

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

## December 2017

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

### Merry Christmas!



Published by Sedgefield Development Trust: Company No 4312745 Charity No 1100906

**Looking for Excitement in the New Year? Kynren's Open Call could be just what you need. "The Story of Us is The Story of YOU!"**



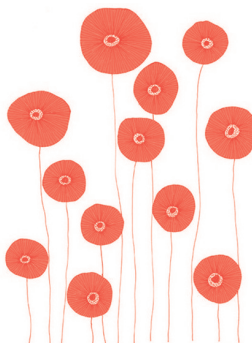
**Kynren are welcoming curious individuals and keen families, who may be thinking about volunteering for the 2018 event, to a 90 minute tour behind the scenes.** They are recruiting for all aspects of the production - onstage, backstage and public-facing, so you can meet the horses, see the costumes close up, tour the props workshop, check out some state-of-the art tech and talk to the fantastic team leaders about the roles you can play. No reservation or registration needed; just park on site 10 minutes before the session, wearing comfortable shoes & outdoor clothing. **The sessions are at 6.30pm on Wednesdays, 6th December & 17th January.**

### Soldiers at War

A century ago this country suffered a war with Germany. Soldiers started to die of shell shock and disease. Then everyone decided to fight for their FREEDOM.

*By Lauren Forster & Evie Legender, from Sedgefield Primary School, Year 5 Remembrance books.*

On page 3 we look at some of the other ways in which Sedgefield remembered the fallen of all wars. There are 2 more extracts from the children's poems, which will appear complete on our website, [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk)



*In the New Year, Durham Constabulary will celebrate the memory of PC Gavin Smith, pictured left, with a fundraising Afternoon Tea in aid of Butterwick Hospice.*

*Full details of this Police Interceptors' event are on page 7, where organisers make a special appeal to local businesses for support.*

*Right: PC Keith Todd and PCSO Amy Jorgenson lay a wreath at Sedgefield's War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.*

*On Page 4 we take a look at the role of the PCSO.*

**NB: EARLY DEADLINE for the January edition: Monday 11th December**

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*Above: Sam Morrison receives an important award. Story on page 4*



## Steve's Nature Diary for December

At this time of the year, if it is frosty, it is well worth having a closer look at one of nature's wonders: a spider's web. Spiders do get a lot of bad press, but you must admit a web is an engineering masterpiece. Spiders belong to class Arachnida along with harvestmen, mites, scorpions and false scorpions. There are 680 species of British spiders (280 are money spiders) and most have eight eyes and none of them are at all dangerous to humans. It is estimated that in grassland reserves such as Durham Wildlife Trust Rainton Meadows or Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Maze Park, an acre of meadow can have as many as two million spiders.

British spiders catch live prey such as flies, bees and moths. All spiders produce silk (for a variety of functions) but not all use silk to catch food. Some families such as the wolf spiders and the jumping spiders use their remarkably acute eyesight to spot prey. They then overpower it either by speed or by jumping on it. Many families however, produce some kind of web to ensnare their prey. The most iconic are the orb-webs built by several spider families. This classic web is the one made by the garden spider (*Araneus diadematus*). These orb-webs incorporate sticky silk which holds the captured prey long enough for the spider to strike. Other webs are nonsticky and are designed so that the legs of prey get tangled. Once caught, the prey is subdued by the injection of poison via hollow fangs. Digestive juices are then secreted over the food and, after a while, the liquid 'soup' is sucked up.

Although they do produce potent venoms with which they immobilise and kill their prey, the vast majority of British spiders cannot break human or pet skin with their fangs. There are a few species that if provoked, can bite and inject venom, but this usually happens when trapped inside clothing or bedclothes, or poked with a finger! The effect of a bite is usually very mild but, as with bee and wasp stings, people's responses vary widely. Most rashes or wounds attributed to a 'spider bite' have other causes – it's almost never a spider.

Although the sight, or even the thought of spiders makes many people distinctly uncomfortable, we should remember that British spiders are largely harmless and do lots of good for people. Spiders are so numerous that they are a vital part of the ecosystems on which we all depend. They catch and eat many of the insects (houseflies, midges, wasps) which bother us in our homes and gardens and help to prevent the build-up of agricultural pests, reducing the need for artificial pesticides. Spider silk is currently of interest to medical researchers as a potential material for making artificial joints and as an aid to regenerating severed nerve fibres. Finally, many people gain immense pleasure from seeing frosted orb-webs on a winter morning and from watching and studying the fascinating lives and amazing forms and behaviours of our native spiders. So next time you are out and about keep an eye out and have a closer look at a spider's web. For more information visit:

[http://britishspiders.org.uk/wiki2015/index.php?title=BAS\\_Factsheets](http://britishspiders.org.uk/wiki2015/index.php?title=BAS_Factsheets)



**Latest:** In the annual floral awards, Sedgefield Civic Trust honoured the Bloomers with a Pride of Sedgefield award plus a gold medal for planting at the Vicar's Dash, alongside the old rectory wall. Ceddesfeld Hall was judged Best Public Building for the many gardens planted and tended by the Bloom team.

## More Blooming Good News

At the recent It's Your Neighbourhood awards, organised by Northumbria in Bloom, Sedgefield was recognised in the top two categories. Rectory Row was judged to be Thriving, while Crispin Court, Claremont Grove, Caden Court and Eden Drive were Outstanding. Gardens at 5 Caden Court and 74 Eden Drive also recently won awards from livin housing provider.

The newly created Stepping Through Time Garden at Ceddesfeld Hall has been shortlisted for the County Durham Environment Awards, to be announced at a ceremony at Durham's Radisson Blu Hotel. Results will be too late for the December News, so look out for stop press information around the village.

