buddy' to help them settle in; the first session is free. For further information email coxhoecrusadersnetball@outlook.com or find Coxhoe Crusaders Netball Club on Facebook and twitter.

Sedgefield Local History Society

World War 1 commemorations

The next commemoration for Sedgefield's fallen takes place at the veteran's flag on **Sunday 24 April** at 11.15 am. This will follow on from the St George's day parade and service in St Edmund's. Everyone is welcome to come along to our brief ceremony honouring the life and sacrifice of Thomas Herdman Snowdon.

Sadly, Sedgefield, in common with many other towns, villages and cities around the world, lost men at the Battle of the Somme, which began on July 1st 1916 and raged for many months. Sedgefield LHS will mount a special act of **commemoration for our Somme men** at 11 am on **Thursday June 30**, followed by an exhibition in Ceddesfeld Hall. This will begin on the 30th and continue into the weekend. If you have family connections or information about Sedgefield men at the Somme, including those who returned, Sedgefield LHS would love to hear from you. Ring 01740 620091 or

email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk See our Facebook page for details of this and other events.

Hardwick Babes

Northern Echo readers will have seen Chris Lloyd's excellent feature on babies born at Hardwick Hall when it was a maternity home. Sedgefield LHS plans to organise 'a bit of a do' for Sedgefield Babes and would love to hear from anyone who fits the bill. Get in touch with us asap, so that we can get cracking. We hope to be all set to go by early September. Ring me on 01740 620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk.

The Savoy Cinema

Local writer Alan Harrison of Stanley phoned recently, enquiring about Sedgefield's Savoy Cinema. We have yet to see a photograph of the building, but Les Butler, who came to Sedgefield with the army during World War II and never left, supplied a lovely drawing of this much-missed village asset. Do you remember going to the Savoy ? How much was it to get in ? Which films did you see ? When did it finally close ? Built during the war, largely for the benefit of the army camp, Alan thinks it closed in 1970. Is he right ? Do you remember it being demolished ? If you have fond memories, scraps of evidence, even memorabilia, we'd love to hear from you. Ring me on 01740 620091 or emailnorma@neal.myzen.co.uk Next in our series of updates on the organisations that received funding as part of the development of Sainsbury's store, a progress report from the

Friends of Sedgefield Harriers

Sedgefield Harriers is an increasingly successful athletics club. Membership is high, with a waiting



list for juniors. The club would like to build a 4 lane training track at the Community College with provision for jumps and throws to allow athletes to train in Track and Field events. Following a feasibility study a planning application was submitted in 2013 and consent was granted by Durham CC. A detailed design and costing exercise was carried out in 2014. Fundraising to date has concentrated on smaller grants and community events whilst we prepare submissions for some of the bigger funds. Currently FoSH has raised over £45,000 with an additional £40,000 from the Terrance Hill fund and a further donation of £25,000 promised. One of the hurdles [sic] we have is the issue of land ownership, which is complicated at the college and there are talks underway to reach an agreement. Once this is resolved we can apply for much larger funds, in excess of £100,000. We are also looking into ways of phasing the development to aid with fundraising targets. FoSH now has the Winter Beer Festival and Hamsterley Marathon established as annual fundraising events. This year's Hamsterley Marathon event, including 11 & 18-mile options, is on Saturday 2 July. 2017 also sees the return of the FoSH calendar with submissions being welcomed now for printing later this year.

www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/friends-of-sedgefield-harriers

SEDGEFIELD NEWS INFORMATION

Deadline for the May edition: Thursday 15th April Send copy to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com; call/text 07572 502 904 or post to 55 White House Drive, TS21 3BU For SedgefieldWeb go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk email sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk Sports editor: chrisjlines@aol.com Diary & Events: diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com Sedgefield News is on Facebook, Twitter @sedgefieldnews & Instagram at #sedgynews

