



SEDGEFIELD NEWS

April 2017

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

Ball Game

Spring arrived in timely fashion for Sedgefield's Shrove Tuesday Ball Game this year, bringing with it a bright, cool and slightly breezy day. Anticipation grew as the appointed start time approached. Players gathered on the green and a growing crowd of onlookers watched from the relative safety of The Black Lion corner.

At one o'clock the ball was alleyed and the game was on. This year the task of starting the game fell to life-long Sedgefield resident, Geoff Wright. A source close to the organisers said Geoff was delighted to be honoured with this traditional role.

Just over three hours later the outcome of the game was decided, with Tom Adcock (pictured) emerging as this year's winner.

The Adcock family now joins the club of Sedgefield families who have had father and son winners of the game. Tom's dad, John, was the winner in 1974.



Stepping through time

Sedgefield in Bloom's 'Stepping Through Time' project in Ceddesfeld Gardens is beginning to take shape. To the left of the entrance gates, a large overgrown area has been cleared of ivy and self-seeded shrubs. Pruning some trees and removing others has opened up the area, allowing in more light. Our friends from Durham County Council and AW Tree Care have provided muscle and equipment to help the Bloomers out with this major task, and now we can see where we're going.

Victoria Conner of Willow Barn at Blakeston has been commissioned to provide a variety of structures, which will be installed soon. Bark chippings, recycled locally, will provide a robust and ecologically sound surface. The planting design will include shrubs, perennials, ferns and seasonal bulbs, selected for colour, variety, hardiness and attraction to pollinators. We are indebted to Andrew Jackson and his team at DCC for advice and support. After a lot of hard graft from Bloomers and friends, this long-term project is finally coming to fruition. Judges from Northumbria in Bloom make their first **Cont. page 4**

Sedgefield Primary reaches for the Stars!

The children of Sedgefield Primary chose to have a Star Wars Day to celebrate the school's rankings in the DfE Performance Tables. The celebrations included a special Star Wars themed lunch, with a menu created by the members of the School's Nutrition Action Group (SNAG). Later in the day parents and carers were invited in to share the celebrations.

The school's attainment in the 2016 SATs placed them in the top 10 of County Durham Schools and the top 10 of their performance group nationally (based on prior attainment). In addition the progress made in reading, writing and maths from KS1 to KS2 placed them in the top 3% of schools in England. According to the DfE Performance Tables, "There is no better performing similar school in the group that is within 75 miles".

Headteacher, Andrea Cox, said, "We are very proud of all of our hard-working children and staff and feel that their achievements should be celebrated. We are also very grateful for the fantastic support provided by our parents and carers. The children in Year 6 last year were exceptional and were successful in so many ways. We are sure they are continuing to be super stars in Year 7."



Steve's Nature Diary

The natural world month by month: April

By the time you are reading this, spring will be well underway - chaffs singing, blue tits taking up residence in bird boxes and the spring flowers blooming. It is time to get your cameras or mobile phones out and get snapping.

For the past 4 years, the three North East Wildlife Trusts (Northumberland, Durham and Tees Valley), the Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN), Great North Museum: Hancock and Alan Hewitt Photography have joined forces to organise the North East Wildlife Photography Competition supported by Nestlé Fawdon.

There are six competition categories to enter: wildlife portraits, wildlife in action, wildlife in the landscape, nature up close, young persons and mobile nature. There are prizes for each category both for the winner and runners-up. As in previous years an array of wonderful prizes is on offer, including a £250 voucher from London Camera Exchange (which has an outlet in Newcastle), binoculars, photography workshops, wildlife watching trips, bird watching workshops and photography equipment.

As well as a chance to win a fantastic prize the entries also help to showcase the wonderful wildlife that can be found in the North East. Entry is free and is open to everyone, but photographs must have been taken in the North East. Winning photos will be exhibited in the Great North Museum: Hancock and on tour around the region. It is a great opportunity to show the best of the region's wildlife.

Even a stroll round Hardwick Park with your mobile phone could give you several opportunities to take a whole range of photographs; the ducks on the lake, not just mallards but tufted duck, pochard and widgeon as well; on the boardwalk and bird tables with blue and great tits, nuthatch and you might even get a picture of a greater spotted woodpecker. If you put your mobile phone camera on the macro setting you can capture close ups of bees and butterflies visiting the flowers around the park – so get snapping.

To enter, and for more information, visit www.northeastwildlifephoto.co.uk the competition can be followed via Facebook and twitter.

The competition closing date is midnight Monday 15 May 2017, with the winners being announced by David Lindo (The Urban Birder) at an awards ceremony on Thursday 6 July at Great North Museum: Hancock.



