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SEDGEFIELD NEWS

August 2017

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

A summer's day in some wonderful gardens lifts spirits & helps good causes

Over 100 visitors enjoyed a horticultural day out when 15 residents opened their gardens to the public on Sunday July 9th. Volunteers from Sedgefield in Bloom organised the event and enjoyed great support from keen local gardeners. Everyone went to great lengths to ensure their own plot was in top condition on the day.

At Aingarth on West Park Lane, visitors enjoyed delicious home-made cakes and biscuits, while being entertained by Sedgefield's own Ukelele Band (*right*). Further sweet treats were on offer at Wynyard Station cottage. As well as luscious cupcakes, visitors could buy pots of the new Hardwick Honey, and Beekeepers were on hand with advice about attracting bees to your garden. On Station Road visitors could marvel at the skills of Ron and Brenda Wright, winners of Best Garden in Northumbria in 2016., while at Ceddesfeld Hall, visitors enjoyed a series of gardens created by Bloomers, including the most recent addition, the Stepping through Time Garden with its willow statue of the Dashing Vicar, and the beautiful Manor House rose garden, also created by members of the Bloom team, proved very popular.

The day raised over £400, to be shared equally between Sedgefield in Bloom projects and Cancer Research. Publicity Officer Norma Neal said, 'In recent months, we have lost two valued members of the Bloom team to cancer and several other members have suffered various forms of this dreadful condition. So our contribution to research is particularly heartfelt.' Northumbria in Bloom judges visited on Wednesday July 19th. Results will be announced in September.



Sedgefield Community Hospital

by Phil Wilson MP

There has been much uncertainty about the future of Sedgefield Community Hospital over recent months. At the beginning of July it was announced that the Durham and Darlington Trust and the local CCG were looking at reducing the number of beds at the hospital from 23 to 16.

I understand the Trust is consulting with the staff affected and no jobs are at risk because there are other vacancies within the Trust area and the appropriate national staffing levels required for the 16 beds will be maintained.

The Trust also assured me that patient safety is paramount, while fewer beds are required because patients are spending more time receiving care at home rather than requiring a hospital bed in the community hospital, which is a good thing. However, at a time when acute hospitals are struggling to move patients back into their homes, community hospitals should be looking at increasing their provision, not cutting it.

I understand that patients from Trimdon, Fishburn, Bishop Middleham and Sedgefield are being placed in residential care beds in the private sector in, for example, Hartlepool and Stockton, for when transferred out of acute hospitals. That sounds to me like a need for more local beds, not fewer.

Also, at a time when local GP services are under threat in Trimdon, placing more strain on GP surgeries in Fishburn and Sedgefield there is an argument to re-assess the role of the community hospital and the services the facility provides.

I know local NHS managers and health care professionals, doctors and nurses are working under constraints set for them by the Government nationally. At the same time I believe there should be a review of the services provided by and the role of all the community hospitals in County Durham before it is too late and services continue to be undermined.

Action group alert See page 9 for important news of proposed new housing schemes.

Puzzled about posting times? See page 12 for Kelly Aitkin's article.

Sports Update is on page 8 - and have you ever heard of

Trauma Teddies? all is made clear on page 3.

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

Deadline for September edition

Tuesday 15th August

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

Last year about this time, we had booked to go on one of those trips which you say you always want to go on (I think people now call this a bucket list) , a boat trip to Coquet Island off the Northumberland coast. To cut a long story short we didn't make it, we got held up on the A1 and missed the boat! We did have a walk around Amble Harbour and stopped at Cresswell Pond on the way back and saw a Barn Owl but it wasn't quite the same.

So this time we booked again and hurrah, we managed to catch the boat! The trip was organised by the Natural History Society of Northumbria with a very knowledgeable guide who could tell a Roseate Tern from a Common Tern at 500m and by their call as well. The Roseate Tern was the main reason for going on the trip; the island is a RSPB reserve about one mile off Amble, Northumberland and is home to a large colony of nesting seabirds and now holds 90 per cent of the UK's Roseate Tern population. We had picked a beautiful night and the sea although not calm, wasn't too bad. As we approached the island the number of birds we could see gradually increased with large numbers of Sandwich Terns, Common Terns and of course everyone's favourites Puffins.

The island is specially protected under European Law for birds such as the Roseate Tern, one of our rarest nesting seabirds. Several thousand nesting Sandwich, Arctic and Common Terns accompany the Roseates in May, June and July, and thousands of Puffins occupy the main part of the island. For this reason, the island is designated as a sanctuary and the public are not allowed to land. But you can also enjoy close-up views of the birds as we did by taking a boat trip around the island on a charter boat. The noise and the frenetic activity of hundreds of Puffins, Terns and other sea birds is not to be missed not to mention good views of seals close to the boat.

The Roseate Tern is similar in size to a Common Tern but very white-looking, with long tail-streamers, a black cap and a black beak with a reddish base. In summer the adults have a pinkish tinge to their underparts which gives them their name. Its severe, long-lasting and well documented decline makes it a Red List species.



The RSPB have managed to get funding for an EU LIFE project which includes a live video link of the nesting birds. See <http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/find-a-reserve/reserves-a-z/reserves-by-name/c/coquetisland/webcam.aspx>.

It is also providing much-needed support for infrastructure and protection for the Terns and other seabirds and includes investment in recycled plastic for the tailor-made terraces and new bespoke Roseate Tern nest boxes. If you can't make it to the Farne Islands and need a seabird experience please remember the small RSPB reserve of Coquet Island.

Sedgefield Charities offer grants to students

The Trustees of the Sedgefield Charities make a number of awards each year to residents in the Sedgefield area who are taking up full time study beyond 'A' level or its equivalent.

Applicants must live in **Bishop Middleham, Bradbury, Cornforth, Fishburn, Mordon, Sedgefield or Trimdon.**

Application forms and further information can be obtained by contacting the Clerk to the Trustees, John Hannon at:

East House, Mordon, Sedgefield, Co. Durham, TS21 2EY

Telephone: 01740 622512, e-mail: east.house@btinternet.com

The closing date for applications is the 30th September, 2017.

Artist honoured for his commitment to St Ed's



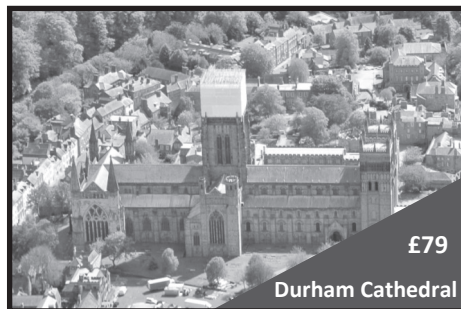
Artist and graphic designer Kev Stevens has become the first member of the local community to be made an honorary member of the Friends of Saint Edmund's Church in Sedgefield. The managing director of the Fishburn-based Art Room, was nominated for the award on the strength of his outstanding work on and enthusiasm for several projects launched by the Friends in the past 18 months. Kev Stevens' recent contributions include the development and design of a new church guide, visitor-interpretation boards in St. Edmund's, the Friends' website, information banner and production of merchandise for the 'Pickled Parson' marketing campaign.

Sedgefield Business Network breakfast event

Attendance at Sedgefield Business Network breakfasts has been growing over recent months, with typically around 30 local business people meeting to network and hear about a relevant topic whilst sharing breakfast in a friendly and encouraging atmosphere. Anyone with business interests in the Sedgefield area, or living in the area with business interests further afield, is welcome to come along. The next breakfast takes place on Tuesday 12th September, starting at 8 am. The venue and speaker will be confirmed nearer the time.

Thanks to sponsorship by local businesses, these events are free, but it is important to register beforehand (or we won't make enough coffee for everyone!)

Contact sedgefieldbn@gmail.com to let us know you are interested and/or to be added to the mailing list.



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Angel of the North

A boot-load of trauma teddies recruited by emergency services

More than 120 'trauma teddies' have been knitted to help comfort children involved in car crashes or other frightening incidents. The overwhelming response to the community appeal has even seen them sent in from as far afield as Cyprus.

The campaign has been spearheaded by Stanley based Sergeant Dave Clarke, after the idea was suggested to him by someone who had spotted the bears being used in other parts of the country. The boot-load of colourful knitted creations are now being distributed throughout Durham Constabulary. "The response to the appeal has been absolutely overwhelming," said Sgt Clarke. "The community has really got behind the initiative and the first teddies are now on their way to the Roads Policing Unit. In fact, I've had officers phone up asking if I can send them out because they love the idea so much."

Predominantly used at the scenes of road traffic collisions, the teddies can also be handed out by officers attending

other traumatic scenarios such as a fire, when a family may have lost everything. Sgt Clarke said: "They just add that little bit of comfort and every child can relate to a teddy. They are also really useful for officers to explain what is going on, so for example if you need to put an oxygen mask on a child you can do it to the teddy first and it instantly becomes

a lot less frightening. There are also times when we might need a child to remain still while we are cutting them out of vehicles – the teddies give them something to focus on." Sgt Clarke thanks all who have donated to the appeal since its launch at the end of May, particularly the publicity-shy lady who first suggested the idea.



Sedgefield Village Veterans' Association

We are happy to report that the Association is going from strength to strength. Our monthly coffee mornings are well attended and membership is continuing to grow month on month.

The Sedgefield Frontline three-day event, which has taken over from the Spitfire on the Green events of previous years, is starting to really take off. It was well attended this year and everyone gave great feedback - so much so that we have been able to confirm Sponsorship for next year. So it looks as though we have a great annual event, to be enjoyed by re-enactors and public alike!

Our coffee morning on 4th August will be a special one. All proceeds will go to the Marine appeal to help the family of Retired Royal Marine Nathaniel Beesley, who are stranded in Australia after his tragic death in March of this year. There is no space to tell their story here, but full information will be available at the coffee morning, where we will be supported by the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. It should be a very special morning for the Veterans and the villagers. All are welcome to come and support us.

This last year has been tremendous for the Association, acquiring our own banner and supporting the Local History Society in their WW1 Commemorations at the flagpole. We look forward to even more worthwhile events and a growing membership.

*Congratulations to
Harley Haynes-Sefton, winner of the*

**Les Joss Memorial
Mathematics Award 2017**

Full report on page 9.



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Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

Local Beat Officer PC Keith Todd gave valuable information about **Door to Door Selling**, strongly advising people **not to buy** at the doorstep. He continued, "People trying to sell at the door should have a Pedlar's Licence. Ask to see it, get their details and pass these on to the local Police, to allow them to check up. If they don't have it, try to get as much information as you can that might help to identify them, then pass this on to Sedgefield Police. Gather and record details about any vehicles they are using. Make, model, colour and, especially, registration number can be very useful in helping police to identify patterns of activity and to identify offenders. In this instance do not buy. Never give door knockers any information about you or your household; you do not know how this may be used!"

Members and others present were extremely concerned about the ongoing problem of Youth Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) & Underage Drinking in Sedgefield. PC Todd provided details of recent action by the local police. Supported by Special Constables, they displayed exclusion notices to limit the movement of some of the young people. Several youths were excluded from a defined area of the village for 24hrs. Around 20 exclusion notices were issued (See PC Todd's report for details). Members felt strongly that the problem has not gone away and that it will not do so without continuous Police presence and action. PC Todd readily acknowledged this but also drew attention to the limitations of resources locally.

It is very much up to Sedgefield residents to ring in and report ASB along with any matter that concerns them. It is in the hands of residents to continually report instances of such behaviour as, without hard records of the problems, the Police cannot act - especially if this situation persists.

Police Communications: Unfortunately there was no Inspector present at this meeting. However PC Todd did inform us that the Police Crime and Victims Commissioner, Ron Hogg, will be at Sedgefield Show on 12th August. PCVC Hogg will be joining PC Todd on the Police Display Van. This will be an ideal opportunity for all individuals with concerns about Communications or any Police matter to talk to Ron Hogg in person.

Full details (draft minutes) of the July meeting will be posted in the two notice boards in Sedgefield.

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

NB: it may be prudent to keep notes of any conversation & obtain an incident number. For advice or assistance, contact Police Community Liaison Officer Faye Callan. Call 101 Extension 742317. Email Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk

Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner: Annual Report

Ron Hogg's annual report focuses on how The Police and partner organisations have fared in meeting the objectives he set for them in the past year. It highlights a bespoke Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS), a Restorative Justice pilot supporting victims in Durham Crown Court, and the Checkpoint Programme, dealing with ways of reducing the level of reoffending. This programme has won a national award from The Howard League for Penal Reform.

PCVC Hogg emphasises the priority he wants given to victims of crime and anti-social behaviour in his second term of office. After an 'extensive consultation with local people' he released his new Police, Crime and Victims' Plan in November '16. The key objectives were; to tackle crime and keep communities safe; support victims & the vulnerable; inspire confidence in policing and the criminal justice system.

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) ranked Durham Constabulary as the best police force in the country for the third year running. *Continued top of next column*

To find out about other key achievements, services for victims, projects funded through the Community Safety Fund, and how PCVC Hogg scrutinised police performance during 2016-17, you can see the Annual Report at: www.durham-pcc.gov.uk, or search for Durham PCC on Facebook and Twitter.

Letter from PC Todd

Over recent weekends we have received a few complaints from residents regarding the conduct of youths who gather on a Friday evening. I must stress that the majority of young people are well behaved and respectful. However, there are one or two individuals who believe they can do what they like. To these individuals I would say that if you do not behave yourself, we will ask you to leave the village. To enforce this point we have conducted three weekends of action against Anti-social behaviour. A number of youths were required to leave Sedgefield or have further action taken against them (Direction to Leave notice).

Crime in general remains low. However, recent crimes include the theft of garden furniture in North Park Road, theft from a van in Beaumont Court, damage to a flag pole in Eden Drive and damage to the seats of a school bus.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Hardwick Arms. Concerns were raised regarding the two recent burglaries. This situation has been addressed, however, with improved security. No incidents were reported which required further action by members.

Until next time, Keith.



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Sedgefield Energy Switch

After 3 years of Energy Switch, total savings exceed £125,000!

Although this last year has been the most challenging since we started our scheme, in the face of significant increases in energy costs at the time auction, Energy Switch has produced market leading, winning energy tariffs at each of the year's three auctions. This means that participants of the scheme have continued to make savings against what it would have cost had they not have switched with us.

To continue saving, for those people whose contracts come to an end before the end of the year and for people wishing to join the scheme the next key dates for registration are:

Registration Opens 8th August & Closes 9th October : Auction 10th October
Personal Offers, from 23rd October : Acceptance closes 28th November

There are 2 ways to register

1. If you are happy to register online, go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk, open the ENERGY SWITCH section, click on the **GREEN** 'REGISTER NOW' button, then click 'SIGN UP TODAY'. Then simply fill out your details.
2. If you prefer to register and receive information through the post, or need any assistance, please call the Sedgefield Development Trust Helpline on **07980 134 594** and we will be happy to help, or complete your registration for you. Registering for the scheme commits you to nothing and you will not receive any pestering phone calls (guaranteed). **You can always talk to us at the SDT stall at the Farmers' Market and we will also be at Sedgefield Show on 12th August, so if you have any questions or need further information, why not come along.**

Sedgefield Farmers' Market - Sunday 6th August

Stallholder news

Back this month with their locally brewed, bottled ales are **Three Brothers Brewery** from Stockton. Carol Walker's **Just Desserts** will be with us for the first time with gluten free cakes, and 2 more first timers - cheesecake maker, Rachel Whitehouse brings **The Busy Whisk** and (yet more good news for the sweet-toothed) Debbie Obrien opens **The Fudge Parlour** in Sedgefield for the first time.

Sedgefield Eggs made a popular first appearance in July and they are delighted to be one of our most local food producers, along with Parlour Made cheese from Mordon. We're so lucky to be able to offer a increased variety of produce, including sausages, organically farmed meat, fish, pies, gluten free baked goods, preserves, plants, and the remarkable reclaimed timber work which is produced by Dave Hall of Oakdene Woodcraft. If you've never been to the market before, you might be surprised by the great value for money and superb quality to be found at Sedgefield Farmers' Market. Our two free community stalls this month are **Sedgefield Young Farmers** and **The National Trust**. The **Northumbrian Pipers** make sweet music all morning and the **Sedgefield Village Games** equipment will be on the green for the children.

First Aid

We have acquired a new First Aid Kit for the market. It will be held at the small Sedgefield Development Trust stall and we are offering to provide First Aid training to our stallholders and regular volunteers. If you're interested, talk to Roger or ask at the SDT stall. Otherwise - perhaps if you would like to volunteer to help with the market - email farmersmarket@sedgefieldweb.co.uk.

12th Annual Sedgefield Folk Festival adds a special event

Added to the Festival programme previously advertised and organised specifically for housebound and disabled residents from Sedgefield and surrounding areas, **'Life in a Pit Village'** is a Musical narration by John Wrightson and Bob Lowery.

The event will take place on 9th September in the Parish Hall, and will be financed by local businesses and organisations. We would like to express our gratitude to Limilo Ltd, Professional Network Technology Solutions, Ibex Innovations Ltd, Sedgefield Development Trust, Fishburn Parish Council and the Dun Cow Inn for their generosity.

Sedgefield Development Trust wish to thank Tamzin Lafford and Olwen Downes for taking on the work of raising sponsorship money, and Tracy Brown for her advice. For more information, call Joan Edmundson; 621347 or visit the website (see right.)



Ceddesfeld Hall

*Home of Sedgefield
Community Association (SCA)*

The 25th Ceddesfeld Beer Festival was great fun. Thanks to all SCA volunteers and friends who helped in the run up and over the weekend. Also thanks to Lol and Maxine Crallan for providing the entertainment on the Saturday evening. Both nights were very busy and the range of beers and ciders were very popular. There was very little left! Thanks also to local business sponsors, Select Financial Solutions, The Bailey Group, Parsons Containers, The Blues Club, Sedgefield Web Design and Robinsons of Wingate. Their support is much appreciated and important in helping to sustain the event for future years.

SCA's next event is in support of Sedgefield Folk Festival at Ceddesfeld Hall. There are lots of events and workshops planned across the weekend. On the Friday 1st September we have an evening with Stockton to Darlington Ukulele Express and Lol and Maxine Crallan (£5 entry) and on Saturday evening an Open Mic featuring the Old Age Travellers. These are just two of the many events at the hall and across the village so please check websites (see below) for more details.

SCA works hard to provide and improve events which reflect the activities and pastimes of residents of all ages.

This year's 47th Mediaeval Fayre was successful and well attended, but the event is now organised by a dwindling number of volunteers, some of whom are elderly. This is not sustainable and although we did have some new volunteers this year, more people are needed to help in moving the event forward; to suggest new ideas; to support in the run up and during the collections and with sorting and helping out on the day.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Sarah ASAP. Planning for next year's event has already begun. It is only through new volunteers that this long standing, very popular event will continue.

For more information, contact
Wendy on 01740 620206,
Pat on 01740 620607,
Sarah on 01740 622185 or visit SCA
website www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk
Sedgefield Folk Festival 2017 is on
www.sedgefieldfolkfestival.co.uk

Singing Success

June was a busy month for the village choirs with two sell out shows in the Parish Hall. First, Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir brought their performance of Peter Rose and Anne Conlon's Yanamamo - an old favourite with the choir and those of us who have had the pleasure to sing it before. The musical tells the story of the trials and tribulations of the Rainforest Tribes and the effect of deforestation on the animals of the Amazon. Choir directors Kristen Peacock and Rob Guest said "The Youth Choir have worked incredibly hard to put together a wonderful performance and we are exceptionally proud of them."

Later that month the Lyric Singers and Lirica performed their summer concert, Music in the Air. The two choirs sang a variety of music from a wide range of composers, and the stage was a sea of blue, with spectacular new uniforms.

When rehearsals resume in September, Lirica will be working towards their October concert, while the Lyric Singers and SLYC will start preparations for Christmas.

Below: The Lyric Singers. Photograph by Catherine Lines



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Late July saw the SPYS production of C. S. Lewis' 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe'. The familiar tale of the four Pevensie children was brought to life in the Parish Hall to two sold out audiences. 45 SPYS took to the stage in a lavish production directed by Sarah Atkinson and Tom Guest. Lighting and sound was designed by Adam White with set design by Garry and Viv Jacobs. The wonderful costumes were put together by Jeanne Iveson and made for a truly impressive spectacle. Sarah said, 'The SPYS have been working since February to create this production. They get stronger and stronger every year. We are very proud of them'. The Players and SPYS are now working hard on their entries for the September Festival of One Act Plays, back to full strength this year with three productions. The SPYS will perform 'Remote' by Stef Smith, an interesting look at Youth Culture and the perceived futility of life from a young perspective, while the Players will perform Jim O'Connor's 'A Touch of Rose Madder', a poignant and emotive piece about aging and home help, and 'The Jewish Wife' by Bertolt Brecht, a challenging piece that looks at the rise of the Third Reich in 1930s Germany and it's effect on the population. The Festival starts on September 11th and more information will follow. *Photos by Sarah Atkinson*



Durham Book Festival Fringe

In the run up to the Durham Book Festival, which takes place from the 7th to the 14th October, several fringe events are being organised during the week beginning Saturday 30th September.

Events will involve local authors, literary workshops for all ages and poetry readings. There will be a musical evening based around the work of Bob Dylan who won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

If you are interested in being involved in any capacity please contact Sarah Guest on 01740 622185. More information will be released shortly.

Art Exhibition

For the third year in a row, Jane Spink has presented an exhibition of her work at the Manor House in Sedgefield.

This now annual event sees Jane create a new work every day and visitors are invited to participate in different activities across the course of the day.

For more information about Jane's work visit www.janespink.co.uk (*Below: Wednesday's painting, photo by Jane*)



Sedgefield Folk Festival

The Festival takes place from the 1st to the 3rd September and some tickets are still available.

Artists include The Mighty Doonans, Bob Fox, Anthony John Clarke, Flossie Malavialle, Los Capitanes, Good Fellows, Other Roads and many others.

As ever the World Famous Spoons Championships with Bert Draycott will take place on the Saturday afternoon.

For folk festival information contact Joan Edmundson on 621347 or visit www.sedgefieldfolkfestival.co.uk.

The summer holidays are here, but there's no sign of a break in the world of sport. In golf, the Open Championship is reaching a conclusion as I type this and Chris Froome has just secured his fourth victory in the Tour de France (wow, by the way). Meanwhile, there is plenty of cricket to enjoy, with England making the final of the Women's World Cup and the men's test series against South Africa well underway. In athletics, the World Para-athletics Championships has provided a fantastic spectacle in London, soon to be followed by the World Athletics Championships at the same venue, which will be the last time we see Usain Bolt and Mo Farah grace the track. These days, football never seems to take a break. England's women have high hopes in Euro 17 and it's only days until the next domestic season starts. Yes, it's nonstop. Here in Sedgefield, sporting life is just as busy. This month, I'm going to focus on a few individuals.

Jessica Weatherspoon

Last year, the sports update put the spotlight on the burgeoning squash career of Jessica Weatherspoon. Having just completed her first year at Sedgefield Community College, Jess' sporting achievements are no longer confined to just the squash court, and she is now a county representative in no less than three separate disciplines. As a member of Sedgefield Cricket Club, Jess enjoyed early success with the newly-formed girls' team last season, which led to a trial with Durham County Cricket Board at the turn of the year. Both she and Sedgefield girls captain, Emma Dickenson, were selected to the U13 girls' squad for this season. The girls have played a number of games already, and Jess is now opening the batting for the team on a regular basis. Even better, they will still qualify for the age group next year. More recently, with football back on the agenda, Jess was invited for a trial with Durham County Schools. She plays in goal for Sedgefield Youth U13s, mostly against all-boy teams, so an all-girl trial was a step into the unknown for her. She needn't have worried; both she and fellow community college pupil Amy Elliott were selected for next season's girls' U14 squad. At only 12 years of age, both have been selected a year ahead of most of the squad, an even more impressive achievement. Amidst all this, Jess has continued to play squash at National Open tournaments, enjoying her best ever result of third at the most recent in Hull. Now a regular player for Sedgefield's women's team, she finished the season leading a mixed county junior side to a creditable 4th place finish in the Northern Counties Cup in Carlisle. She was joined by yet another community college pupil, Roan Lee, who played fantastically in his first representative outing, winning two out of his three matches. Jess' early promise in squash is clearly being sustained and it's great to hear that she is also building a reputation in



Roan and Jess, first and second from right

other sports. What next I wonder? One fantastic aspect of this story (and the excellent progress being made by Jess' young friends and teammates) is that the opportunities to try so many different sports exist here in Sedgefield.

James Oldfield

As reported in previous updates, Sedgefield resident James Oldfield is about to head to Canada to represent his country (and our community) in the Duathlon World Championships. James qualified as an age group athlete back in April and has since been following a rigorous (and punishing) training programme, while at the same time raising funds for the trip and his equipment. He is scheduled to compete in his duathlon (run-bike-run) race on Sunday 19th August and I will report how he gets on in a future update. If you would like to support James in his adventure in Canada get in touch with him on James_oldfield_is@hotmail.com on Facebook, or 07973 830487.

Ean Parsons

Last month, I mentioned that Ean Parsons was getting ready to take part in the Austria Ironman Triathlon event. I am delighted to report that Ean completed the race (a 2.4-mile swim, followed by 112 miles on the bike, followed by running a marathon) on 2nd July, finishing in an impressive time of 15 hours 23 minutes and nine seconds. This is an outstanding accomplishment, in the first ironman triathlon event that Ean has taken part in. Anyone who can

complete an ironman triathlon deserves huge respect and there are very few people from Sedgefield who can say that they have done so – Gary Hetherington and Ian Blakemore are the only other two athletes who immediately spring to mind. Does anyone know of anyone else who has tackled, or is planning to tackle, an ironman triathlon?

Eamonn Murtagh

Last month, I reported the passing of Eamonn Murtagh and noted that he had been a talented athlete as a younger man. I am told that he didn't actually take up running until around the age of 40, but soon discovered that he was very good at it. He ran for Middlesbrough and Cleveland Harriers (long before Sedgefield had a club) and recorded some impressive times in marathons. After his funeral, Eamonn's family gave me a photo of him crossing the finishing line of the North Tyneside Marathon in 1982 (when he was 47) in 2hrs 47mins 20secs. There would not have been many people ahead of him (of any age) with that result. Although Eamonn was not an active athlete when Sedgefield Harriers was founded in 2005, he was a big supporter of the club. Founder and former chair of the Harriers, Ean Parsons, has his own recollections of Eamonn: "I was greatly saddened to hear of the passing of Eamonn - he was definitely one of life's characters. It was another great senior supporter of the Harriers, Peggy Kearsley, who suggested that I speak to Eamonn and from the start he was also great supporter, encouraging, helping out, starting races and more. He also provided two 'Sport in Sedgefield' trophies, which are presented at our winter and summer handicap races each year – we remembered Eamonn with applause ahead of the latest race in July. Eamonn was particularly keen to see young people given a chance in sport and athletics. In view of his own impressive running career and his involvement in athletics on Teesside, we decided to make *Continued opposite*

Sedgefield Village Action Group: Important information for residents

The third appeal for proposed housing development between Beacon Lane and Stockton Road began on 27th June and lasted 5 days. Avant homes want to build 150 houses on this site. This will be opposite the Eden Drive development where building of 277 houses is already underway. SVAG volunteers attended the appeal and were the only local group representing Sedgefield who stayed for the full five days!

This appeal followed the refusal of planning permission by D.C.C. and is another green field site which could well be swallowed up. The Action Group, together with local residents and Sedgefield Town Council, made representations to the inspector, which we hope were well received.

In the absence of a County Durham plan we are at the mercy of unchecked further development. Durham County admitted the plan is "on hold" but were unable to give reasons for their delay. They have refused to forward our Sedgefield Plan to an independent inspector, and referendum by local people.

Whilst the enquiry was under way, we received notification that ANOTHER public enquiry will take place soon. This is concerning a huge development by ESRG, at the east of Sedgefield Community College, wrapping right round from Sainsburys to Beacon Avenue and The Orchard, on both sides of Butterwick Rd. This will be for a 63 bed care home, 58 bed assisted living complex, 371 houses with 72 self build plots, enterprise units, general industrial premises and, they claim, community and youth facilities. The developer plans access to this site via Salters Lane, beside Bolams and Sainsburys. We have not yet received the inspector's decision following the enquiry earlier in June for the development on the old hospital brown field site.

In last month's Sedgefield News, we said there was the potential for 527 new houses to be built, but the above news means there is actually a potential for over 900 new houses. There is also the possible development of the three cornered field and 300 wooden lodges at Brakes Farm to be considered. We are under siege by developers who see Sedgefield as a profitable location because it's a nice place to live.

Even if we assume there will be only 3 people in each new house (although in truth it will be many more with two or three children), this will increase our population from the present approx. 5,500 by another 2,694 - nearly half as many again. How will the doctor, dentist and schools cope with this influx? There is also the problem of parking in the village, with maybe more than another 2,000 cars? At the public meetings for the Sedgefield Plan, it was agreed that 300 houses was acceptable. But these new developments are already changing our village. The Eden Drive entrance and accompanying traffic upheaval already blight the entrance to the village.

The Action Group's remit is to keep everyone informed of these developments, which we try to do by publishing updates in the Sedgefield News. As soon as a date is announced for the ESRG public enquiry, the action group will make it widely known by posters, further Sedgefield News articles, and via various local websites. If you wish to help in any way, or for further information, please contact the SVAG representative on 07523 457584 or email SedgefieldVAG@gmail.com.

It's your town! Fight for it!

Continued from p 8.

Eamonn our first honorary life member and he was very moved by this.

My particular memories are of having to deliver club communications by hand, as Eamonn didn't have e-mail or a mobile phone (bless him for that!), and our encounters in the library, as he scoured the Northern Echo. I'd often be presented with an article about the club which, unbeknown to Eamonn, I'd actually written and sent in, a feeling that I'm sure the editor of this page will be familiar with. **Eamonn Murtagh – he is already very sadly missed."**

The Unknown Poet's tribute is on p 12.

That's all for this month. As always, please send any sports news to

chrisjlines@aol.com.

The Les Joss Memorial Mathematics Award

In recognition of the late Mr Les Joss, the college presents an annual mathematics award to a selected student who excels in this subject.

Members of this community will remember Les, a mathematics teacher himself, and governor at Sedgefield Community College for a number of years. This year Mrs Lorna Joss presented the award to Harley Haynes-Sefton, a Year 10 student who has displayed excellent mathematical skills and outstanding persistence. Les' son Ian also attended to watch this year's presentation.

Well done Harley!

Letters & Thanks

The Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield

would like to thank everyone who supported the Afternoon Tea & Flower Demonstration on Friday 23rd June.

With your help we raised £927 for the James Cook Hospital Heart Fund.

Thank you all very much.

Manor House History

I am piecing together the history of the Manor House and I'd like to hear from anyone who has recollections of the building, its uses or occupants, including during council and court years last century. This could be the smallest recollection or an account by someone who worked there or had a relative that did. I'd love to talk with anyone who can help and I'll credit contributions.

If you can help please contact me, Ean Parsons, on 07771 828 568 or

ean@manorhousesedgefield.co.uk

Stepping Out For Stroke

New Great Grandma Margaret Hope of The Meadows, Sedgefield, pictured below with daughters Alison and Caroline, Grandchildren Georgina & Francesca, and Zorro the Great Dane, raised £286 for Step out for Stroke (Stroke Association) by doing a sponsored walk around Stewarts Park, Middlesbrough on a very rainy 2nd June 2017.

Margaret would like to say a big "Thank You" to everyone for their generous sponsorship and support.



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August 2017 DIARY

email diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Wed 2nd	Sedgefield WI. Parish Hall, 7.15pm in the main hall. "A Taste of Oz". Wine tasting with Scott Edge. Members' Competition – A wine glass. Visitors are always welcome.
Fri 4th	Sedgefield Village Veterans Coffee Morning. Parish Hall 10am to Noon. See page 2 for article.
Sat 5th	Drop in Surgeries, Cllr John Robinson. 9 – 9.45am @ Bradbury & Morden Village Hall; 10 – 11am @ Sedgefield Library; 11.15 – 12 noon @ Fishburn Community Centre
Sun 6th	Sedgefield Farmers' Market. on the Village Green from 8.30 am
Sat 12th	Sedgefield Show. Gates open at 10am. Marquees open at 12 noon. A good day out while supporting your local show.
Thu 17th	Sew Easy. Parish Hall Boardroom 7pm - 9pm. Call 622447 for information.
Thu 31st	Sew Easy. Parish Hall Boardroom 7pm - 9pm. Call 622447 for information.

As you can see, our August Diary isn't exactly overflowing - not surprising, as most clubs and societies close for the holidays. But life doesn't stop completely, so maybe this could be a reminder to you to consider sending details of your event for inclusion. The email address is at the top of the page. We look forward to being of service.

Looking ahead to September

First weekend 1st-3rd Sedgefield Folk Festival. More on pp 6 & 7, including on **Saturday 2nd, Open Mic Night** at Ceddesfeld - a Folk Festival special.
Sunday 3rd Sedgefield Farmers' Market - with yet more folk music!
Tuesday 26th Sedgefield Development Trust's Open Night focuses on a potential wildlife project.

The times they are a-changing

Collection times at post-boxes on the outskirts of Sedgefield have changed.

The two boxes near Turners and on the corner of The Lane & Durham Road now have 9am pickup times (7am on a Saturday), and the day tab on the box shows the following day once the collection has been made.

The changes have occurred due to a significant decline in the volume of letters, which resulted in post-boxes no longer covering their cost. Royal Mail introduced the changes to collection times to allow the less used post-boxes to remain. A spokeswoman said: "We would like to reassure all our customers in Sedgefield that we will retain a high level of access to late collection posting facilities."

Sedgefield resident, Mike Ashwell raised awareness of the changes to ensure that residents are prepared if they are posting time-sensitive post. He said: "I work from home and post quite a number of date-sensitive packages, where the pre-paid postage is invalid if they are not collected until the next day."

Post boxes at Sedgefield Post Office and the Dun Cow Inn still offer collection until 5:30pm.

by Kelly Aitkin



Café Bistro 1927

is now open at Sedgefield Racecourse every Thursday, Saturday & Sunday, from 8am – 1pm on Thursdays & Sundays and 8am – 1pm on Saturdays. The Bistro will sell a selection of light bites and fresh Italian Coffees.

Also open every Thursday & Sunday from 8am – 1pm is the **Sea Merchant Fish & Chip Shop.**

Sedgefield Library

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Fridays 1pm - 7pm

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

Thursday afternoons

Our new pre-school session '**Boogie Beat**' starts at 2pm. Limited places and high demand mean booking is essential.

Also Summer Reading Challenge

for children plus lots of holiday crafty things happening. Pop in and see.

Fitness Classes @The Hub

Sedgefield Community College

Clubbercise with Sharon: Tues 6 - 7pm

Zumba with Emilia: Tues 6.30 – 7.30pm & Thursday 7 - 8pm

Chi Taekwondo: Sat 10.30 – 11.30am

For tennis, wheelchair rugby & other sports, call the Hub on 01740 617882

New Generation Church

Sundays at 10.30am in the Parish Hall

Sedgefield Social Club

Saturday 5th August: Alec Blackwood.

Saturday 12th August: Stephz.

Saturday 19th August: JoJo.

Monday 21st August: Country Night.

Saturday 26th August: Ben Dillon.

Eamonn

God bless the man with such a big heart,
 Who joined Sedgefield Harriers from its start.
 He took on recordings of many timed trials,
 As runners ran their gruelling miles.
 Supporting the club, with a glint in his eye,
 His passion for running would never die.
 Kindness and strength he liked to give,
 Just like the life that Eamonn lived.

The Unknown Poet, 2017

Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the Publisher or the Editor. We strive to be impartial & independent. We reserve the right to edit copy & will not publish letters of unknown authorship. Please send your contact details with correspondence.

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