New funding opportunities for our rural community

This month sees the launch of the Durham Coast and Lowlands LEADER programme. The area has been awarded £1.584M to help create jobs, develop rural business and support the rural economy. The Durham Coast and LEADER patch includes all areas surrounding and including **Sedgefield**, **Fishburn and Bradbury**. This really is fantastic opportunity as this area has never been able to access LEADER funding before. It is aimed at farmers, growers, rural business and rural community organisations across five national priorities:

- Farm Productivity (i.e. equipment and innovative precision products which will enhance overall productivity on the farm)
- Micro and small businesses and Farm Diversification
- Tourism
- Culture and Heritage
- Rural Services

LEADER is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Further information on the Durham Coast and Lowlands programme can be found at:

www.durhamgov.uk/dclleader. To discuss a project idea or eligibility, please contact Sarah Marshall at durhamcoastandlowlands@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 266894 / 07880 180208

Sedgefield Neighbourhood Plan

An update from Sedgefield Village Action Group

Residents will have received a leaflet from the County Council as part of their consultation. The plan can be viewed at www.durham.gov.uk/planning (hard copies available at Sedgefield Council Offices.) Closing date for comments is **29th March 2016**. Residents are urged to comment at **spatialpolicy@durham.gov.uk** or phone **03000 261908**.

In December we gave an update on the outstanding applications outside the Sedgefield Neighbourhood Plan's built up area boundary. The current situation is :-

Application No. 1 The 3 cornered field (42 Houses) The closing date for objections/ comments to an appeal, after initial rejection by DCC, was 10th November. We still await the decision of the Planning Inspectorate regarding the appeal.

No. 2 The Eden Drive Development (315 Houses) The new application made for Eden Drive, after the unanimous rejection by County Councillors of the original, received 270 objections and 7 comments in support. Since then an amendment to the proposed road into the development has been lodged but there is no date yet for when this will be heard by the County Council Planning Committee, although it should be held soon.

No. 3 Land to the North of the A689

adjacent to Stockton Road (150 Houses)

This application was rejected by the County Council's Planning Committee on 2/2/2016. No appeal has yet been received.

No. 4 Land behind Sainsbury's, the Community College and The Orchard estate (initially 371 Houses) No date has yet been set by the County Council to hear this application, but again this is imminent.

The Old Sedgefield Community Hospital Site A presentation was given to the Town Council on 4/3/2016 by PRA Architects regarding a proposed outline application for 125 houses on the site. The Council was informed that the developers wish to present their application to the County Council within the next two weeks.

SEDGEFIELD ENERGY SWITCH

Savings are available for energy users in Sedgefield and registration is open. If you are happy to register on line yourself, go to **www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk**, open the ENERGY SWITCH section, click on the RED 'REGISTER NOW' button and follow the links to fill out your details.

Don't miss out because you don't use a computer - help is at hand. Call the Sedgefield Development Trust Helpline on **07980 134 594** and we will be happy to assist you or complete your registration for you.

Registration closes on Monday 16th May. Auction day is 17th May and personal offers will be issued from 27th May. Offer acceptance closes on 27th June.

PC Todd's report

Crime continues to remain low in and around Sedgefield but the Racecourse has become the main target for night time thieves. On two occasions recently items have been stolen, some of which were recovered after being abandoned nearby.

Other reported crimes include the theft of a JCB 'Shaker' (don't ask!) This was found abandoned two days later in the Stockton area. Also, number plates were stolen from a car parked at Winterton Cottages and two ornamental holly bushes in blue ceramic pots were stolen from outside a house in Dunelm Court. I am also looking for a mountain bike which is matt black in colour with green writing, with the name Voodoo on the side. If you have seen this bike please let me know. It was taken from the Rectory row area over the last few weeks.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently at the Crosshill pub. No incidents were reported requiring further action. *Until next time, Keith*

Local Police 101

Police Community Liaison Officer, Lauren Wray 01325 732020 Parking Shop 0191 3846633

Your letters

A note from Allan

My thanks to all those good friends who have regularly visited and sent gifts and cards since my accident on 22nd January. A special thank you to John Coulson for his spectacular fish pie. Much appreciated. *Allan Smart*

Fundraising thanks

I would like to say a big thank you to everybody who supported my pie, peas and bingo fundraising event for Project Trust at Ceddesfeld Hall on Thursday 12th March.

Thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes, including the Co-op and Hardwick Hall Hotel, to Coates butchers in Coxhoe for supporting me with the pies, to those simply donating money, and not least, to everybody who took part on the evening and contributed so generously.

All told £530.60 was raised. Only another £2,200 to go to reach my target of £6200!

Anyone still wishing to donate can do so via uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ alexinzambia. Many thanks, *Alexander Priestley-Leach*





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News from Sedgefield Development Trust

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

The Trusty

Did you enjoy the terrific range of stalls last time? It was great to have the Clervaux Trust along with their crusty bread and different vegetables. Ibbotsons' Plants returned for the season, so all our traders were together again and they all hope to return in April. The Community Stall has been taken by Durham Wildlife Trust, so come along and see how they benefit our area and care for our wildlife. They are happy to answer any questions and welcome your involvement. We also have Ceddesfolk Ceilidh Band in the Music Tent, to start the Spring/Summer season with a swing. Enjoy the morning market in its full glory on the Green, trading from 8.30am. **DIDO**

Day Out: We are trialling a new coach for our April outing to Cherry Tree Garden Centre and Wainstones Hotel at Great Broughton. The coach is specially equipped for people with disabilities and mobility problems, unlike the coaches we have been able to hire in the past. The age and infirmity of several members have made it almost impossible for them to have a day trip with the group. The coach is very expensive to hire, but members felt that the value it offered in terms of inclusivity outweighed the added expense. This shows the consideration our more able members give to others sadly lacking in some areas nowadays - and the friendship and community spirit this project has built up over the nine years it has run. DIDO is entirely self funded, apart from a generous donation from Sedgefield Charities and the Sedgefield Mayor's Charity Fund each year. The cost of coaches for last year was £1400. We hope it continues for a long time and would welcome new members to join us. Day In: To celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday on 9th May, we're holding a Street Party in the Parish Hall, in partnership with the Sedgefield Primary School, who are embarking on a national programme. Go-Givers is a cross-curricular educational programme that supports children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural learning. Children will attend and help with activities, serve teas, and help to decorate the hall. They will record the event and report on the day, possibly do some entertainment and interview members, particularly those in the same age range as the Queen (we have quite a lot of those.) We hope the event will engender kindness, positive behaviour and friendship, raising inter-generational respect as well as being lots of fun! Gloria Wills.

Regular Events, Meetings and Get-togethers

Acoustic Evenings 1st Fri & 4th Wed. Ceddesfeld Hall 8.30pm All welcome. Bereavement Support Group 3 - 5pm. Thursday, St. Edmund's Church Bridge Club Ceddesfeld Hall Sunday & Tuesday 7.30pm Beginners welcome. 620434 CAB Advice Sessions alternate Wednesdays 10am - 1pm Advice & Information Centre Café @St Catherine's Friendly chat & Fishburn gossip! Fridays 9.30-12.00 Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group Small friendly group 10am-12.00 Thursdays Ceddesfeld Hall Pre-School Mon, Wed, Fri am; Children 2+years. 620934 Craft Club Swinhoe Room, Ceddesfeld Hall, 2nd & 4th Tues 7.30-10pm Tel: 620656 Fishburn Art Group Youth & Community Centre, Butterwick Rd. Monday 9.30am-12 Fishburn Taekwondo Tues & Thurs 6pm, Youth & Community Centre. 07743455065 Fitness classes in the Parish Hall Tuesdays in term time: Tai Chi 10 – 11am and on Wednesdays: Exercise to Music 11.30am – 12.30pm: Pilates 12.30 – 1.30pm and Healthy Horizons 1.45 – 2.45pm.

Lyrics Choirs Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall. SLYC 6pm Adults 7.30pm. All welcome. NECP Concertina Workshop 2nd & 4th Sun1pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. 01642 588197 New Generation Church Every Sunday 11am at the Parish Hall. All welcome. Rotary Club of Sedgefield Wed 7.30pm Call Bob 07831270892 or Mel 07530315331 Round Table 1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members welcome. Carl 07775644598 S'field Art Group Tuesday 6.30-8.30pm Methodist Church Hall. Tuition, all welcome S'field Bowls Club Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners welcome call 622532 for information S'field Handbell Ringers Weds 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall or 1st Mon of month 621292 S'field Mags Hardwick Arms first Tuesday of month at 8 pm. Tel: 07966029434 S'field Players Parish Hall, 7.30, Sunday & Wednesday. SPYS Sunday 5.30. 620091 S'field Playgroup Methodist Hall, Mon, Wed & Thursday 9.15-11:30. 620893 S'field Tappers Parish Hall Tues 9.30am-12 Wed 10am-12.30pm Thurs 1-3.30pm S'field Tappers Parish Hall from 1-3pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month.

Toddler Club Wed term time 1.15 - 3pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Tel: Joan Brennan, 622385



Ceddesfeld Hall

Home of Sedgefield Community Association As was very briefly mentioned last time, the SCA at Ceddesfeld Hall have a new website! Special thanks must go to Matt Wilson, from Sedgefield Web Design for a brilliant job. The site is well laid out and really shows off everything that is available, as well as what goes on. The home page gives lots of important details and there are different pages for the special annual events (such as the Mediaeval Fayre and Easter Egg Hunt) as well as the regular activities and clubs, with lots of information about each section. You might be surprised at just how much is on offer, on a weekly and monthly basis and there is always room to extend what we have so please get in touch if you would like to set up a new group or activity, or hire a room for a special occasion, event or meeting. February saw Ceddesfeld's first Open Mic Night (please see Tom's section for more details) and we're looking forward

more details) and we're looking forward to the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Monday. This is a lovely family event which begins at 1.45pm with the selection of the May Queen and attendants for the Mediaeval Fayre parade. There are lots of prizes for decorated eggs, Easter bonnets as well as the traditional hunt for eggs in the grounds. The bar is open and families are welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy on the lawns.

April 23rd brings a special Shakespeare celebratory evening and plans for Mediaeval Fayre are gaining momentum. New volunteers (who will bring new skills, ideas and enthusiasm) are essential and very welcome. They will ensure that these special community events can grow and continue well into the future. If you feel you would like to be more involved, or can give any time to help with collections, selling raffle tickets, setting up or manning stalls on the day, or if you wish to help on the bar, please get in touch.

For more information, contact Wendy, 620206: Pat, 620607: Sarah, 622185 or visit www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk.

Northern Echo School Awards 2015

Congratulations to Sedgefield Community College, which has been given the Innovation Award after being named the North-East's only "Advanced Thinking School" by The University of Exeter.

Tom Guest's ARTS & EVENTS UPDATE email diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Open Mic Success

The first Open Mic night hosted by the SCA at Ceddesfeld Hall was a huge success. A variety of acts, including performances of acoustic music, a capella singing, poetry, solo and group acts took to the small, but intimate stage in Ceddesfeld to entertain a large audience of supporters and Open Mic fans.

The evening was opened by local group 'The Milliners' who performed a brilliant set of country music. Solo acts included Rob Guest, Kristen Peacock, Nick and Tom Guest; Kristen and Sandy Clubley performed folk tunes on harp and melodeon and Terry West brought a selection of moving, and hilarious poetry. The second group of the night, 'The Hokey Folkeys', performed a brilliant set of close harmony, soft rock. The supportive and appreciative audience had a brilliant night and were thoroughly entertained by the huge variety of local talent on offer. An entry fee of £3 per person will be used to buy specialist performance equipment for the Hall, including lighting and sound equipment, to help the venue become more useable for concerts and events such as this. We raised just over £120 at the first event and hope that across the course of the year we will be able to raise more. Huge thanks must go to Anthony Robb and Kristen Peacock for lending us the equipment and for so skilfully helping on the night. The next Open Mic will be taking place on May 7th. Doors open at 7.30, £3 entry. For more information contact Tom on 622185.