2016 Winners: in the mobile category (top) "Street Frog", Fabien Balezeau; and in the young person's category, "Greedy Bird", Hannah Bishop Age 11



On two wheels ...

Trimdon Cycling Club was established 10 years ago for anyone in the Trimdons, Sedgfield and surrounding area to enjoy leisure cycling.

We meet every first Wednesday of the month in Trimdon Community College at 6.30pm. We are currently seeking new members, so whether you are an experienced cyclist or complete beginner, a warm welcome awaits you!

We have a regular Saturday morning club ride to the Cosy Cafe Brafferton and in the summer go on longer rides exploring our wonderful North East countryside. We own a trailer that can carry 16 bikes; and have 6 mountain bikes to lend to anyone who would like to cycle but doesn't own a bicycle. So why don't you join us - either individually or as a family?

For further information you can contact Peter Brookes, Chairman on 01429 881237 or Hugh Bence, Secretary on 01740 630337

Cycling in Sedgfield

The article (left) prompted us to think about cycling in and around Sedgfield. Whilst confident cyclists are happy to head out of the village to the coast or further afield to the dales, those who consider getting on a bike again after months or years may not realise that there are safe and traffic free routes right on our doorstep.

There are cycle routes in and around Winterton and a cycle route clearly marked around Hardwick Park; 2.3km (1.4 mile) long - a great way to enjoy the park. Reach it by cycling along Station Road, then turning down the old road to avoid cycling around the roundabout (it is signed). Also in Hardwick Park, Bike4Life delivers cycle rides suitable for beginner and intermediate cyclists. If you don't have a bike, they can loan you a bike and helmet free of charge for the duration of each session. To take part, simply turn up on Thursday at 9:30 (lasts up to 2 hours).

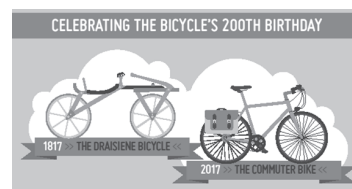
You can also cycle from the village along Beacon Lane and join the cycle route alongside the A689. From here you can ride safely away from the traffic to the Castle Eden Walkway, before choosing to cycle south to the visitor centre at Wynyard Woodlands Park or north to Hurworth Burn Reservoir.

For children who may like some coaching with British Cycling-qualified coaches, Stockton Wheelers run sessions at Middlesbrough Cycle Circuit. They also organise ladies only rides. Ferryhill Wheelers Cycling Club have members aged from 10 to 90, who participate in most cycling disciplines, including road racing, track racing and pottering around the lanes. The Club also organises the 10k time trial along the A689 starting in May.

For BMX, check out the North East BMX Club at Summerhill in Hartlepool.

You can watch professional cyclists compete in The Tour Series 2017 on Saturday 27 May on the streets of Durham City.

So next time you need to pop into the village perhaps you will get you bike out instead. There are cycle stands to park your bike outside the library, the Black Lion and Sainsbury.



Sedgefield Community College Official Opening

On 16th March, Sedgefield Community College was honoured to welcome His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester to formally open the 'new' college buildings.



Whilst it is some time since the main college building opened in 2011, only recently has the campus has been completed. A 10 classroom annex has finally replaced dilapidated portable buildings that had remained in use as classrooms to meet demand for places. In recent years, student performance has been outstanding and for the last three consecutive years the school has been County Durham's highest attaining, recently featuring in the Sunday Times list of the UK's top 50 (11-16 schools) for the first time.

His Royal Highness took the opportunity to tour the buildings whilst speaking with a number of students and staff along the way. He observed work focusing upon the science behind crime scene investigations, the study of literature across commonwealth countries and activities designed to provide students with a greater understanding of Islam. The Duke also enjoyed a dance performance from students of all ages that will be performed at the Gala theatre in April. The visit concluded with Head boy and girl, Robbie Till and Eleanor James, presenting His Royal Highness with a contemporary art piece, created by students and inspired by the architecture of County Durham.



Letters & Thanks

In February, three friends from Sedgefield Primary School set out to raise enough money to buy a parking pass for the Johnson family to use at the RVI in Newcastle. Rosa Johnson (aged 3) receives regular treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia and the family have incurred massive parking costs during inpatient stays and treatment sessions.

Family, friends and Sedgefield Community members have raised a massive **£885.12** to help with hospital expenses. Here is a little note from the Johnson family...

Team Johnson would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who organised, donated prizes or bought tickets for the Raffle for Rosa. Words cannot truly describe how we feel. We are genuinely overwhelmed by the love and support from our entire community and cannot thank you enough it's like receiving the best community warm hug! Since Rosa's leukaemia diagnosis on 23rd November 2015 we have experienced nothing but love from everyone around us. This money will go towards supporting us with vital hospital expenses during the next year and a half of Rosa's vital treatment at the RVI. Having a child diagnosed with cancer throws your entire world into turmoil and the world your family once knew will never be the same. However it is gestures like what you have all achieved which keep us strong and united as a family, as we support Rosa with her battle.

On behalf of our entire family thank you.

All our love,

Danielle, Colin, Jasmine and Rosa xx



Friends of St Edmunds

Pancake-loving locals raise £233

Ladies from the St Edmund's church spent the morning of Shrove Tuesday in the Parish Hall producing around 60 pancakes for hungry visitors, and further added to the coffers by holding a raffle. Sedgefield in Bloom stalwart Howard Smith is pictured below, collecting his pancake from the hard-working team of volunteers.

Thanks from St Edmund's.

Quiz Night success

Questions on a wide range of general knowledge topics and a specific quiz testing knowledge of television sitcoms have helped the Friends of St Edmund's raise £454 to help with development work at the church. A big thank you to our popular quizmasters Judy and Peter Evans, and to everyone who supported the evening.

Alison Hodgson and Sarah Britton



Sedgefield Village Action Group update and news

The new road through the approved Eden Drive development

SVAG met with Durham County Council officers to raise the community's concerns regarding the creation of a new road spur from the A177/A698 roundabout into the new Eden Drive development that received planning permission in 2016. DCC was represented by Stuart Timmiss (Planning), David Waffer (Traffic) and Ian Thompson (Regeneration and Local Services). SVAG was represented by Alan Paterson, Julia Bowles, Liz Mitchell & Julie Archer.

We expressed our concerns regarding safety for entry and access to the village off an already worrying roundabout, the creation of a potential 'rat run' through a housing estate dominated by family homes and queried the various rumours concerning the status of the existing Stockton Road.

It was a long and sometimes frustrating discussion. The following points summarise the outcomes:

- It was confirmed that Stockton Road will remain as it is, allowing both left and right exits from the village, and entry only from the west.
- The new road through the Eden Drive development will be the bus route instead of Stockton Road.
- SVAG and John Robinson argued the case for an additional roundabout at the Stockton Road exit, DCC did not agree and quoted the cost would be too much and the volume of traffic not heavy enough to justify the expense. David Waffer agreed to send information to SVAG/John Robinson regarding costs, which have since been received and quoted as approximately £2 million pounds.

Please let your Town Councillors and SVAG know your views on this road.

Stepping through time The previously neglected corner of Ceddesfeld Gardens



Continued from page 1

visit on Monday April 10. We hope they, and you, appreciate the transformation of this once neglected area into a garden befitting the beautiful heritage building which is now such an important facility in our community. Organised by Sedgefield in Bloom volunteers, an **Open Gardens Day** takes place on **Sunday 9 July** from 1-5pm.

The event has proved very popular in the past, under the aegis of the town council and the National Gardens Scheme. It is not a competition, just a chance to enjoy a variety of gardens, share ideas and expertise and, possibly, come away with inspiration for your own garden. Several generous gardeners have already offered to be involved. If you would like to join them and have not already been approached, please get in touch on 620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk.

Letter from PC Todd

I am happy to report this month that the number of reported crimes has reduced from last month. These include a burglary at the Black Lion pub where CCTV recorded two males in balaclavas entering via the rear of the premises and attacking the gaming machines. Hardwick Hall suffered another attack on its roof during which a quantity of lead was stolen. Retail premises continue to suffer from shoplifting, the Co-op and Premier Store both reporting incidents. A house was damaged in Kerr Crescent after someone broke in and set fire to bedding/clothing in two rooms and in West End clothing/laptop were damaged in a domestic incident. Unusually, a drunk and disorderly female was arrested and issued with a £90 fixed penalty ticket as a result of her behaviour on a bus from Hartlepool.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently at the Hardwick Arms. No incidents were reported that required further action from members.

To contact Local Police & report any concerns, seek advice or pass on information to them, call 101.

For advice/assistance contact Police Community Liaison Officer Faye Callan. Tel 101 Extension 742317. Email Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk

Sedgefield Business Network

Around 30 members of Sedgefield Business Network (SBN) met at the Hardwick Hall Hotel for a networking breakfast on 28th February. The hotel generously provided food and space. Discussions flowed freely and useful connections were made. Ben Gilhespy of the County Durham Engineering and Manufacturing Network spoke briefly on networking & funding opportunities in the area. Brightwater also presented a stand on the environmental project looking to reinvigorate the area around the Skerne valley.