On a more sombre note, Bloomer numbers have become somewhat depleted during the last year, as several members have been very ill and sadly, we have lost three valued members of the team. So we are looking for new recruits. Please do call Norma on 620091 or email [norma@neal.myzen.co.uk](mailto:norma@neal.myzen.co.uk).

We turn out every Wednesday at 10 am in Ceddesfeld Gardens. (with time off for Christmas and New Year) or come along and meet the Bloomers at our Christmas coffee morning (see diary.) If you need further persuasion, maybe our poetry offering will do the trick!

You don't have to be a Titchmarsh, Monty Don or Mr Bloom.

Just come along and join the team, Relieve the autumn gloom with litter picking, weeding and sweeping leaves,

In no time at all, you'll forget your dodgy back and dicky knees.

Whether planting or digging Or swinging an axe,

There's always plenty to do, No time to relax.

So dig out your wellies, Your gloves and your tools And join with us Bloomers -

We have very simple rules Just turn up on Wednesdays, Spare an hour or two To keep Sedgefield Blooming. We're counting on you!



**Sedgefield**  
Primary School

Learning Together for Life

**Do you have an interest in shaping the education of the children of Sedgefield and skills you could offer?**

Sedgefield Primary School is looking for two new members of our Governing Body. Our

Governors are friendly, welcoming and dedicated. They thoroughly enjoy their role and find it interesting and rewarding.

If you are interested in finding out more, please ring the Headteacher,

Andrea Cox, on **01740 620359** or email

[sedgefield.primary@durhamlearning.net](mailto:sedgefield.primary@durhamlearning.net)

and she will be happy to discuss the role of Governor in more detail.

## Sedgefield Rectory Row Primary School

Did you go to this school in the 50/60/70/80's?

If so we hope to have a

**School Reunion on**

**Sunday 18th February 2018**

**at 1pm in Sedgefield Social Club.**

Come along and meet friends you haven't seen since last Century!

Bring partners, children etc., and **PLEASE - SPREAD THE WORD!**

If you could let me know if you plan to attend that would be wonderful.

Please email [ellecoop@yahoo.com](mailto:ellecoop@yahoo.com)

Thank you.

Janice Cooper (nee Calvert)



## Sedgefield Remembers our local servicemen ...



*Some of the Ferguson family with Charlie Lines and members of Sedgefield Village Veterans.*

Sedgefield LHS and the Village Veterans continue to organise commemorations at Sedgefield war memorial, remembering the sacrifices made by Sedgefield men and their families 100 years ago. In October, two men who lost their lives within three days of each other in 1917 - Lawrence Gallacher, who was killed in action on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thomas Dryden Ferguson, who died of wounds on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Both names are on the on Church Lads' Memorial Shield beside the font in St Edmund's, along with that of Lawrence's brother John, killed in 1915. The two Gallacher boys, both 19 when they died, are also remembered on the Winterton memorial, as their father was an attendant at the hospital, where he regularly took part in amateur dramatics and Glee Club concerts. Private Lawrence Gallacher, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI is remembered at Tyne Cot, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the world, last resting place of many who served at Passchendaele, where the battle raged for months from July 31st – November 10th.

Thomas Dryden Ferguson of Cross Street, born in Sedgefield in 1892, enlisted in Hartlepool on 12 May 1915, serving as a gunner with the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade Royal Field Artillery. The largest arm of the artillery, responsible for medium calibre guns, howitzers and heavier mortars, they were deployed close to the front line. A family photograph shows Tommy, looking very smart in his uniform. Uncle Tommy, as he is still known to the family, died of wounds on 26 October 1917, aged 25. He is remembered at Lijssenthoek Cemetery in Belgium and is still very much a part of his family's history. Three family members came along in October to pay their respects - great niece Joy Armstrong, great great niece Amy McGowan and great nephew Ian Ferguson, whose recently arrived baby grandson is named after the family's war hero - Thomas Dryden Ferguson.

**Our final commemoration of 2017 will be at 10.45am on Wednesday December 27<sup>th</sup>, when we will remember John James Marshall, who lost his life on Boxing Day 1917. Please spare 15 minutes from your Christmas celebrations to come along in gratitude and respect for another son of Sedgefield lost in battle 100 years ago.**

### Sedgefield Village Action Group: Important Information for Residents

Taylor Wimpey have submitted an outline application for 60 homes on land known as the stables field, on the left on Stockton Road coming into the town from A689. Yet again, the green land around Sedgefield is being eaten up by more large scale development. The houses planned are mainly large (2½ storeys high), 4 & 5 bedroom detached homes with 10% affordable housing and no provision at all for bungalows.

This open land is important to the historic entrance to the town as green fields either side of Stockton Road provide a rural approach to the centre, through to the conservation area, giving it that village feel. Development here will have a huge negative impact. The land rises up to the village centre so views of the church from A689 and A177 will be affected significantly.

Sedgefield continues to be bombarded with housing applications, and remains extremely vulnerable, firstly because DCC do not have a county plan, which means that there is no definitive assessed housing need for Sedgefield, and (*continued foot of page 4*)

## ... and at Winterton

On Friday 10th November, a joint service by the Royal British Legion and Sedgefield Village Veterans was held at St Luke's War Memorial. The banners of The Veterans and the Durham Light Infantry(TA) were paraded.

The service was attended by Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Andrea Flynn; Sedgefield Mayor and County Councillor David Brown and leader of Sedgefield Council Mel Carr. Prayers were read by Rev Michael Thompson.

Also present were staff from NETPark, members of the public, a contingent of students from the Community College and by no means least, Year 5 of Sedgefield Primary School, who gave a rousing performance of 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary'. