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SEDGEFIELD NEWS

AUGUST 2015

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

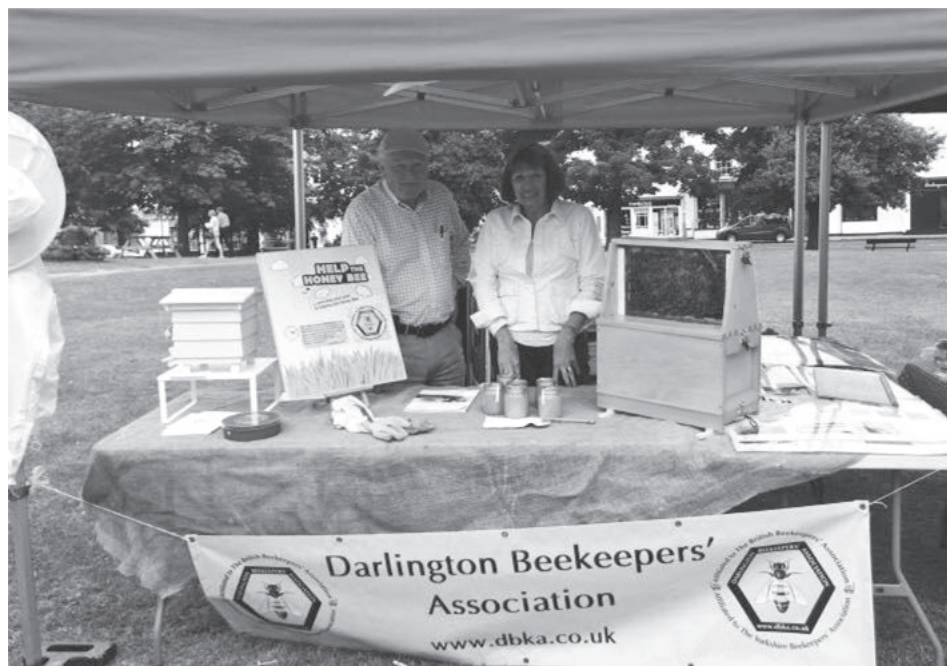
Have your say about your Heritage

Durham County Council, in partnership with the Sedgefield Civic Trust, are carrying out an in-depth survey of the Sedgefield Conservation Area and we would like your help with the survey.

The **Sedgefield Character Assessment Toolkit** will help identify what makes Sedgefield special and will help us to prepare a character appraisal for the village and develop management proposals for the conservation area later this year.

Our volunteers will be undertaking the Toolkit surveys all summer, and we would welcome the involvement of other interested community groups, residents and businesses who would like to join us.

So if you can spare a few hours over the summer or would just like to know more about the project please contact us at County Hall - telephone **03000 267146**, email design.conservation@durham.gov.uk.



This stall attracted a lot of attention at **Sedgefield Farmers' Market** in July and while the **Darlington Beekeepers** were here, apart from selling some delicious honey and showing off their brilliant beehive, they made us a very interesting offer. See page 2. As you probably know, bees are essential to pollination, which is, quite co-incidentally, the subject of **Steve's Nature Diary** this month.

Contact Sedgefield News

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Diary, Arts & Events:

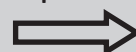
diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

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September deadline is August 15th



Inside the News ...

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Sports Update - page 10

Diary - page 12

How to pay for an advert

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By far the simplest method, as we also invoice via PayPal.

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

Steve's Nature Diary *The natural world month by month*

As I write this, it is National Pollinator Awareness Week and I am looking in my own garden and wondering what I might do to help. The week aims to bring attention to the essential needs of pollinators and the simple actions that we can all take to help pollinators survive and thrive. You might wonder why should we bother to conserve these six legged creatures? Insect pollinators matter; by pollinating wild and garden plants they contribute to biodiversity and by pollinating crops they provide variety in our diets.

At least 1,500 species of insects pollinate plants in the UK including bumble bees, the honey bee, solitary bees, hoverflies, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies and moths. All have complex life cycles and specific needs. Most require food in the form of pollen and nectar, and need a home for shelter and nest building. The number of insect pollinators is highest in the summer coinciding with peak plant growth and supplies of nectar and pollen.

As a result of the way the landscape has changed over the last 50 or more years, not all insect pollinators can readily find the food and shelter they need. If we consider bumblebees, for instance, in the last 80 years our populations have crashed and two species have become nationally extinct and several others have declined dramatically. So what can you do to meet Bees' needs? There are simple actions YOU can take to help pollinators:

You could try to grow more flowers, shrubs and trees that provide nectar and pollen as food for bees and other pollinators throughout the year. For example, pussy willow, primroses and crocuses in spring, lavenders, meadow cranesbill and ox-eye daisies in summer, ivy and hebes in autumn, and mahonia shrubs and cyclamen in winter.

For the more adventurous you could leave patches of land to grow wild with plants like stinging nettles and dandelions to provide other food sources (such as leaves for caterpillars) and breeding places for butterflies and moths. The next idea will either make your life easier or upset you depending on where you stand on grassland maintenance. Try cutting grass less often and ideally remove the cuttings to allow plants to flower. If you do see signs of bumble bees using your garden take it into account when tidying up and try to avoid disturbing or destroying nesting or hibernating insects, in places like grass margins, bare soil, hedgerows, trees, dead wood or walls.

As well as making sure there are adequate food resources throughout the year for insect pollinators, it is also important to make sure they can nest in safety so that they and the next generation can survive overwinter, to start again in the following spring. For example you could try putting up a bumble bee nest box.

Finally, think carefully about whether to use pesticides, especially where pollinators are active or nesting or where plants are in flower. Whether you have a garden, woodland or agricultural land, there's something everybody can do to help pollinators. More information can be found at www.wildlifetrusts.org/bees-needs/information-sheets.



Anniversary Service for VJ Day

**Saturday 15th August
commencing at 10-45hrs
with silence at 11am**

Sedgefield Village Veterans will be holding the 70th Anniversary Service for VJ Day (Victory in the Far East). Do please come along and give your support in the act of remembering all those who gave their lives in a far & distant theatre of war.

Beekeeping Course

Another way to make a difference to pollination, with the bonus of your own honey production line, is to keep bees in your garden! Almost all beekeeping in the UK is carried out by amateurs and their role in safeguarding the future of the honey bee is vital. Because of diseases and parasites such as varroa there are now almost no feral colonies left in the UK so it is up to beekeepers to maintain healthy colonies.

The best way to start is to join your local beekeeping association, follow a short a course and learn from the experienced beekeepers in the group.

When Darlington Beekeepers Association were at the Farmers' Market in July they offered to set up a course in Sedgefield if enough people were interested.

If you're one of those people who has been toying with the idea for ages but just not got round to it, now's your chance. The course would cover a wide range of topics designed to equip new beekeepers with an idea of what is involved and to acquire the basic skills needed to look after their own colonies. Generally, courses take place in Spring or Autumn, depending on demand, and consist of 6 sessions on topics such as **An Introduction to Beekeeping, Creating an Apiary, The Honey Bee, Life-cycle, Swarm Control, Queens, History & Diseases**

The course helps prospective beekeepers put together their own equipment and advises on where to position hives. We also help members purchase their first colony.

So, if you want to play a part in the drive to revive our pollinators, email darlingtonbka@gmail.com and get ready to buzz!



Educational Awards from Sedgefield Charities

Sedgefield Charities invite applications from residents in **Bishop Middleham, Bradbury, Cornforth, Fishburn, Mordon, Sedgefield & Trimdon** for educational grants for study beyond A level or equivalent.

The grants are particularly designed to help new university students who may find the additional costs of university life; books, laptops, etc., difficult to fund. They are, however, available to anyone, of any age, taking up a full-time course of education at a higher level.

A limited number of awards are made each year but every successful applicant will have that award renewed for every year of the course, provided they make good progress and their circumstances do not change. For further information and application forms contact Clerk to the Trustees, John Hannon, East House, Mordon, Sedgefield, Co.Durham, TS21 2EY.

Telephone **01740 622512** email east.house@btinternet.com

Closing date for applications is September 30th 2015

Fun at Sedgefield Hardwick Summer Fair



The Fair began straight after Sports Day, and raised £1,152 altogether after costs - brilliant for such a small School, and paramount at present while we try to raise over £2,000 to take all the children to a pantomime at Christmas.

Apollo Arts had been in School all week working with the children on steel band, so it was brilliant to watch them perform. We also had a band playing background music. Families enjoyed the bouncy castle, children tried their best in the Speed Cage to win a signed football shirt and signed football, donated by Martin Gray Football Academy. There was much fun with hook a duck, face painting, and giant games, thanks to the Town Council. We were overwhelmed with generosity for tombola prizes.

Sedgefield Fire officers attended to give out safety advice to parents, whilst children enjoyed sitting in the fire engine. Raffle prizes were donated by local businesses and included a Flightdeck Voucher, 2 x Hardwick Live Tickets, Adventure Valley Tickets, £25 Ford and Ford Hair voucher, Ford and Ford Beauty voucher for gel nails, 2 x Sedgefield Racecourse Tickets, Knotty Hill Golf Voucher, Sunderland Dogs tickets, Sunday Lunch at Number Four and a £20 hair voucher for Sirens Beauty and Hair Salon in Durham.

Sedgefield bids farewell to a 'much valued' family

After 31 years in Sedgefield, Brian, Elizabeth and Ruth Whitehead are starting a new life in the Cotswolds, near to the rest of their family.

Brian worked as a deputy head teacher at Blackhall Colliery and as an IT specialist for Durham County Council before his retirement in 2004.

Since then, he has played an active role in AbilityNet, which provides computer assistance for disabled people, Cleveland News and Views talking newspaper and has helped with IT matters at Sedgefield Town Council.

Licensed as a Reader in the Anglican Church in 1971, Brian has done much valued work in both parish and church, where he made an important contribution to Sunday services.

For many years, Elizabeth was a supply teacher in various schools in the county and was actively involved in Meals on Wheels and the Mothers' Union. She has helped with the teaching of reading at Sedgefield Primary School, played the piano for services at Fishburn church for 20 years, and is well-known as a prolific jam and chutney maker.

Ruth has also been involved with the Mothers' Union as well as helping to lead a meditation group. She has been a keen singer in church and community choirs since childhood, and has written three books of meditations and reflections. She worked regularly as a volunteer at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle Café and as manager at the Friday Café at Fishburn Church. Ruth is also a keen photographer.

"We shall be sorry to leave a community where we have many friends but we shall certainly come back from time to time," said Brian.



VACANCY for a Modern Apprentice

Parsons Containers Ltd

have a full time vacancy dealing with general office administration and sales enquiries in their rapidly growing shipping container and self storage businesses.

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If you think this is for you please send a CV to
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Co Durham, TS21 2BW

Your Letters

Dog leads lost - did you find them?

At the end of May whilst walking my two rescue dogs across the show field, I placed two extending flexi leads (one small blue & one larger red) on the ground left of the gate between the two fields, along with a red halti, to be picked up later. On my return they had gone. I thought someone had kindly picked them up to place on a wall or something, but I have not seen them since.

I am a student trying to retrain, having been made redundant, single with two kids and cannot afford to replace them.. I would be very grateful if whoever has them could take them (anonymously if you wish) to the vet or police station.

Name & address supplied. Contact us at Sedgefield News if you found the equipment, and we will put you in touch with the owner. Editor

Praise for blooming good work.

Once again residents and, indeed, visitors are indebted to the volunteers and professionals who prepare and maintain the lovely displays for Sedgefield in Bloom. Normally I would consider it invidious to single out anyone from such a dedicated team, but this time I feel I must mention Peter Cawson who, in the face of considerable health problems, has, for four years, designed and planted the 700 Cross on the church bank. This has drawn both attention and compliments and I am sure has helped the 'Bloomers' to win many awards over the years. Long may it continue!

Eileen Wormald

With apologies to Eileen for missing her previous letter. Editor

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch

In June, Durham Police hosted a Neighbourhood Watch Event for NHW reps from across County Durham. A major topic was FRAUD. Points of note:

In the last 5 months 1264 Fraud Crimes were committed in Durham alone. Nationally the cost of fraud was estimated at £80 billion for 2014.

Telephone fraud by misrepresentation is a major issue; it can take up to 7 seconds holding down your telephone receiver to be sure of being disconnected from your current call.

Never act or respond with personal information to any cold caller alleging they are from your bank or other organisation (e.g. Microsoft). Immediately following any such contact, make your own separate telephone call to your organisation using the number on your card/account and report the request directly.

If in doubt contact Action Fraud (see below). Report details and seek advice.

Report Fraud or suspected activities to Action Fraud, telephone **0300 232040**; website **www/actionfraud.police.uk**

Stay safe online. Install software updates promptly; Use strong passwords; Avoid Scams; don't give out information online that you would not give out on the phone or in person. Other useful sites: include

www/thinkuknow.co.uk **www/getsafeonline.org** **www.cyberstreetwise.com**

Action Fraud recently sent this example to National NH Watch

"Fraudsters are targeting classified advertisement websites like Auto Trader to advertise vehicles for sale. Buyers are then contacting these 'sellers' to find out more about the vehicles and are being told to pay for them via 'Apple Pay'. In this case the fraudsters are not using the genuine Apple Pay service and potential victims pay money directly to bank accounts in control of the fraudsters. Individuals receive emails claiming to be from Apple Pay with a web link to a cloned website with false terms and conditions of the 'escrow' service.

Continued top right

The Sedgefield Plan - Sedgefield under Siege

Since our last report we have hosted two very successful public meetings in the Parish Hall, both were well attended and the questions and comments were very interesting and helpful. At the meetings we reported that Sedgefield is truly under siege, developers have submitted, or announced an intention to submit plans for over 1000 new houses on land currently used for agriculture and all (with one exception) are outside of the built up area boundary laid out in the emergent Sedgefield Plan.

These plans are for Story Homes 80 houses and the Durham Diocese 235 both on Eden Drive, Avanta Homes 150 houses on the large field between A689 and Beacon Lane, ESRG/Gradon 460 houses between Beacon Lane and Salters Lane, potential 35 houses on the school farm site, and 40 houses on the triangular field that was turned down but may appeal. Most of these are for 3, 4 and 5 bedroom houses with only one developer catering for the elderly and self-build.

Stockton road will be re-routed from the A689 roundabout through the Eden Drive site leaving the existing road with only a left in left out facility, and I remind readers that the 330 mobile home park living site adjacent to Hardwick Park comes on stream soon with a potential for over 700 new residents.

This is a totally unacceptable situation which if allowed will change the character of the community we love forever, so it is crucial that;

1. Sedgefield Town Council submits The Sedgefield Plan for inspection as soon as possible; it is the only way to protect our community.
2. The residents of Sedgefield urgently express their views to politicians and planners at Durham County Council.

An action group has been formed to coordinate the views and opinions of the community, and to make the communities concerns obvious to all. If you wish to help you can contact the group at **sarah.guest16@gmail.com**. Meanwhile in his budget speech George Osborne has announced that Local Authorities must produce viable local plans quickly and that automatic planning permission will be given for applications to build on brown field sites like the old community hospital.

My colleagues and I will meet DCC planners on 14th July for a day, redrafting the Sedgefield Plan so that it meets the criteria for a successful inspection. Don't forget that the website **www.thesedgefieldplan.co.uk** has the current draft of the plan and a lot of useful information. *David Bowles*

Any money remitted to the fraudsters is then unrecoverable and the vehicles are not delivered. Protect yourself:

Meet the seller 'face to face' and view the vehicle before parting with any money.

Be cautious of web links in an email.

They may not direct you to the genuine website.

Report scam advertisements to the classified advertisement websites.

If the vehicle is below market value, consider whether this is an opportunity too good to be true!"

The last point is the key point; if it sounds too good to be true then it most probably is a con or scam, so ignore it!

Next meeting, AGM on October 13th.

PC Todd's report

A broad range of items were stolen by opportunist thieves last month, including a generator which was being used by an engineer on the A177 about 100m from the item. He only realised it had been taken when his tools were not working. A vehicle was stolen on the A177 when the keys were left in the ignition. Charity bags were taken from doorsteps by persons not authorised to collect them, a plant pot with floral display was taken from outside a shop during daylight hours and a handbag was taken from the rear of a taxi after the owner had left it behind.

An attempted burglary took place on the Winterton Estate where jemmy marks were left whilst trying to force the door of a shed, and a burglary took place in Church View where a shed door was forced open and two mountain bikes taken.

Please be aware that dishonest people wander our streets both day and night, and given half a chance they will take the opportunity to steal your property. If you see a suspicious vehicle, or any person acting in a suspicious manner, contact the police. Remember to memorise as much detail of the person/vehicle as possible, including registration numbers, to help us locate them.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Black Lion. No incidents were reported that required further action by members. Sedgefield remains a safe and friendly place for a social night out in our many pubs and clubs. Enjoy! Until next time, Keith

Local Police 101

CPO Lauren Wray **01325 742714**

Parking Shop **0191 3846633**

CAB Adviceline Numbers

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Ceddesfeld Hall *Home of Sedgfield Community Association* SCA

Early in July, the SCA held its annual **Beer Festival**, which was a great success and enjoyed by good crowds (inside and on the lawns), on both nights. The beer sold out by the end of Saturday night and the burgers and sausages went down a treat! Thanks to all who helped organise and run the event and especially to Lol and Maxine Crallan for providing easy listening (pop & folk) background music, which really added to the atmosphere.

Another successful **Mediaeval Fayre** raised £5,500. All of this money goes back into SCA funds and is used to maintain Ceddesfeld Hall as well as facilitate community events and activities, open to all residents. This high profile event just wouldn't happen without the army of volunteers and regular sponsors. New volunteers are needed to take the event forward and ensure its continuation, so if you have any time at all, please get in touch.

Next up is the **Scarecrow Festival** on **Sunday 30th & Monday 31st August**.

Adults and children are welcome to enter and as there is an open theme this year your imagination can run wild! There will be trophies and prizes for winners and runners up as well as special stickers for all entrants. The scarecrows will be displayed in gardens between 10am and 4pm on both days, with scarecrow route maps and refreshments available on the green. Entry forms can be obtained from the Town Council offices, to download from www.facebook.com/sedgfieldscarecrow or from the sponsors' website www.silysnaps.co.uk and must be returned by the 21st. Prizes will be voted for in categories for adults and children, votes must be returned to the tent on the green by 4pm on the 31st August.

For more information about SCA events, contact Wendy on 620206: Pat, 620607: Sarah, 622185 or visit the website, www.sedgfieldsca.org.uk



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 Fortnightly Advice Sessions Wed 10am-3pm 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
Community College Bowls Mon 6-8pm. Carpet/Short Mat, Coaching, 623198
Craft Club Swinhoe Room, Ceddesfeld Hall, 2nd & 4th Tues 7.30-10pm Tel: 620656
Eddies@4 Sundays For 2-6 year olds. 4pm, Welcome Room, St Edmund's. 621125
Fishburn Art Group Youth & Community Centre, Butterwick Rd. Monday 9.30am-12
Fishburn Taekwondo Tues & Thurs 6pm, Youth & Community Centre. 07743455065
Lyrics Choirs Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall. SLYC 6pm Adults 7.30pm. All welcome.
NECP Concertina Workshop 2nd & 4th Sun 1pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. 01642 588197
New Generation Church Every Sunday 11am at the Parish Hall. All welcome.
Rotary Club of Sedgfield Wed 7.30pm Bob 07831270892 / 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 Carpet Bowls Tues & Thurs 8.30am-12 Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners ✓ 622532
S'field Handbell Ringers Weds 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall or 1st Mon of month 621292
S'field Mags 1st Monday of the month at the Nag's Head, 8pm. 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 Pop In Club C'feld Hall Tues 9.30am-12 Wed 10am-12.30pm Thurs 1-3.30pm
Tai Chi Tuesdays, Parish Hall, 10 -11am
Toddler Club Wed term time 1.15 - 3pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Tel: Joan Brennan, 622385

The Trusty



Sedgfield Development Trust news

Energy Switch - another chance to save on Gas & Electricity. The latest opportunity comes up this month to register for our Community Energy Switching Scheme, so why not register and join the existing 200+ Sedgfield residents who, on average, have reduced gas and electricity costs by more than £200 per annum. If you would like to know more, volunteers will be in the Education Marquee at Sedgfield Show on August 8th. You're welcome to come along and talk to us. This is not a selling scheme but a great example of a community HELPING ITSELF by reducing energy costs through the power of collective bargaining. The key dates are:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 4th August | Registration opens |
| 12th October | Registration closes |
| 13th October | Date of auction |
| 23rd October | Offer letters issued |
| 23rd November | End of acceptance period |

Registration is very simple and can be done in one of two ways. If you are happy to register online yourself, go to www.sedgfieldweb.co.uk, open the ENERGY SWITCH page, click on the 'REGISTER NOW' button and follow the links.

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

Farmers' Market. New stalls this month are cake maker Dawn Seymour's "Simply Yummy" and Ibbotson Plants. Fishburn Art Group will enhance the scene and Sedgfield Handbell Ringers will provide entertainment. Come along and see what local people can achieve, enjoy the art and music and maybe think about joining the Handbell Ringers or Art Group.

Sew Easy. I'm checking out an appropriate venue and it looks like we could meet fortnightly on Thursdays, probably alternating day-time and evening sessions for your convenience. It is difficult to find somewhere with storage for machines and equipment, so if you have any ideas please let me know. I hope to have our first meeting by the end of August, so check the website for more details or call Gloria on 01740 622447.

Sedgefield Summer Art Exhibition

An art exhibition that took place at the Manor House in Sedgefield from 13th to the 18th July was a huge success, with people coming from all over the area to view the work of local artist Jane Spink.

The exhibition, which was supported by the Manor House, was Jane's first of this kind, though there are hopes that more will follow. Paintings and prints included local landmarks like Hardwick Park and Roseberry Topping, and images of wildlife.

Prices ranged from £20 - £80.



During the week Jane invited visitors to watch her work, producing a new picture each day for the exhibition, each of a different bird (see image).

For more information, or to view Jane's work please contact her on janespink2001@yahoo.co.uk

Photographs by Jane Spink

Crafty Sedgefield

For those interested in developing their creative and artistic skills there are a wide variety of groups in Sedgefield who would welcome new members. Each month I will introduce a different group, discovering what they have to offer, the kind of work and projects they do and most importantly, how you could get involved.

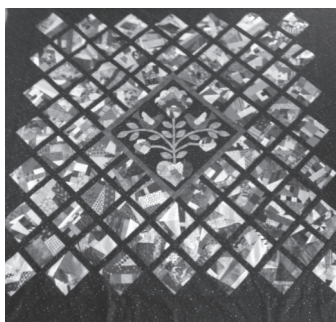
The first, The Craft Club, meet in Ceddesfeld Hall every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 7.30 to 10pm. The group has been running since 1986, so next year they will be celebrating their 30th anniversary.

Over the past three decades they have been involved in a wide range of different projects; most recently members each created a square for a 'Cathedral Window Patchwork Quilt', which they are hoping to raffle off in order to develop their funds.

The group has done a huge amount of work for charities, both at home and abroad, including knitting hats and vests for underprivileged children in Africa and Romania, alongside St. Edmund's Church.

Many projects that the group undertake incorporate an element of team work, working together to create part of a larger piece of work. Each week the Craft Group turn their hand to a different skill, often brought along to the group by members who are interested in sharing their skills and craftsmanship. The list of activities is endless but includes crochet, silk painting, knitting and embroidery, embossing, quilling, patchwork, Tunisian crochet, prick & stitch and card making. They also regularly have demonstrators from other areas to further develop their skills.

Members pay £1.50 per meeting and the group recently received money from the Mayor's charity to buy equipment to help with their card making. Group leader Jean Easson said, 'more than anything it is about the social aspect of the group - an opportunity to get out of their houses on an evening and meet with like minded friends in a welcoming environment'.



*left:
A fine example of
Cathedral Window
Patchwork
Quilting*

SPYS Winter Wonderland

On the 17th and 18th July, the SPYS undertook their first ever large scale solo production, an adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's 'The Snow Queen' by Ron Nicol. The two performances were sold out with audiences enthralled by the fantastic set, designed by Walter Howell. Director Sarah Atkinson said, 'It has been a fantastic experience for the SPYS to put their own show on the stage in Sedgefield, and to be so well supported. We have truly created a Winter Wonderland, in the middle of July'.

The SPYS next production will be 'I never Saw Another Butterfly,' by Celeste Raspanti, a tragic story of a young girl called Raja and the concentration camps of Terezin and Auschwitz during WWII.

The play will be part of the Players' 40th Drama Festival from the 7th to the 12th September, with tickets available now from Tickety Boo, 01740 621771 or from the website www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk

Both SPYS photographs by Scott Akoz



Fred and Ginger?

Following a conversation with a group of like minded friends I decided to see if there would be any interest in starting a tap and jazz class for adults in the village. Having put feelers out I got a huge response, with over 50 people expressing interest. On July 23rd we held a taster session in the Parish Hall, which was incredibly well attended. We are hoping to continue to have weekly tap classes with dance teacher Mattie Campbell, Thursdays, 6 - 7pm.

If you are interested, please feel free to get in touch with me either via the Facebook group (Sedgefield Tappers) or by emailing me on the diary address above. TG

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The Ashes all started so well, with a decisive and somewhat unexpected victory in Cardiff - then the series moved to Lord's. As you read this, the teams will be preparing for the third Test at Edgbaston, the scene of that most remarkable of matches in 2005. Here's hoping for more drama, and perhaps even the same result. The England players will certainly have to buck their ideas up. There's also plenty of cricket to enjoy in Sedgfield over the summer, with numerous junior and senior teams at Sedgfield Cricket Club competing in league and cup matches. It's always good to see players in action on the cricket ground when heading in or out of Sedgfield (or spectating for a little longer and taking advantage of the clubhouse bar!) - one of our great summer traditions.

Swimming

Hannah Featherstone, a member of Sedgfield 75 Swimming Club, recently represented Team GB at the European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan. A talented multi-discipline athlete who is also a Sedgfield Harrier, she enjoyed a fantastic meeting and came home with a haul of four medals: Silver in the 4x100 Mixed Freestyle relay and the 4x100 Mixed Medley relay, where she swam in the heats, and Bronze in the 4x100 and the 4x200 Girls Freestyle relays, where she swam in both heats and finals. Hannah said: "I had an absolutely amazing time and the experience I gained was huge. It was a larger event than anything I had experienced before and the atmosphere was electric. I am so grateful to everyone, including mam and dad and my coach John Moore, for putting in all the work that related to my success in Baku. I could not have done it without them and their support is truly invaluable. My coach in Baku was Richard Denigan who was a great help. I think I speak for all of the girls coached by him, when I say he aided us massively to reach our full potential in this major competition. Being chosen to represent Team GB at the inaugural European Games has inspired me to work even harder so that I may have such an opportunity again in the future".

Congratulations Hannah and Sedgfield 75 - a great boost to swimming in our area.



Athletics

The summer season is well underway and Sedgfield Harriers seniors and juniors are competing at events throughout the region. The youngsters are making great progress, recording personal bests on a very regular basis and winning medals left, right and centre. Perhaps inspired by the juniors, some senior athletes have been trying out various events, many delivering impressive performances on both track and field, often making their debuts in a wide range of disciplines.

The club continues to build its reputation for hosting excellent events. For the second year, Sedgfield Harriers organised the Hamsterley Forest Trail Runs, with runners given the option of 11.3 miles, 18.7 miles or full marathon. On a very challenging course, this year saw an increase in entries compared to 2014, with some excellent performances by athletes from all over the region. Michael Joyeux from Quakers Running Club won the 11.3 miles race and Sedgfield Harrier, James Oldfield, finished second overall, with clubmate Dave Greatorex in fifth. Judith Nutt of Elswick Harriers won the women's race and the first Harrier home was Tracy Henderson, followed by Emma Featherstone and Tracy Glaister. David Pipe of Tailenders won the 18.7 miles men's race and the women's event was won by Rachel Ball of Sunderland Strollers. Although most Sedgfield runners tackled the 11.3 miles race (one of a series of events that make up the club grand prix), Justin Cox ran in the marathon and finished a very impressive third in a time of 3:12:48 (excellent on any course, but particularly on that route). The marathon was won by Gary Towers and first woman was Maddy Fisher of Evenwood Road Runners. Hamsterley Forest Trail Runs were organised by Sedgfield Harrier Gary Thwaites, with the support of many volunteers from the club - it was a great team effort.

Sedgfield Harriers summer handicap race for the Gerry Kearsley Memorial Trophy followed. The event, kindly sponsored by Peggy Kearsley, supported by Fishburn Club and fastest runner trophies donated by Eammon Murtagh, followed a circular scenic cross country route, just over 6 miles, from just outside Fishburn. With handicaps based on each runner's best 10K time, the race has an exciting conclusion as most people finish in quick succession. Cyd Upton of Aycliffe Running Club was the winner and first Sedgfield Harriers to finish were Graeme Addison and Christine Hearmon. Once again, the club is grateful to the volunteers who made the event possible.

Pole Climbing

Pole climbing is a popular event during agricultural shows and big events in the Highlands. 16 year old Luke Towler from Sedgfield has recently taken up the sport and is already enjoying success. A first year student at East Durham Houghall College, studying level 3 arboriculture and forestry management, Luke took part in the Scottish championship, as part of the Royal Highland show in Edinburgh, competing in the Scottish Poleclimbing Championship. He took 1st place on day 1, 2nd place on day 2 and 1st on the final day, in the novice class. As a result, Luke had to compete in expert class in his next events, which he did with great success, taking 1st place at Woodfest in North Wales, where he scaled an 80ft pole in just 12 seconds, and 4th at the Royal Kent Show.



Luke works part time for Deerness Fencing and Landscaping, who have generously sponsored him with safety equipment, and clothing and allowing him time off work to compete. He is very grateful to the company and to his lecturers Chris Wheatley, Peter Bolton and Nancy Pout, for feeding him! If you haven't seen pole climbers in action, it's well worth searching out some clips online. The speed of the competitors is very impressive! Congratulations to Luke and we'll look out for more news from him in future. That's all for this month. As always, please send any sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com.

Bake off triumph

Many congratulations to Sophie White, winner of our Taste & See bake off competition with her delicious chocolate caramel cake.



Sedgefield in Bloom would like to thank ...

By the time the August edition hits the streets, our Northumbria in Bloom judges will have been and gone – happy, we hope. No results till September, I'm afraid, so we'll have to be patient a while longer.

In the meantime, the Bloomers would like to offer grateful thanks to the generous group of sponsors who contribute so much to keeping Sedgefield looking blooming lovely. A list of their names appears on the Bloom Sponsor Board outside the parish hall and they all display the Bloom window sticker. But their continuing generosity deserves special thanks.

Manor House 1707, generous sponsors for many years, upped the ante considerably this year with a hefty cheque for £250 (see picture below). Other platinum sponsors are John Platt at Sedgefield Physiotherapy, Chris Edmonds Dental Practice, WCL Construction, Sedgefield Rotary, the Blues Club and the Squash Club.

The Gold team consists of Number Four and TicketyBoo, Young's RPS, Alan Brown Accountants, Sedgefield Social Club and the residents of Crispin Court.

Shining bright silver are Clifton Lodge, Coop Funeral Care, Hays Travel, the Post Office, the Veterans, Sedgefield Players and their youth group SPYS.

Other local businesses and organisations stand as Bronze sponsors. Many thanks to Aubergine, Chic, Cooper and Barr, Jayne, Rea Estates Signature Homes, Toshach's, Village Style, Sedgefield Racecourse, the Lyric Singers and both Local and Family History groups. Support also comes in cash or kind from Hardwick Hall, Turner's Garage, Jaiz, Peridot, SCA, Barclays Bank, Sedgefield Web Design, Sedgefield Pharmacy, St John Fisher church, Alan Reed Accident Repair Centre and Windlestone Nurseries.

So many generous donations, increasing year on year, allow us, alongside council gardeners Stephen and Roy, to provide beautiful displays which put a smile on the face of all who see them.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our efforts in various ways, including many words of thanks and appreciation. Fingers crossed we'll bring home the gold again!

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The new Mayor of Sedgefield, Gloria Wills, came to judge the competition and present the certificate to our worthy winner.

Congratulations also to all the runners up, who made judging so very difficult.

The Taste & See group has now been running for three years and will continue in September.

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AUGUST DIARY

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| Date | Event |
|---------------------|--|
| Sun 2nd | FARMERS' MARKET 8.30am - 12.30 on the Village Green |
| Tue 4th | Energy Switch Registration period opens. Details on page 6 |
| Wed 5th | Sedgefield WI – A Talk by Peter Barron (Editor of Northern Echo), "Cloudy, Rain Later" 7pm @ The Parish Hall. £3.50 inc refreshments. |
| Fri 7th | Sedgefield Village Veterans Coffee Morning, 10am - 12noon in the Parish Hall |
| Sat 8th | SEDFIELD AGRICULTURAL SHOW. Gates open 10am. |
| Tue 11th | Health Buddy volunteer meeting at Trimdon Grange Community Centre. |
| Sat 15th | Anniversary Service for VJ Day at the War Memorial, commencing at 10-45hrs, silence at 11am |
| Fri 21st | Final Entries for Sedgefield Scarecrow Festival. Forms from Town Council Office or www.silysnaps.co.uk , to be submitted by this date. |
| Sat 22nd | Summer Fete at Willowdene Care Home (Lizard Lane TS21 3ET). from 1pm – 4pm |
| Fri 28th | U3A Photography Group (Members Only) 10.30am - 12.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. To join U3A contact Maxine Patterson, 620905, Brenda O'Brien, 629574 or email malcolm_tooley@msn.com |
| Sun 30th | Charity Car Boot Sale at Humble Knowle Farm. See below for details |
| Sun 30th & Mon 31st | SEDFIELD SCARECROW FESTIVAL. Details on page 6 |

Looking Ahead to September

Friday 4th - Sunday 6th: **Sedgefield Folk Festival.**

Monday 7th - Saturday 12th: **Sedgefield Drama Festival of One Act Plays**

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Sedgefield Social Club

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8th Chris De Verne: Entertainer

15th Sue Allan: Personality Vocalist

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7.30 – 8.15pm Kettlercise

Wednesdays

5.00 – 8.00pm Polka School of Dance

Thursdays

6.30 – 7.00pm Metafit

7.00 – 8.00pm Pilago

Saturdays 10.30 – 11.30 Chi Taekwondo

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Fri 28th August: Photography Group
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Friday 4th Sept: Teesport Chaplains
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