The next SBN event is on 23rd May. Joining is free so if you are interested, contact sedgefieldbn@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page.

County Durham's economy is set for a boost after DCC's planning committee gave the green light to **Netpark's** development plan, which sought outline permission for 14 two-storey units and full permission for a new spine road and access point off the A177. It could see the creation of 1,400 jobs.

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DIDO - Days in Days out

SDT is very grateful to Sedgefield Charities, who have very kindly made a grant of £500 to help DIDO, our project for older citizens.

Sedgefield Farmers' Market Sunday 2nd April, 8.30 am - 12.30

Sedgefield Area Churches Together take the market charity stall in April, with Easter-themed craft activities for children, hot drinks and hot cross buns on offer. There will be paintings for sale for charity, a Foodbank collection box, an information point, and more. Do come along and say hello!

Ceddesfolk is first up as the market's live music season kicks off, and the Sedgefield Village Games play equipment will be out in the centre of the market for the children. For updates on stalls, follow the Market on the Sedgefield Farmers Market Facebook - or on Twitter @SedgyFarmMarket. Hoping for a fine day and a **Sociable Sunday!**

Sedgefield Energy Switch

If you would like to try our money saving scheme, as seen on Dave's Guide to Spending Money on Channel 4, please call **07980 134 594**. Leave your name and number & you will be contacted by Peter Burnip, who administers the scheme for Sedgefield Development Trust. If you're confident using a computer, just log onto www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk and click on Energy Switch.

There's really no catch - it's yours to choose whether to take up any offer.

The new round of registration starts on April 4th, so prepare to save! Most of those who have tried it have saved one way or another.

This period of registration lasts until 22nd May, then the auction takes place on 23rd May. Offer letters are sent from 5th June and the acceptance period closes on 4th July. Plenty of time to make up your mind.

Ceddesfeld Hall

Home of Sedgefield Community Association

Ceddesfeld Hall is home to many different sections and groups which reflect the interests, pastimes and needs of the community. One such is **Durham Deafened Support (DDS)**, who meet every Monday from 1pm to 3pm.

"On the edge of conversation, one of the loneliest places on earth"

Do you or does someone you know have a hearing loss? Is the hearing loss causing misunderstandings and communication breakdown? It's not only a profound loss that excludes people from the "normality" of everyone else's lives, sudden or gradual, slight or profound hearing loss can have a traumatic affect, it changes lives, only those who have endured it can fully understand the affect that it has not just on the deafened person but on their families also.

DDS employ four lip-reading teachers who teach weekly. They also provide:

- 1:1 support for people or families who are struggling to cope and non residential rehabilitation courses
- 1:1 and group tinnitus support.
- Information and demonstrations regarding hearing aid compatible phones, personal listeners room loops etc; all things that help the deafened person and their families

to cope with hearing loss

- Information/awareness events, taking along hearing aid compatible phones, personal listeners and room loops as well as an abundance of information on Cochlear Implants
- We are a "try before you buy" for BT, Action on Hearing loss (AOHL) and Sarabec which is a local manufacturer of equipment for hard of hearing people
- For older or housebound people, they take equipment to their homes to demonstrate any that could be of benefit to them (they do not sell)

Attendance is by referral only. If you are interested in attending a group or would like them to demonstrate equipment visit www.ddsupport.org.uk call 0191 5183358, or email admin@ddsupport.org.uk

SCA Events

Spring is on its way and the next main event is on Easter Monday, 17th April., when the May Queen will be selected at 1.45 pm, followed by the Easter Egg Hunt at 2pm

On Saturday April 22nd, we have St George's Dinner for which the menu is: Broth, Steak Pie & vegetables, Lemon Posset, Cheese boards, Coffee/Tea. Local group Lirica will be also be performing, all for £18! Please get tickets from Pat or Wendy.

A familiar face to animal lovers - Sue retires

After 18 years, Sue Wears is retiring as vet nurse in Sedgefield. She thanks the clients and friends she has made over the years, for the



generous donations to her many sponsored runs.

She will miss the clients and the animals and looks forward to seeing them out and about in the area.

Volunteering at Kynren will take up a lot of her time, as it did last year, and she hopes to see you all there!

Racing at Sedgefield

£90k investment

Sedgefield Racecourse celebrates 90 years as a limited company this year. Racing has been taking place at Sedgefield since around 1732, with the first recorded meetings in 1846. By the mid nineteen twenties Sedgefield had three meetings, including a lucrative Boxing Day fixture. The current Racecourse Company was founded in 1927, and has seen fixtures gradually increase to the current 20 days.