Photos by TG & Helen Nixon. Clockwise from top left: The Milliners; The Holkey Folkeys; Rob Guest; Kristen Peacock, Catherine Lines, Rachel Lee & Tom Guest; Terry West.

Ukulele/Acoustic Guitar Workshops

For those interested in learning to play a musical instrument, or develop their musical talent, Sedgefield has many options of where you can go to develop skills. Two of the most accessible are the Ukulele and Acoustic Guitar Workshops, who both

meet regularly at Ceddesfeld Hall.

The Ukulele Workshop is run by local musician Lol Crallan and meets on the 3rd Friday of every month. This very friendly group ranges from absolute beginners to advanced. Music and song sheets are provided and there are also a limited number of ukuleles to borrow, for those not wishing to make a purchase before trying. Tuition is differentiated to suit ability and there is opportunity to perform during each session. Please contact Lol on 01740 621729.

The Guitar Workshop meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 8.30 and gives an opportunity to those who may not otherwise play outside of their own home to have an audience and get together to share material and knowledge in a mutually supportive environment. The group includes the less confident through to seasoned performers and those who write their own material. Everyone who comes along is given great support and encouragement to improve. Players cover a range of material from standard chart covers to folk and blues and the range is always surprising. Most play guitar but other instruments include ukulele and accordion – everything is welcomed. For more details check out the group's Facebook Page or the SCA Website.

Nothing for young people?

It's something I hear a lot, on social networking sites, from people on the streets, in conversation; the complaint that there is nothing for the young people of Sedgefield and surrounding areas to do. This is used as an excuse for many things - vandalism, littering, antisocial behaviour; you name it, the reason it is happening is because there is nothing for young people to do. Well I think it is rubbish. Growing up in this village, I could have filled every evening with an activity of some sort, and indeed I did. I had a full and active social timetable. And yes, you could argue that these were things that interested me and not every young person in the village likes the same kind of activities. Again, rubbish! There are a large number of groups aimed at young people, largely run by volunteers, so that a young person with the want could essentially fill their week. You have the Harriers, the SPYS, SLYC, Gill Rowe's Dance, the Scouts, Brownies & Guides, Football Teams, Cricket Teams, Rugby Teams, the Squash Club, to name but a few.

What people really mean is that there is nowhere for young people of a certain age to go and socialise, and this is true. There is no specific place for young people to hang out with their friends, although when these places existed they were either poorly attended, or the people running them became disillusioned upon witnessing the ways in which some young people would behave. There is a definite need for a safe space, that could offer activities, that has Wifi, where young people can go on an evening and be with friends. To all those people who complain about there being nothing in this village, I urge you to find a space, set it up, ask questions, lobby the Town Council, discover information, start a club. Invite the young people along and get them involved. Don't just sit back and complain about it. Do something. TG

Ladies Shopping & Pamper Evening Bishop Middleham Village Hall

Friday 15th April, 7.30pm - 10.30pm Charity Raffle supporting Children with Cancer UK Please bring friends, family & neighbours, plus a bottle & nibbles, to enjoy an evening supporting a great charity and local businesses. For more information, email nicholalineton@gmail.com or call 07843 682 570



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Office Furniture Sale

Surplus office furniture for sale, including desks, chairs, large & small filing cabinets and shelves. Contact 01740 629999 or email nquiries@manorhousesedgefield.co.uk for information or to view.

See pictures on The Manor House Sedgefield Facebook page nearer the time.

¹⁰ SPORTS UPDATE

email chrisjlines@aol.com

I've just watched an astonishing game of cricket at the ICC World Twenty20. After a terrible performance in the field, England somehow managed to chase down a target of 230 with two balls to spare. Whatever people think about the merits of this short version of the game, this was undeniably thrilling. Will we see similar entertainment at Sedgefield Cricket Club this summer? I'd also like to mark your cards about Sedgefield Village Games (SVG) in 2016. It's four years since the village games were launched, inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As we are in another Olympic and Paralympic year, the SVG team has some big plans for the summer, which will be revealed soon and will definitely include a Brazilian flavour – watch this space!

Cricket

Cricket is back. Sedgefield Cricket Club's two senior and six junior teams are now in full training and will be joined by the club's youngest squad (from aged six) who restart their coaching at Sedgefield Community College on Friday 1st April, from 6:00-7:00pm. With large numbers of local boys and girls participating, the club is proud to be doing its bit for youth sport in the Sedgefield area and extends its thanks to Julie-Ann from Hays Travel and Lynn from YoungsRPS who share the vision for providing top class sporting opportunities for the younger generation. To this end, they have agreed to sponsor Sedgefield Cricket Club's junior section and the teams will sport the two company logos on their kit this season. The club is also grateful to Edward Lowe and Hambleton Ales for their ongoing support of the senior teams. If any other local businesses would like to get involved and help develop junior cricket, or your children would like to play the sport, please contact Mike Ridley on 07773 081278 or send a message via the club's website, which can be found at www.pitchero.com/ clubs/sedgefieldcricketclub. As the season progresses, I will report on the progress of Sedgefield's senior and junior teams.

Squash

Last month we reported on an up-and-coming junior. This month, we jump towards the other end of the playing age spectrum, with the fantastic news that Sedgefield Squash Club's Chris Gillespie *(in action, right)* has been appointed to captain England's Over 35s squash team - a great honour. Chris will captain England for the forthcoming Home Nations fixtures in May against Scotland, Ireland and Wales. He has been an active participant on the over 35s circuit during the last season, playing seven out of eight tournaments, and winning the southern regional competition in January.



This is no mean feat for somebody who has to fit in his squash around his 'day job' of being a long-haul airline pilot!

This will be the second year that Sedgefield has had a representative in the Home Nations series, with Matt Marshall representing his country last season. All the best to Chris - I will report on the competition at the end of May.

On the domestic front, Sedgefield's 2nd team have been confirmed as Division 3 champions in the Durham & Cleveland leagues, with one game to play, and unbeaten at the time of writing. Sadly, the 3rd team have helped Sedgefield act as bookends for the division, with only a faint mathematical possibility of avoiding relegation. I will report on the final team standings next month – meanwhile, huge congratulations to the 2nd team and here's hoping they manage to finish the season unbeaten.

Sedgefield parkrun

Sedgefield parkrun celebrated its fourth birthday on Saturday 19th March. Since its launch in 2012, 3,905 different people have between them run, jogged or walked over 130,000km in Hardwick Park, with an average of 123 parkrunners turning up each week to tackle the 5km two lap course. The birthday celebrations included a musical warm up, the presentation of some annual awards and cake! Sedgefield parkrun is free to participate in - just register at www.parkrun.org.uk/ register, print off a copy of your barcode once it's been sent to you (print a second copy to put on your dashboard for free parking during the event) and turn up at Hardwick Park on a Saturday in time to start outside the visitor centre at 9:00am. For younger runners, aged between four and 14, there is also the option of the 2km Sedgefield junior parkrun (one of only three in the North East). Sedgefield's event is held every Sunday morning, also at 9:00am and also in Hardwick Park. Children need to be registered on the main parkrun website (as above) and like all other parkrunners, just need to take along their barcode to participate for free.

Athletics

The spring road running season sees many Harriers in training for events at distances from 5km upwards. As always, several will wear their Harriers vests during the London Marathon, on Sunday 24th April. A fortnight before that, other Harriers head to Manchester to tackle the same distance, and some have already completed marathons. Also, there are some significant half marathons in the spring and Sedgefield will be represented at many, as well as 10km and 5km events and the fast and flat Hartlepool Marina 5 Mile, which is the next race in the club's grand prix series. There has also been a steadily growing appetite among club members to attempt ultra-marathons, including the Hardmoors series in the North Yorkshire Moors.

At the other end of the scale, the track season also looms, and a battalion of junior and senior Harriers will soon be competing at meets throughout the North East, starting with the Anne Marie Redshaw meeting in Shildon on Sunday 17th April. These events are only possible thanks to the fantastic commitment of volunteers who coach, officiate or look after the athletes. Watch this space for key Sedgefield results from all of the above as the season progresses.

Sedgefield Harriers host the popular Neptune Relays in Hardwick Park on the evening of Wednesday 27th April. The event sees teams of four race on a 1.7 mile route in the park, starting and finishing in the temple field. The Neptune Relays are now very well established on the North East athletics calendar and attract entries from all over the region, with teams from many big clubs, including runners who have represented their countries. However, it's also a really welcoming event for athletes of all abilities and experience, and many non-club runners enter teams each year. With a small entry fee (£8 per team for affiliated runners, £10 for unaffiliated) and the beautiful setting, the Neptune Relays have great appeal for participants and spectators alike. That's all for now. If you have any sports news, please email chrisilines@aol.com

Business centre close to capacity a year after launch

The latest tenant to take office space in the 18th Century Manor House in Sedgefield, has edged it close to capacity, just a year after it was launched as a business centre. Workplace health and ergonomics firm Posturite has moved in, bringing the total of companies based in the building up to six, between them employing over 40 staff. Located in the heart of Sedgefield the Grade II listed building has been transformed into a thriving business centre following a change in ownership late in 2014. It is owned and managed by Manor House 1707 Ltd, a local enterprise run by business partners Ean Parsons and Ian Philipson, and has a variety of office accommodation, along with meeting and events space, including the Old Court Room on the ground floor. The sympathetically refurbished and redecorated building retains many original features but has been adapted for business use, with a full range of modern facilities, including superfast fibre broadband and off road parking for tenants and visitors. Posturite, the UK's largest provider of ergonomic solutions for business, is the latest business to move in. The company has rented a suite of offices, representing its first permanent base in the north. The move has led to the creation of 10 new jobs in the local area. Founded in 1991, Posturite carries out over 17,500 ergonomic assessments on individuals in the workplace each year, through its network of experts which includes qualified physios, ergonomists and sports science

professionals. Geoff Thompson, their UK sales director is delighted to have office space in the Manor House. "It fits with our company culture perfectly. It's also exciting to be part of a growing business community here in Sedgefield."

Jane Skilbeck of Manor House 1707 Ltd welcoming Posturite to the Manor House., said "When we launched this building as a business centre, we were convinced of its potential, but we not sure how quickly the offices would be occupied. It's fantastic to see this place so busy only a year later, not only with our tenants, but also thanks to the increasing number of events that we host in the Old Court Room. The 40 staff who now work from here are also using local amenities, shops and restaurants, contributing to Sedgefield's economy on a daily basis, and I am confident that the last available offices will be occupied soon."

The Optician Awards

In other business news, Cooper & Barr (right) has been nominated for the title Independent Practice of the Year. The awards are held in April. This 90 year old business has grown from humble beginnings in Middlesbrough and now has thriving branches in Stokesley, Thirsk and Sedgefield.

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APRIL 2016 DIARY email diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Fri 1st	Sedgefield Village Veterans Parish Hall 10—12 Easter Special Coffee
	Morning. Raffle prizes to be drawn.
	U3A Parish Hall 2pm 'Mary Ann Cotton'. Britain's 1st serial killer from
	West Auckland. All members welcome, guests £3 🖀 620526
Sat 2nd	Sedgefield Library Surgery with councillor Rachel Lumsdon 10-11am
Sun 3rd	Farmers' Market on the Green from 8.30am.
Mon 4th	Methodist Wives & Friends 7.30. 'A Year Behind the Veil' Ingrid Kilner
	Local History Group 7.45 Ceddesfeld Hall 'Roman Life in North East
	England' by Louisa Gidney
Tue 5th	Gardening Club 7.30pm Ceddesfeld Hall. Flora in Teesdale. Ian Findlay
Wed 6th	WI 7.15pm,Parish Hall "Hiking in the Saw Tooth Mountains in Idaho"
wea our	talk by Bob Brown. Members' Competition, a Countryside Photo.
Thu 7th	Sedgefield Library 2.30-3.30pm. Marko's Circus Workshop for children
110 / 11	aged 3-11, 2 03000 269 521
Fri 8th	Sedgefield Cricket Club Live Music Night 7.45pm Main guest : Kentucky
	Cow Tippers. Admission £11 includes buffet. 26 621347
Mon 11th	Really Easy Bridge Lessons at Ceddesfeld Hall. 1.30 - 4pm. 2 620607
Tue 12th	Ladies' Club 7.30pm Ceddesfeld Hall. The Road to Rockcliffe; Chris Lloyd
	Neighbourhood Watch Panel meeting, 7pm Fletcher Room, Parish Hall.
Fri 15th	Deadline for Sedgefield News May edition
	Country Market 10 - 11.30am Parish Hall. Home baking, plants, crafts,
	refreshments. A warm welcome awaits.
	Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning Parish Hall 9.30 - 11.30am
	Ladies Shopping & Pamper Evening Bishop Middleham. Details page 7
Sat 16th	Cricket Club Quiz Night 8pm Presented by John Bryant
	Sedgefield in Bloom Parish Hall 7.30 Dance to Country Cousins. Tickets
	£10, pie and pea supper, Council Offices. BYO drinks.
Sun 17th	Cleveland Steeplechase Howe Hills Farm, Mordon, TS21 2HG. First
	Race 1.30pm Adults £10. Children and parking Free 2621633
Mon 18th	Sedgefield Family History Group Ceddesfeld Hall 7.15pm.
	From Telegram Boy to Bomber Command" by Lynn Defty
	Methodist Wives and Friends 7.30pm Deacon sue Peat
Tue 19th	F'hill, S'field & District Flower Club Parish Hall 7.30pm. Open Night.
	Tom Hodge 'Springtime Melody'. £5.50 members. £8 non members
Fri 22nd	Sedgefield in Bloom Coffee Morning, Parish Hall 10 - 11.30am. Home
	made cakes, raffle, tombola, book stall, gifts and cards.
	Sedgefield Cricket Club Live Music Night, 7.45 Performers include
	Whisky Dogs and Old Age Travellers, £11 inc Buffet 🖀 621347
Sat 23rd	Sedgefield Playgroup Coffee Morning, Methodist Church, 10 - 11am.
	Fundraising for first aid training.
	Mediaeval Fayre Dinner. Ceddesfeld Hall, celebrating 400 years since
	Shakespeare's birth.
Sun 24th	Local History Society 11.15am at the veterans' flag.
	WW1 commemoration
Fri 29th	Inner Wheel Club. Queen's Birthday Celebration, Flower Demonstration
	by Val Guest. Scones, cakes tea/coffee. Proceeds to Breast Cancer &
	other Charities £10 🖀 629070, 620172

Looking ahead

SCA Open Mic Night : Saturday 7th May @ 7.30pm (622185) Local History Society : June 30th. Somme Commemoration and Exhibition

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April Entertainment

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Sedgefield Library

Tel: 03000 269521 Opening Hours -Wednesdays 9:30am - 12:30pm Thursdays 10:00am - 6:00pm Fridays 1:00pm - 7:00pm Saturdays 9:30am - 12:30pm

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Polka School of Dance: Wednesdays 5-8pm Chi Taekwondo: Sat 10.30 - 11.30am For tennis, wheelchair rugby & other sports, call the Hub on 01740 625300

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