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SEDGEFIELD NEWS December 2015

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



We live in a lovely place! Sedgefield in Winter, photographed by Tony Magee from the Cricket Club

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS to our readers, advertisers & volunteers!

Sedgefield Area Churches Together Christmas Festive Services

'Carols on the Green' Friday 18th Dec 6.30pm Church of England: Carol Services

St Catherine's, Fishburn, Wednesday 16th, 6pm St Edmund's, Sedgefield, Thursday 10th 7pm St Michael's, Bp Middleham, Sunday 20th at 6pm St Mary Magdalene Trimdon Vill, Thurs 24th 5.30pm

Christingle Services

St Mary Magdalene's, Sunday 13th 4pm St Edmund's, Sunday 20th 4pm St Catherine's, Christmas Eve 4pm

Crib Services

St Alban's, Trimdon Grange, Sunday 20th 5.30pm St Michael's, Christmas Eve 4pm

Christmas Eve Services

St Alban's, Sung Eucharist 9pm St Edmund's, Midnight Mass 11.30pm St Michael's, Midnight Mass 11.30pm

St Mary Magdalene's, Midnight Mass 11.30pm Christmas Day Services

St Catherine's, Eucharist 10am St Edmund's, Family Service 10am

Roman Catholic Churches

St Joseph, Coxhoe. Christmas Eve Mass 6pm St William's Trimdon. Christmas Eve Mass 8pm St John Fisher. Christmas Day Mass 10.45am

Methodist Church, Sedgefield

Sunday 20th December Carol Service 10am Christmas Day Morning Worship 10am

Christmas Card Delivery Service

Once again, 1st Sedgefield Explorer unit is running its brilliant Christmas card delivery service from Number Four or Tickety-Boo. If you would like some cards to be delivered (Sedgefield addresses only please!) make sure that the envelopes are fully addressed and drop them off at one of these shops before 21st December. The Explorers will take it from there. Donations given for using this service will be gratefully received and they will all be used to help provide Scouting opportunities to young people in the area.

Christmas Gift Day & Coffee Morning Saturday 12th December

Join us in St Edmund's Church for coffee between 10am and 12 noon. Stalls of various kinds will provide your last minute Christmas Gifts. Help maintain the life and witness of the Church by making a donation as part of your Christmas celebration.

Help those in need by providing a Christmas hamper (shoe box) filled with Christmas goodies (no alcohol or tobacco products please, but coffee, tea, sugar, chocolate, toiletries etc will be very welcome. **Please bring hampers to Church by 13th December**

Stop press ...

As we go to print, Durham County Council has started on making permanent changes to the A177 / B1278 junction, and temporary coning off is now being replaced with kerbs, paving and new white lining. Thank you for your letters and comments on this issue which we have not had room to print. Your campaign certainly made an impact and it remains to be seen if the correct decisions have been made. One thing is for sure - the readers of Sedgefield News will make their voices heard if not!

PLEASE NOTE: The January deadline is **Thursday 10th December** Please send your copy early to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Steve's Nature Diary

The natural world month by month

Can you remember how far you used to roam on your own or with friends when you were a child, looking for conkers or collecting things or making dens? In 1915 the average distance roamed by children was 6 miles, in 1991 that had fallen to 300 yards! A new YouGov poll, commissioned by The Wildlife Trusts, has shown some interesting findings including: 91% of parents of children aged 18 and under think that having access to nature and wildlife is important for children, yet 78% of parents are concerned that children don't spend enough time interacting with nature and wildlife highlighting a discrepancy between what parents think is best for children and what they actually experience. Evidence has been growing for a number of years pointing to the array of health and social benefits to be derived from contact with the natural world for all ages.

The Wildlife Trusts who reach around half a million children each year through their junior membership and work with schools, are concerned about a loss of contact with wildlife during childhood. Despite the fundamental importance of nature to childhood the signs are that a generation of children are growing up at arm's-length from the natural world. Children's freedom to roam and spend time outdoors has shrunk and with it their opportunities to discover wildlife, with just one in ten ever playing in wild places. Children are happier, healthier and more creative when they are connected to the natural world. This should be an option not just for a few, but for every child in the UK. This is the mantra for a new campaign "#EveryChildWild" from The Wildlife Trusts. You can find out more information about the project at: http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/EveryChildWild

Other findings from the research included:

over a quarter (27%) of children aged 8-15 had never played outside by themselves, beyond their house or garden: 37% hadn't done so in the past 6 months;
only 24% of children said their school had an indoor nature display area like a nature table;

• and linking to last month's nature diary. 37% of children had never seen a hedgehog in the UK.

So what can you do about this? With Christmas coming, alongside lots of food and drink, don't forget to put some time aside for those winter walks to your local nature reserve or green space for exercise, fresh air and contact with nature. You might want to read "The art of getting children out doors" by Jen and Sim Benson, who, frustrated by spending their days apart, embarked on spending 'A Wild Year' camping around Britain with their two young children (see the website above.) If you want to do more you could encourage your children to do the Wildlife Watch Hedgehog Award and join Wildlife Watch http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/awards-information-page, but the main thing is do your bit to make **#EveryChildWild! Happy Christmas.**

Remembrance Service

The annual remembrance service took place again on Sedgefield green, in honour of soldiers who fought to protect our country and the lives we are living today. It was well attended, with uniformed groups such



as Scouts and Brownies showing their support to country and soldiers. The fire and police services, veterans and town council were amongst many to lay wreaths outside St Edmund's Church, in memory of the lives and bravery of all those who have fought in conflict since WWI up to present day wars.

The issue of peace was discussed at the service as being something that we should strive towards, both as a community and as humanity; peace must start with the individual and can't just be left to others. "Paz", "paix", "peace"; children with different symbols representing the word in a different language showed the reality that we are all in this together. "You can see how these wars are affecting every generation of our community" said a Sedgefield resident who attended the service, which reminded us we must all aim for the same goal of harmony, no matter where we are, be it in the village of Sedgefield or any other place in the world. We're reminded even more so by recent events around the world, to work for peace, lest we forget. *Kelly Aitkin*

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News In Brief

Janet Peacock

We were very sorry to hear from Ray Peacock that his wife, Janet passed away on October 22nd. The couple have lived in Thorpe Larches for over 30 years, so readers there will know Ray as the person who has faithfully delivered their Sedgefield News since edition no 1. Ray and Janet were just 6 weeks away from reaching their Golden Wedding Anniversary. We send our sympathy and grateful thanks to Ray.

Group birthday

Sedgefield Bereavement Support Group celebrated their first birthday with a coffee morning at St. Edmund's Church on the morning of 7th November. We were very well-supported, and raised over £100. There was a beautiful cake donated by Aubergine, which we raffled. Julie Latheron won! A big thank you to all concerned.



Getting the News to you

First of all, grateful thanks to the people who deliver the Sedgefield News every month. Some rounds are long and complicated and yet the vast majority of people get their News on time, thanks to you! If you know you are not going to be able to deliver before the 1st, could you please either let us know, or better still, ask somebody else to do it for you for that month? And now, after the thanks, the inevitable request! Some volunteers have recently had to step down, so we are looking for permanent deliverers for the following; Bottom of Rectory Row, Crispin Court and Stockton Road from the club (35); The Gables plus Harehills Lodge (62); Farfield Manor, South West Lodge, Old Durham Road, Turnpike Walk, Homestall, Meadow Rise, and the left hand side of Winterton Avenue (88). If you can help with any of these, please contact me on 01740 620244, mobile 079899 984 464, or e-mail mail@toddshousefarm.co.uk. Thank you. Judith Edgoose

Sedgefield to have a modernised Post Office



A change of address has been suggested for Sedgefield Post Office, from Front Street, to the Corner Shop, Whitehouse Drive, in an attempt to update the branch to a new local style.

The Government-invested programme is designed to modernise the Post Office network, and aims to see up to 8,000 branches nationwide updated, as well as an investment in a further 3,000 community and outreach branches. The relocation, expected around March 2016, would mean the Post Office would be open from 7am to 8pm weekdays, and from 8am to 8pm at the weekend. Currently, the Post Office closes at 5.30pm on weekdays and is closed on Sundays.

Other improvements would include two retail tills, improved accessibility and the convenience of having a shop in the same building.

Despite these improvements, there are concerns that the Post Office would have to cut back on other facilities to accommodate the move. The most notable cut back would be the storage of parcels at the branch if a delivery is missed, meaning people would be required to collect their parcel from Stockton. This inconvenience was previously petitioned against in 2013. However, as Richie Parry, Sedgefield Postmaster, explained, this is a feature that may have to be compromised regardless of whether or not the move goes ahead, simply because of the sheer volume of large parcels being delivered in the area, expected to increase again over the holiday period.

Concerns have already been raised with the Town Council regarding the lack of parking in the vicinity of the proposed location, and the Council will discuss the issue at their December meeting, which residents can attend.

A six week public consultation period has been initiated in order to give Sedgefield residents a chance to speak up on the relocation. The closing date is **16th December**.

If you would like to have your say, visit www.postofficeviews.co.uk where you can find and complete an online questionnaire. Alternatively, you can phone 03457 22 33 44; textphone 03457 22 33 55; or write and post your views to 'FREEPOST Your Views', allowing 2 working days for delivery. Jake Graham

Your Letters

Ceddesfeld Hall

In common with many other residents of Sedgefield, I am very concerned about the present situation regarding the future of Ceddesfeld Hall and, in particular, the attitude of some town councillors towards the renewal of its lease. In brief, back in the 70s, the former rectory was bought by the town council as a community facility. They agreed a long-term repairing lease with Sedgefield Community Association (SCA), whose volunteers have maintained and promoted the building ever since. The town council is now proposing a much shorter lease, with the option to review it after five years. SCA have made valiant attempts to explain this complicated situation to members, but, as far as I am aware, the town council have not produced any information for the people of Sedgefield.

Public participation at council meetings does not allow any kind of debate and residents have recently been treated in a cavalier fashion by certain members of the council. In addition, four councillors who are also active members of SCA will not be allowed to cast their vote on the subject. They are deemed to have a vested interest. Other council members appear to have a vested interest in changing the use of Ceddesfeld Hall without informing the residents of Sedgefield of their intentions. We are lucky to live in a lovely, vibrant town, where enthusiastic groups and organisations, many run by volunteers, give so much pleasure across the whole spectrum of age, interest and ability. Ceddesfeld Hall is an important part of our heritage. It belongs to the people of Sedgefield, not current members of the town council. Membership of the council brings responsibility, including an awareness of and sensitivity to the wishes and concerns of the electorate. Greater transparency and consideration would allow a much smoother way forward for all concerned. *Norma Neal*

Macmillan fundraiser

We are very sorry that this message was omitted from the November edition. Many thanks to everyone who came to the Coffee Morning at 31 Hardwick Road. We raised an amazing £570! Thanks to all who helped to make it such a successful day. Margaret Dickerson

Thinking Pink

In October, for Breast Cancer Care's 'Big Pink' fundraiser we held a 'Girl's night in', with the intention of raising money and awareness and having a laugh. We think we achieved all three and were really pleased with our final total of £464 raised. We would like to say a huge thank you to the following local businesses who generously donated prizes to the event; the Co-op at Sedgefield and Trimdon, Ford and Ford Hairdressers, Tickety-Boo, Sainsburys, The Gifted Owl Company and DLI Seals Ltd - and of course, thank you to our friends for joining us and giving so generously for a brilliant cause.

Ali and Rachel (Thompson).

Wheelchair fundraiser

Firstly please could you thank everyone that supported me in putting my cause on the front page (November Sedgefield News). I was extremely overcome when it came through the letterbox and my carer felt so proud and supportive. I have received three donations so far and one was for £80 which I am eternally gratefully for. My current funds are £1365. I will continue to pledge for help as the need for a chair increases and increases. I can't thank you all enough for giving me the opportunity to communicate with our local community and I keep my fingers crossed daily that my story will reach people's hearts and bring help and support. Many thanks. *Laura Bashford*

Let there be light!

The Committee of the Friends of St Edmund's would like to thank the people of Sedgefield for their amazing support over the last year, whether it has been through buying our merchandise, going on trips, attending quizzes or purchasing our lovely Christmas cards (plenty still available!) We are delighted to be in the position of being able to fund our half of the new Church Lighting scheme and the proposed alterations to the inside of the Church, making it easier to hold services and musical events. We aim to develop the church as a community hub for all regardless of religious affiliation and naturally would welcome new members to the "Friends". *Alison Hodgson, secretary of the Friends of St Edmund's.*

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch

The Alan Sowerby Citizenship Award 2015 is won by Mehmet Kaya Vice Chairman of Neighbourhood Watch David Hillerby had the privilege of presenting this unique award at Sedgefield Community College; it is an award which specifically recognises the attributes of kindness, care of and for others, helping and putting others before self, on a continuous basis throughout the school year. These are all qualities displayed by Mehmet Kaya, as recognised by his peers and teaching staff at the Community College. His Year 10 Tutor Mr Armstrong said, "Mehmet is a dedicated and hardworking student whose approach to school studies and behaviour in school is exceptional. He is a very friendly, caring student who is a positive role model for all his peers. He is well respected within his peer group and is always looking to help others. Mehmet strives to succeed and is willing to go the extra mile by supporting out of school activities. He regularly volunteers to take part in various school activities, where his enthusiasm and positive attitude always shines through. In addition, Mehmet strives continually in his efforts to raise money for various charities around school. All this work is completed in his own time, both inside and out of school. Mehmet is an active member of the school's charity committee and has worked tirelessly to organise and run various activities around school. Mehmet regularly sacrifices breaks and lunchtime to arrange events such as quizzes, raffles, physical and mental activities, often offering prizes that he has personally obtained by speaking to local businesses. In all, I could not think of a more deserving candidate for this award. I am very proud to have such an inspirational student in my year group and to recognise his efforts in school and in the community."

Evidence indeed of a most deserving winner of Citizen of the Year 2015. Neighbourhood Watch congratulate Mehmet Kaya again and wish him well in the future.

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch extend congratulations and best wishes to all staff and pupils at the Community College for their continuing hard work and many high achievements; and of course we would not see so many "good citizens" without the equally hard work provided by their parents.

Sedgefield Village Veterans

At the appointed time on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the Sedgefield Village Veterans held their annual service of Remembrance at St Luke's War Memorial, Winterton.

Winterton occupies an especially poignant place in the story of wartime casualties, particularly those of the First World War who suffered from what we now know as Post Traumatic Shock Syndrome (PTSD). Today servicemen with PTSD have access to previously unimaginable support and understanding. During world war one they were labelled shell shock victims and consigned to be forgotten in 'Lunatic Asylums', such as Winterton, where many of them died.

Happily, inclement weather on the 11th did not deter the Veterans or private individuals who braved the elements to ensure a good attendance. This gathering witnessed the unveiling by The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of County Durham, Dr Kate Gillan, of a new plaque bearing the names of those servicemen who died at Winterton Hospital. Wreaths were then laid at the memorial by The Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Sedgefield Mayor Gloria Wills, The Veterans, The Neighbourhood Watch and the Headboy and Headgirl of Sedgefield Community College, Joseph Dredge and Sadie Abel. The ceremony concluded with readings, a medley of First World War songs from pupils of Sedgefield Primary, who then planted poppy crosses, and prayers, offered by the Methodist Minister, the Reverend Titterton. The Veterans would like to thank sincerely all concerned for contributing to a successful occasion.

Veterans New Members Plea

The Veterans are keen to attract new supporters to help assure the continuation of the society's current work. Numbers are "dwindling, due to natural wastage", as David Hillerby dryly put it. Many of their activities require much physical as well as mental effort, so events such as the Spitfire Weekend are having to be discontinued. So they are putting out a plea for new, younger members to take up the reins and ensure that The Veterans of Sedgefield go marching on.

Their next meeting is on Monday, December 7th at 7pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Anyone interested in helping please go along; you will be more than welcome!



Mehmet Kaya receives the Alan Sowerby Citizenship Award from David Hillerby.

Contacts: Local Police 101 CPO Lauren Wray 01325 742714 Parking Shop 0191 3846633 CAB Adviceline Numbers From a land line: 08444 111 444 From a mobile: 0300 330 06 50 TYPETALK: 08444 111 445

Regular Events

The full column will appear next month but extra items will be included, so we are using this little space to give you some information about them.

Tea Dances

In the Parish Hall from 1-3pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month.

Sedgefield Bowls Club has just won planning permission for an outdoor all weather bowling green adjacent to the cricket club. Members have tried and failed a number of times in the past to find a spot for their own outdoor green. They used to play at Harpers in Norton but the land was sold to developers and is now a housing estate. It took many site visits and meetings with planners and over a year, but planning has at last been granted. The hard work raising the rest of the funding now begins. The Indoor Club meets at Ceddesfeld Hall and new players are always welcome. You can play for fun and exercise or join in the competitions, as follows: Sunday 1.30 - 4.30pm, Internal matches.

Monday pm 1.30 - 4.30

- Tuesday am 9.00 12.0
- Thursday pm 1.30 4.30
- Thursday 7.00 10pm, League matches. For further information please contact Sheila Sutherland on 622532.



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Home of Sedgefield Community Association

Autumn is just about done, and the trees around the grounds of Ceddesfeld have looked particularly beautiful this year. During the summer, the gardens to the front and side looked wonderful, and that is down to the hard work and commitment of Sedgefield Bloomers. Their efforts are very much admired and appreciated. If the forecast is correct, and we're in for a 'hard winter', the sloping lawns will once again become a great, sledging park, providing fun for all the family! Lots of things go on inside also. Christmas decorations will be up and parties will be organised. Don't forget, the bar is open Sunday to Friday and Christmas revellers are more than welcome.

January 23rd brings our Burns Night celebration. The tickets are £23 which includes the traditional 5 course menu as well as the Address to the Haggis and the Toast to Immortal Memory.

The SCA are keen to know your views on Ceddesfeld Hall and what happens there, so please fill in the questionnaire delivered with Sedgefield News and return it to the Ceddesfeld Hall post box. The information will be helpful to us and you will gain automatic entry to the prize draw with 3 major prizes (Ipad mini, Food mixer, Steam Cleaner) which will be made at the Executive Committee meeting on Thursday 17th December.

The SCA continue to work very closely with Sedgefield Town Council in providing great community events. Much serious business goes on behind the scenes and at a recent STC meeting it was agreed by both parties that long standing, increasingly acrimonious negotiations regarding a replacement lease for Ceddesfeld Hall would have to be resolved through mediation, as agreement on the proposed document could not be reached.

The SCA would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and users of Ceddesfeld Hall a very merry Christmas and we look forward to a very busy, eventful 2016!

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

MORE SAVINGS FOR SEDGEFIELD SWITCHERS

Having just come to the end of another very successful Energy Switching campaign, we are pleased to announce the average savings are again in excess of **£200** for those people who have registered for the first time, and further reductions of around **10%** for those who joined the scheme at this time last year and registered again. To give an idea of what your energy would cost through our Switching Scheme, based on the results of the latest auction, a 'Medium User' who consumes **3,100** Kwh of electricity and **12,500** Kwh of gas a year (consumption indicators provided by Ofgem) would pay **£832** per year. Compare this against what you are using and paying to see if registering with our scheme might benefit you.

To open up another opportunity to you, Sedgefield Development Trust will run the scheme over the winter months, when the following key dates will apply:

1st December 2015 2nd February 2016 3rd February 2016 12th February 2016 15th March 2016

Registration can be achieved in the same two ways as before. If you are happy to register online yourself, go to **www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk**, open the ENERGY SWITCH section, simply click on the RED 'REGISTER NOW' button, follow the links and fill out your details. If you prefer to register and receive information through the post, or need assistance, please call the Sedgefield Development Trust Helpline on **07980 134 594** and we will be more than happy to assist, or complete your registration for you.

NB. If you switched through the scheme last year and your contract is coming to an end, you need to register again in the same way as last time. REGISTERING is the ONLY WAY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE AUCTION WINNING TARIFFS and continue with REDUCED COSTS FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

The Trusty

News from Sedgefield Development Trust

A festive Farmers' Market on Sunday 6th

FREE mince pies and ginger or mulled wine will be served from our new stall, where you can hear all the latest from Sedgefield Development Trust. Chocolate truffles will appear for the first time with new stallholders, Cocoa Criolla, and Jane Spinks will be displaying and selling some of her paintings and drawings. With lots of other scrumptious food, plus Christmas Carols from Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir and a visit from the famous Butterwick Hospice, what's not to enjoy about our sociable Sunday morning?

SDT Open Night

A talk by Dr Liz Charles on her work with Food Durham had the room buzzing with ideas as people chatted over a delicious buffet, which had been partly provided by traders from our Farmers' Market. Dr Charles is working on a strategy endorsed by the County Durham Partnership, for supporting a move towards a more localised food system in County Durham that provides fresh, healthy, sustainable food for residents and visitors. Almost everyone who attended seemed to share some interest in good, local food, so ideas about allotments and the possibility of so called "Growing Communities" rubbed shoulders with ideas on fighting waste and keeping bees! We hope to follow up some of these ideas in the future.

Ceddesfeld Hall

Sedgefield Development Trust wishes to make it clear that it has had no involvement whatsoever in the dispute between the Town Council and the SCA over

> the lease of Ceddesfeld Hall. Also, contrary to rumour, the idea of the Trust occupying Ceddesfeld Hall has never arisen. We hope the dispute will be amicably resolved and that the SCA will continue to serve our community.

Toshach's Tea Shop

Our brand new function room on the second floor is the perfect place for your Christmas party! Enjoy our exclusive

Christmas Afternoon Tea for only £15.95. To book, call

07716 857 467





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

'Let the Magic Begin!'

This year's Sedgefield Players Pantomime, taking place from the 27th - 30th December is the traditional tale 'Aladdin'. it's the story of a poor boy who dreams of a better world in which to support his family against the crippling taxes pushed on them by the evil and dangerous Abanazer. Surrounded by the usual cast of Silly-Billies, Daft Dames, Vicious Villains and Horrible Henchmen,



Aladdin and the beautiful Princess must navigate their way to their 'happily ever after' with the help of a mad-cap Genie, a Magic Spirit and a whole host of villagers and dancers. The SPYS will be taking their usual roles in the ensemble, as well as lead roles, in what is sure to be a sold out show. Get tickets while you can! £7 sedgefieldplayers.co.uk, Tickety Boo, **2** 621771

Fund Raisers

On November 1st the SPYS turned up to their usual rehearsal in costume (and paid £1 of their pocket money for the privilege). The money raised went to the NeoAngels Charity, who raise money to support families who



Photograph by Liz Flanagan

use the Neonatal services at North Tees Hospital. The SPYS raised just under £65 at the event, which was closely followed by NeoAngels

own event at the Parish Hall where they raised a staggering £2564.98, which Santander, who attended the event on the day have said they will match The charity is going from strength to strength, raising awareness and supporting local families. On Saturday the 14th November another charitable event at St John Fisher raised over £700 to support the Red Cross Syria Appeal and Embrace Middle East Mattress Appeal. The event, organised by Kristen Peacock, was well attended and supported by the village. Thanks go to all those who have supported any charity across the year.

The Amateur Argument

The Festive Season is a busy time for everyone, but particularly for those who work in events or in the arts. This year alone I am involved in over 6 projects that will have me running backwards and forwards between Sedgefield, Durham and Newcastle; singing, acting and directing a variety of different works. I am not complaining. I love my job and am very lucky to be able to do what I do for a living. But being very much a part of the professional world, whilst having a foot in the amateur world has often been a difficult thing for me to balance. I recently had a conversation with a work colleague, who used the word 'amateur' disparagingly about some work she had seen, and said that I should never admit to having been involved in amateur work as it is always of such a low standard. My initial reaction was a certain level of shock. In many professions the word amateur is often used when work has been shoddy or not up to scratch; when the level has been low. I believe this to be vastly unfair. As a performer I have taken part in some very poor and very strong professional work and some outstanding amateur work. Having been a member of both the Lyric Singers and the Players since I was a child, I essentially have them to thank for my career, but the biggest thing I have taken from both groups is their absolute enjoyment of what they do and their pride in their work. So for those who are negative about anything amateur, I would always tell them to go and watch an amateur group perform, but look closely at their faces and see how much they are enjoying what they do, see how hard they are working (unpaid, I may remind you) to deliver a performance, or to remember a lyric when they have been at work all day and really felt like having a TV night, remember that they have spent months rehearsing for that one performance and they are giving it everything they've got. Support your local community groups by praising them and attending their performances when you can. I hereby wear my Amateur badge with pride. TG

Festive Fun & Christmas Carols

On December 11th & 12th The Lyric Singers and SLYC will perform their annual Christmas Concert in the Parish Hall from 7pm. The mulled wine and mince pies will be flowing while the two choirs sing a variety of contemporary and tradition seasonal music. Tickets are available from Tickety Boo, members of the choirs or call Connie Spring on 01740 621196.

Band concert to aid church conservation

The sound of the prize-winning Ferryhill Town Band will echo through Sedgefield's centuries-old parish church on Saturday evening, 21st November, when Friends of St Edmund's have organized a special evening of entertainment to raise funds for the conservation of the ancient building. The band will play a varied programme including music from their recent prizewinning performance at Durham Brass League Entertainment Contest. Tickets cost £5 and are available from churchwarden Brian Mutch, 01740 622302, Sedgefield Town Council Offices and Thinford Nurseries. "It promises to be a really wonderful evening of music played by a band that regularly attracts praise for the high standard of its concerts".



Sedgefield & District U3A: Learn, Laugh and Live

Don't sit at home lonely and bored! Come along to our Christmas event on December 4th at 2pm to meet some new friends and find out about the many groups run by our members. Need help with online banking, saving and organizing family photos? Then join our Computer Support Group starting on Monday 18th January at Ceddesfeld Hall. Fancy a trip to the theatre? There's Les Liaisons Dangereuse & As You Like It - both National Theatre live performance films at the Gala, and Single Spies at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle. The Bay Horse, Heighington is the next venue for lunch club; come along and find out more. We are also starting a drawing course and a learn to play bridge group.

Call Maxine Patterson, 01740 620905 or Brenda O'Brien, 01740 629574



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SPORTS UPDATE

email chrisjlines@aol.com

Glancing out of the window, it's clear that winter is coming. I also know it because I have had to hunt out my spikes for the cross country season, which is upon us. Mud, water, snow (sometimes), mud, obstacles (including livestock, occasionally), hills, mud, and mud; all are part of the fun and games of cross country. During the winter there are races most weekends, and three major championships in this part of the world - the North Easterns, Northerns and English Nationals; all big events which provide a great spectacle for anyone watching. This year, the North Easterns will be held in Sedgefield and I can thoroughly recommend taking some time out of your day on Saturday 12th December to get across to East Park and witness the action.

Squash

Sedgefield Squash Club celebrated the eleventh year of the Sedgefield primary schools mini-squash competition on 22nd October, welcoming, for the second time, five teams. This year, Stephen Rowsby provided practice sessions to all five schools, prior to the tournament. James Larcombe organised the round-robin competition, assisted by Chris Rowsby, Craig Weatherspoon, and Jane Larcombe who helped with marking, photos, and some last minute coaching. Each school brought five players, with a minimum of two girls per team. Every team played four matches.

Again, it was a resounding success, with many excellent performances from children new to the game as well as more experienced players. The last two years have been incredibly close, but this time it proved impossible to top that, so it came to pass that only a major slip-up could have prevented Sedgefield Primary from retaining their trophy as they entered the final round. However, 2nd place was hotly contested. Only seven points separating three teams with 35 points to play for. Despite losing 33-30 to Sedgefield Hardwick, St Michael's School picked up enough points to achieve the runners-up slot in only their second appearance at the tournament.

Final results: 1. Sedgefield Primary 121pts; 2. Bishop Middleham 110pts; 3. Sedgefield Hardwick 107pts; 4. St. William's 102pts; 5. Trimdon Juniors 61pts. Maximum points scorers (28 pts): Joe Hennessey (St William's), Bethany Rapley (Sedgefield Hardwick), Jessica Weatherspoon, Roan Lee, Joseph Morrison (all Sedgefield Primary). Top team scorers: Georgia Smith (Bishop Middleham) 26 pts; Oliver Byrne (Trimdon Juniors) 20 pts. Sedgefield Primary will now represent the area in the Durham and Cleveland inter-schools competition, provisionally scheduled for 3rd March 2016. World Squash Day is an annual concept, instigated by the Professional Squash Association. This year we were encouraged to raise money for UNICEF and wejoined in by running a "squash in pyjamas" day. Juniors at Saturday morning coaching and adults who came to the club afternoon turned up in a mixture of PJs & onesies – some obviously borrowed, but thankfully none were inappropriate for a family orientated club! Some members followed up the day with a "drink in your pyjamas"

evening around village hostelries. In total, around £250 was raised for UNICEF.

Rugby Union

Sedgefield District Rugby Union Club continues to go from strength to strength. The first XV has played 10 games this season and won nine. They sit second in the league, just four points behind local rivals



Newton Aycliffe; (it was against Aycliffe that Sedgfield suffered its only reverse so far, in a tight 18-17 defeat.) However, they have comfortably won every other match, including hugely impressive away wins of 79-0 against Hartlepool BBOB and 61-0 against Seaham.

After a difficult time last season, the club is now in excellent health and has even been able to set up a second team. The Sedgefield Saxons (*pictured*) played their first match on 14th November, when they recorded a 22-19 victory against Newton Aycliffe 2nd XV.



Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers celebrated the club's 10th birthday with a black tie dinner and awards event in Hardwick Hall Hotel, organised by club member Paula Warwick. Annual trophies were handed out, along with three special awards to mark the special anniversary. New club chair Phil Houghton introduced proceedings and presented the awards. The main winners were: Club Member of the Year, Ean Parsons. Club Runner of the Year, Gary Thwaites. Track & Field Athlete of the Year, James Oldfield.

Newcomer of the Year, Deborah Pennick.

Individual Performance of the Year, Gary Thwaites.

Supporter of the Year, Kev Archbold. Volunteer of the Year, Helen Letts. Dave Sawyer Award for Endurance Performance, Diane Baines and Doreen Huxley.

Other awards were handed out to winners of the club's grand prix series of races and time trials.

The evening also saw the culmination of an initiative led by Ray Carmichael called '#THX'. Members recorded their thanks to the club and its members for the positive impact being part of the Harriers has made on their lives. Three special awards were presented to people who have played a particularly major role in the success of Sedgefield Harriers over the decade; coaches Scott Hydon and Marie Walker, and outgoing chair Ean Parsons. Members had also voted to choose the club runner and club member of the first 10 years and those awards were handed to Ean Parsons and Marie Walker respectively. Guest of honour during the event was Archie Jenkins, secretary of the North East Counties Athletics Association. Archie entertained us with a short speech that delved into the history of athletics in Sedgefield and highlighted some of the best performances by Harriers in cross country races in the last 10 years. Sedgefield Harriers will host this year's North East Cross Country Championships in East Park on Saturday 12th December. Archie revealed that 1,453 juniors and seniors have signed up for races, the highest number of entries in the event since 1993. The first race (U13 boys) will start at 11am and spectators are welcome. Pictured left: Marie Walker, Archie Jenkins and Scott Hydon That's all for this month. Please send any sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com.

The future of Ceddesfeld Hall

Independent report on the meeting by Sue Dobson, for Sedgefield News At the November Sedgefield Town Council meeting, there was a heated debate about the future of Ceddesfeld Hall and in particular the lease arrangements between Sedgefield Town Council and Sedgefield Community Association (SCA).

Following two years of discussions by members of the Council's Policy and Resources Committee, the issue was presented to the Council meeting in the 'Ceddesfeld Hall Lease Recommendation Report'. Members of the SCA, including one of the Trustees, presented their views during the Public Participation part of the meeting. The Report was then discussed by Councillors, some of whom are also Trustees and had declared an interest in the item at the start of the meeting.

The first disagreement between the parties revolved around whether an existing lease is valid or not. A 30 year agreement was signed in 2009 and backdated to 2006. After both parties took legal advice it is now agreed that the existing lease is valid, though not perfect, and both parties want to work together to improve the lease.



The second issue is about the terms of the lease. The Council owns the building and wants to make best use of it, whilst not 'tying it up for another 40 years'. The building doesn't do everything that a community facility needs to do in the 21st Century and therefore the Council proposes a 10 year lease with a 5 year 'get out' clause, so that in the future it has more flexibility in what it does with the building.

The SCA believes the terms of the proposed lease are prohibitive and detrimental to the future running of the hall, especially in terms of bidding for funding, as most funders require a 25 year lease to be in place. However the lease is currently an 'all repairing lease' which means the SCA is responsible for all repairs and has to keep money in its reserves to ensure that it can meet this obligation. The Trustees cannot enter into an agreement that is not to the benefit of the charity and its beneficiaries and so feels unable to sign a 10 year lease.

It was agreed that there is a long history of partnership between the Council and the SCA from the early 1970s when the building was 'saved' for use by the local community. Discussions and negotiations have so far failed to reach an agreement and the Chairman recognised that the Council shouldn't bully the SCA into signing a lease. It was therefore agreed by the Council that an independent mediator would be appointed. The mediator would use the existing lease and the Council's proposed lease as a starting point for discussion. The Council would agree terms of reference and a timescale to ensure that the lease can be agreed in the short term so that it can work for both parties.

Ceddesfeld Hall continues to be a valuable asset to the local community and the meeting hoped that agreement can be reached quickly to the mutual benefit of both Council and SCA, but also for the many local people who use it throughout the year.

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DECEMBER 2015 DIARY

email diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event	
Tue 1st	Neighbourhood Watch Panel Meeting 7pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall Sedgefield Gardening Club Ceddesfeld Hall. 7.30pm Christmas Party & Faith Supper	
Wed 2nd	WI Parish Hall 7.15 Members only night. Social Night with music by Julie McGrath, followed by a buffetsupper.	
Fri 4th	 Veterans' Christmas Fair. Parish Hall, 9am -12noon Grand Raffle, Cake Stall, Tombola U3A Parish Hall, 2pm. Christmas Party and quiz All members welcome - guest £3 at the door 2629574 	
Sat 5th	Sedgefield Cricket Club Quiz Night 8pm Quiz Master Peter Burnip	
Sun 6th	A Festive Sedgefield Farmers' Market on the Green from 8.30am Cricket Club Sociable Sunday. Club open from 2pm. Everyone welcome inc. children. Decorate club house - bring unwanted Xmas decorations.	
Mon 7th	Methodist Wives and Friends Carols and Ginger Wine Local History Society 7.45 pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Margaret Hedley 'Victorian Pitwomen' Plus Christmas refreshments	
Tue 8th	Sedgefield Ladies' Club 7.30pm C'feld Hall. Christmas Social & Buffet	
Thu 10th	DEADLINE DAY for Sedgefield News January edition	
Fri 11th	Country Market Parish Hall, 10 - 11.30am. Refreshments on sale + home baked produce, jams etc. plus craft items, cards & plants Sedgefield Cricket Club Live Music Night 7.45pm. Happy Cats, plus Billingham Silver Band, Bertie Draycott and John Wrightson Band Admission £11, includes buffet. Tel 621347	
Fri 11th— Sat 12th	Lyric Singers & SLYC Christmas Concert Parish Hall at 7pm. Tickets available from Tickety Boo or Connie Spring 201740 621196	
Mon14th	Methodist Wives and Friends Christmas Night Out	
Tue 15th	Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club 7.30pm Members' evening.	
Sat 19th	Cricket Club Family Christmas Social . Club open from 4pm. All welcome inc children. Bring a plate of food for buffet table & a raffle prize please.	
Sun 27th - Wed 30th	Sedgefield Players Pantomime, Aladdin Parish Hall, 27th - 30th. Times & tickets from www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk, Tickety Boo, or 2 621771	
Thu 31st	Cricket Club Family Party . Disco, all welcome inc children. Club open from 4pm. Bring a plate of food for the buffet table.	

Extras from Sedgefield Library

Saturday 5th December - Councillor Rachel Lumsdon will hold a morning surgery at the library from 10am – 11am.

Design an Elf! There's a competition over the next few weeks for junior borrowers. They can come to the library and design/colour an outfit for a Christmas elf. **Christmas Closing.** The library will close for Christmas on 24th December at 12.30pm and reopen on Wednesday 6th January 2016. The library staff would like to wish all their borrowers a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Looking Ahead

Sat 9th January - Country meets Rock'n'Roll. Let your hair down in the Parish Hall with Honky Tonkin Duo. A Mayor's Charity event. Tickets £10 inc pie & peas from Angela Bannister, 01740 621287 or STC Offices. Bring your own drinks. Capture the moment with Silly Snaps - Fancy Dress not compulsory, but essential!

Regular Events & Meetings will now appear quarterly, beginning in January. If you would like to change, add or delete an item, please contact us by the next deadline - Thursday 10th December. Contacts details are on page 2. It will always be available to view at www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Beginners Chinese Wednesdays from 6th Jan

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Parish Hall, Sedgefield 6pm -7.15pm or 7.30pm–8.45pm 01740 656939

NA

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Hardwick Hall Hotel Entertainment

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Saturday 2nd January Elvis Legacy

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Sedgefield Social Club

Saturday 5th December: Alan Stevens Saturday 12th December: Ali Jay Saturday 19th December: Danny Ocean Thursday 24th December: Mark Thomas To book a room for a party or concert, please call **01740 620591.**

Sedgefield Library

Tel: 03000 269521. Opening Hours -

Wednesdays	9:30am - 12:30pm
Thursdays	10:00am - 6:00pm
Fridays	1:00pm - 7:00pm
Saturdays	9:30am - 12:30pm

Fitness Classes @The Hub

at Sedgefield Community College BOKWA with Joleen Mondays 6–7pm Zumba with Emilia: Tuesdays 6.30 –7.30pm and Thursdays 7-8pm Polka School of Dance: Wednesdays 5–8pm Chi Taekwondo: Sat 10.30 – 11.30am For tennis, wheelchair rugby & other sports, call the Hub on 01740 625300

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