To celebrate 90 years as a limited company Arena Racing Company has invested £90,000 in to the facilities including the new Bistro 1927 café. The investment also brings the relocation and refurbishment of the Owners & Trainers suite. Following constructive feedback from loyal owners and trainers, it is now located next to the weighing room and parade ring. The refurbishment for the new winners suite is also underway to accommodate more owners and syndicates celebrating their horse's win. It will aptly be named after the legendary trainer Denys Smith. This all ensures further job prospects for the local community and will increase footfall in the village once the marketing campaign begins. There's an opportunity to see these improvements and to help the racecourse celebrate, at a free event. See next page.

For SCA information, contact Wendy on 620206: Pat 620607: Sarah 622185 or go to www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk

Music Society Piano Concert

Friday 7th April at 7.30pm Two highly regarded British pianists and chamber musicians, Sarah Beth Briggs and James Lisney, combine their skills in this exciting piano duo combination. Their repertoire includes music from J.C. Bach to Hindemith but focuses most particularly on the great works of Mozart and Schubert, widely regarded as the pinnacle of the piano duet repertoire. showcases the first in this new concert series to take place in the Music Society's new home, St. Andrew's Church at South Church, Bishop Auckland and will be an occasion not to be missed. Built almost entirely in the 13th century, Simon Jenkins in his seminal book on the parish churches of England, describes St. Andrew's as 'remarkable even in a region blessed with early Gothic buildings. Tickets priced at £13.50 (£15 on the door) are available to advance purchase from Brotherton's Music or by contacting Brian Varley (01388) 606075. Season tickets, giving 5 concerts for the price of 4, are also available from Brian Varley at £55



Old Red Eyes Returns

Andy Johnson returns to the Parish Hall on Friday 28th April with his unique take on the songs of The Beautiful South and the Housemartins. Armed with just a guitar, some loop-pedal wizardry and a voice that is about as close as you can get to Paul Heaton's without it being the man himself, Andy breezes through the hits and bits including Happy Hour, Good As Gold, Prettiest Eyes, Build and many more in this soulful, energetic solo show that he takes around the UK to ecstatic audiences. Licensed bar available.



Sedgefield Players 'Shush'

It's Brenda's birthday and it's not going to be a good one. The house is a mess; her son lives in America and she can't get hold of him; her husband left her for 'Teresa the Tramp' and is happily making house round the corner with his new woman; and she's being forced to take early retirement, when suddenly her friends descend on her, unannounced. What ensues is an evening of fond memories, home truths, spilled secrets, life changing declarations and a lot of alcohol. The Players' version took the Irish play and transferred it to the North East with Jean Hewling playing the role of Brenda. She was supported by Elizabeth Flanagan as the flatulent and lonely Irene, Jacqui O'Meara as the bolshy Marie, and Sharon Davey as her daughter Clare, who has her own secret to reveal. The cast was rounded off by Sarah Legender as glamorous neighbour Ursula, whose happy life isn't exactly as rosy as it seems. A wonderfully comic yet moving play was shown to great response in March.

The play was directed by Tom Guest, with set design by Walter Howell, props by Sue Hutchinson and lighting and sound designed by Adam White and Tom Hearmon.

The next Players' production is an adaptation of the Charles Dance film 'Ladies in Lavender'. The original starred Dames Maggie Smith & Judi Dench and is a beautiful and poignant story. Not to be missed!



Sedgefield Blues Club

Another milestone in our history ... LaVendore Rogue played the club in January and with the help of CDB Production Solutions, they were so impressed with the quality of the venue, sound and lighting that they are releasing a Live CD called 'A Night In The North.' If you were there, you can purchase the CD from lavendorerogue.com or come to a gig night to purchase.

We may be a small club but our big reputation pulls in top quality artists from the local, national and international scene - brought right to your doorstep. Upcoming Events: April 21st: Greg Coulson plus support from George Shovlin and George Lamb, May 26th: Eugene Hideaway Bridges, Sept 8th, Kossoff The Band Plays On. Oct 20th: Marcus Bonfanti, Nov 24th: Rebecca Downes. Tickets: call 07957104434 or purchase online at www.sedgefieldblues.com.

Floral Demonstration

Area Demonstrator and florist, Rachael Poole from Sheffield, will present an evening of flower arranging to Shildon and District Flower Club under the title 'Natural Elegance' at Shildon Civic Hall on Monday, 3rd April at 7.30pm. Rachael is an inspirational floral demonstrator with a passion for flowers and floral display. This will be an event not to be missed for all those with a love of innovative ways of displaying flowers and foliage to delight the eye. Free to members and £5 on the door for visitors.

Anniversary Race Evening

The racecourse will celebrate its anniversary at a Race Evening on Thursday 4th May, and they are offering 1927 free tickets to the local community.

The evening will include seven live races plus after race entertainment from X-Factors Michael Rice and Soul Songs from Ashley Twedde. It will also support local charity Bringing Back a Smile, a charity that aims to help adults and children in the north with life-threatening illnesses.

To claim your free ticket for the event, text SEDGEFIELD to 60777.

For more information on the Celebrate Racing Since 1927 Raceday or to book tickets call 01740 621925 or visit www.sedgefield-racecourse.co.uk

These pages are simply the best way to reach your potential audience, so please remember to send your news to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

WW1 commemorations



Pictured at the latest commemoration are David Hillerby and Norma Neal

February 25th saw the commemoration of two Sedgefield men lost in the Great War, brothers-in-law Herbert Waite Ward and Jack Snaith. Born in 1886, the sixth of eight children, Herbert Waite Ward, lived at 8 East Parade. Aged 15, he was a butcher's apprentice, later working as a fireman at Winterton. He played for the Winterton football team, undefeated in their 1909/10 season.

Jack Snaith, born in 1893, worked as a farm labourer. He lived in The Square with his widowed mother, grandfather and other family members. In 1911, lodger Herbert Waite Ward joined them. In 1912, Herbert married the daughter of the house, Bertha. A year later, their son Herbert W, was born.

Herbert Waite Ward enlisted with the 7th Yorkshire Regiment on 8 October 1915 and was killed in action on 8 February 1917, aged 31. He is remembered on the Winterton memorial in St Edmund's Church and on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme. His brother-in-law, Jack Snaith, a private in the DLI, died 16 days later on February 24th, aged 24. He too is remembered in the Somme region, at Assevaliers New British Cemetery.

William Brumpton, related to Jack's mother Dorothy, also lost his life at the Somme on 7 July 1916, remembered at Thiepval. Sad losses to all their families.

Sedgefield Local History Society in association with the Village Veterans commemorates all 42 Sedgefield men lost in World War 1.

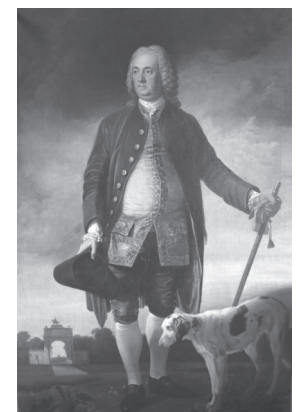
The next commemorations will take place on Thursday 4th May (Peter Harkess RNVR and Dr Frederick Hunton RAMC) and Sunday 21st May (John Henry Vickers and William Bradford, both of the Worcester Regiment). Please join us at the war memorial at 10.45am for a brief ceremony.

John Burdon back at Hardwick Hall

The "lost" portrait of the man who created one of the North East's finest 18th Century landscapes is back home at last, after spells in Paris and Tangiers in Morocco. A life-size painting of John Burdon has been unveiled in his mansion, now Hardwick Hall Hotel, after a painstaking piece of trans-continental art detective work.

The painting hung for more than a century in the Banqueting House at Hardwick, but disappeared at the end of the 19th Century. As it flitted from country to country on the international art market, the name of its subject became forgotten until researchers for the hotel's owners, Ramside Estates, found it in December 2014 hanging in an apartment in Paris.

The painting hangs behind the main reception desk so make sure you have a look next time you visit the hotel. See if you can spot St Edmund's Church through the archway.



Bereavement: an Insight

Third in a short series of articles

In the past 2 issues, **One Step Forward** has written about the effects of bereavement on those left behind when a loved one dies.

The worst thing someone can do following a bereavement is to block it out, to not talk about it. One Step Forward are here to listen to you. When we meet, we talk about our loved ones who've died; we talk about our lives without them; the big decisions such as choosing a new decor on our own; the little triumphs such as working out how the boiler works. We laugh together, and we're not afraid to cry together. It takes courage to join a new group. It takes more courage to join a new group after a bereavement. And it takes even more courage when that group is in a venue that you are unsure of, for example in a church. But you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Are you lonely?

Are you sad?

Have you lost a loved one?

Have you lost a friend?

Do you need comfort?

If you'd like to talk,

If you'd like to listen

Come and join the group,
Come and make new friends.

People unafraid to laugh,

People unafraid to cry,

People who will understand.

Come and feel uplifted.

Come and find help.

Bereavement support across the Parish of the Upper Skerne

One Step Forward is held every

Thursday 3 - 5 pm at St. Edmund's.

Contact Panny Pighills, 01740 620909

BALM is led by Janet Deane at Bishop Middleham. 01740 656391

Trimdon bereavement support group meets at St. Mary Magdalene's on the first Tuesday of the month, 7 - 8.30pm and is led by Su Jordan 01429 882589, and Joan Clifford, 01429 880313.

SPORTS UPDATE

Spring is here and consequently, I have news this month from the world of cricket and outdoor bowls. Elsewhere, Sedgefield has enjoyed success in the world of cross country running and our parkrun has reached another major milestone, powered by some amazing volunteers.

Athletics

As I have reported during the last couple of months, Sedgefield Harriers' senior men have enjoyed a successful cross country season and went into the final fixture of the Harrier League with a very good chance of securing promotion to division two. Once again, the men turned out in force for the race, which took place in Alnwick on Saturday 4th March. The club laid on a coach and a strong squad of men, women and juniors made the journey to Northumberland. There were a lot of loose ends that had to be tied up in all three divisions, so the event attracted big teams from across the region, making for an exciting afternoon. After some strong runs, the Harriers finished third in their division on the day and claimed second overall in the league, securing a deserved promotion. There were also some excellent performances by senior women and juniors on the day, rounding off a hugely positive cross country season for the club. Next month, I will put the spotlight on some of the younger athletes in the club who have enjoyed very encouraging winters and are looking forward to busy summer seasons.

Sedgefield Harriers is preparing for one of its main events of the year, the ever popular Neptune Relays in Hardwick Park. This four leg relay event will be held on Wednesday 26th April, with the first race starting at 6:45pm. Following a route on paths around the Serpentine lake, the relays have become very well established on the North East athletics calendar and attract entries from all over the region. At the sharp end, there is always very keen competition from some very rapid runners, but the Neptune Relays is a friendly and welcoming event, with participants of all abilities and ages.

There are trophies for a wide range of categories, including one for non-club teams, all with the now traditional prizes of fruit. Starting and finishing in the temple field, the event is a great

spring spectacle and well worth a visit, either to take part or simply to watch the action. For more details email ean2005@hotmail.co.uk or call 07771 828 568.

Focus will soon turn to summer track and field, and road racing events. As always, there are many options from which to choose, with runners set to tackle everything from 100m to marathon and ultra-marathon distances, while jumpers and throwers will have plenty of summer competitions too.

The multitude of events is as ever predominantly sustained by huge numbers of volunteers, who ensure that grass roots athletics continues in our region. The same applies to all other sports too.

Talking of volunteers ...

Sedgefield parkrun celebrated its fifth birthday in style on Saturday 18th March. There was plenty of cake, the now traditional singalong (to 'Hi Ho Sedgefield parkrun') and of course a 5K parkrun, which 271 people of all ages completed. Among their number were two Sedgefield residents who between them have volunteered a staggering 430 times since the parkrun was started, Val Newton and Keith Charlton (*pictured*). Along with other volunteers who marshal, scan barcodes, set out the course and much more, Val and Keith make Sedgefield parkrun possible and have helped over 5,000 people to get their weekends off to a great start since 2012. The team of Sedgefield parkrun directors (also volunteers) have also used the anniversary to choose a parkrunner of the year and volunteer of the year. At the time of writing this, those names have not been revealed, so I will wait until next month to report them.

Bowls

Fishburn Bowls Club is preparing for the start of the new season on 29th April. The club currently has 22 members and is keen to attract more. Fishburn plays in three leagues - Durham, Darlington and Cleveland - and the season runs through to September, with fixtures on three days each week, plus additional championship and event days. For more information about the club and to find out how to get involved, visit www.fishburnbowlsclub.btck.co.uk.

email chrisjlines@aol.com

Cricket

Sedgefield Cricket Club is preparing for the imminent 2017 season. Over the next few months, I will include regular updates on the progress of the senior and junior teams. The junior section has become a huge success for Sedgefield in recent years and the club is determined to continue building on that.

Outside coaching for younger cricketers will begin in mid-April. Any parents of boys or girls who are interested should contact Mike Ridley on 07773 081278 for more details.

Before all of that, Sedgefield Cricket Club will host a NatWest Cricket Force clean up day on Saturday 1st April. Running from 9:30am-4:00pm, the event is an opportunity for club members and anyone else who is interested to help get the ground and clubhouse into tip top shape for the start of the season. There will be a BBQ, live football on the TV and the bar will be open from noon (I hope that this lot doesn't prove to be too much of a distraction from the cleaning up!). Everyone is welcome to go along and help the club get prepared for another exciting summer of cricket in Sedgefield.

*Parkrun volunteers extraordinaire;
Val Newton & Keith Charlton*



That's all for this month.

As always, please send any sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

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April 2017 DIARY

email diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Sat 1st	Sedgefield Library 10 -11am. Surgery. Cllrs Rachel Lumsdon & John Robinson
Sun 2nd	Sedgefield Farmers' Market on the Village Green from 8.30 am
Mon 3rd	Buggy cardio and tone at Hardwick Park. Meet in car park. 11.30am - 12.30pm email enquiries@frombumpandbeyondfitness.co.uk Also Thursdays 10 - 11am Methodist Wives and Friends 7.30pm Local History Society Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45 AGM
Tue 4th	Sedgefield Gardening Club Ceddesfeld Hall 7.30. 'Plant Hunting in Colorado' by Diane Nichol Brown Sedgefield T Dance Parish Hall 1 - 3pm. All welcome, on your own or with a friend/partner Tel Ann: 629070 or Joyce: 622601
Wed 5th	WI Parish Hall, 7.15pm Simon Raine. The Importance of the Elephant Trees (Confessions of a Cheesemaker) Members' Comp, a spring posy. All Welcome
Fri 7th	U3A Parish Hall, 2pm. Nigel Barlow: "Durham Blood Transfusion Motorbikes" Members free. Guests welcome, £3 at the door. Further details from 629276 Sedgefield Village Veterans Coffee Morning Fishburn Community Centre 9 - 12 Sedgefield Cricket Club Live Music Night 7.45 Main guest Blue Horizon. Also featuring Hokey Folkies, Rosie Brownhill and Gina d'Oyley, John Weighell and John Wrightson Band. £11, includes buffet. Tel 621347. Please note, this is the last monthly event until October. Country Market Parish Hall, 10 - 11.30, Home Baked Produce, Jams, Crafts, Cards, Plants, Refreshments, Tel 629441
Thu 13th	Sew Easy 7 - 9 pm fortnightly. Boardroom, Parish Hall. Info, Gloria Wills 622447
Mon 10th	Sedgefield in Bloom Spring judging from 10.30 am Fashion Trends 2017 6.30pm in the Parish Hall. Jill Green + Fashion Show by Jayne. Tickets £7-50 from Jayne
Mon 17th	Sedgefield Family History Group Ceddesfeld Hall 7.15pm Tony Nicholson speaking about "The Langworthy Mystery." Visitors welcome.
Tue 18th	Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club Open Night £5.50 for members and £8 for non members. All welcome.
Sat 22nd	Sedgefield in Bloom Dance to Billy Davies 7.30 pm Parish Hall. Tickets £10 from STC offices. Includes pie and peas supper; bring your own drinks.
Thu 27th	Mordon Village Hall An Evening of clairvoyance. See right.
Fri 28th	WI Coffee Morning Parish Hall (Fletcher Room) 9.30am - 11.30am All Welcome

Looking ahead to May

May 4th & 21st Local History Society & Sedgefield Veterans WW1 Commemorations.

May 6th & 7th. Sedgefield Players present 'The Regina Monologues' at the Northern Round of the All England Theatre Festival, Saltburn.

Pupils at Sedgefield Community College greet His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester on March 16th, when he officially opened their completed building.

Story Page 3



Mordon Village Hall

An Evening of CLAIRVOYANCE

with psychic medium, DANIELLE

Thursday 27th April

Doors open 6.45pm. Must be seated by 7.20pm. £8.50 per person. Details from Sue Howells. 01388 720129

Sedgefield Library

Tel: 03000 269521 Opening Hours

Wednesdays 9.30am - 12.30pm

Thursdays 10am - 6:00pm

Fridays 1pm - 7pm

Saturdays 9.30am - 12.30pm

Thursdays 10.30-12.30 Basic computing, tailored to individual needs.

Thursdays Wiggly Bookworms

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

Still featuring in the Library is the

Bright Water Project Display

Sedgefield Social Club

Saturday 1st April: Kara Morgan.

Saturday 8th April: Becca.

Saturday 15th April: Natalie Ferguson.

Saturday 22nd April: Jimmy Moon.

Monday 24th April: Country Night, Hired Hands.

Saturday 29th April: Alan Stevens.

Fitness Classes @The Hub

Sedgefield Community College

Clubbercise with Sharon: Tues 6 - 7pm

Zumba with Emilia: Tues 6.30 - 7.30pm

and Thurs 7 - 8pm

Chi Taekwondo: Sat 10.30 - 11.30am

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Sedgefield News is published by Sedgefield Development Trust and printed by The Print Factory: 01429 264777

SDT Company Secretary, John Fitzpatrick, 7 Melgrove Way, Sedgefield, TS21 2JN, email sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk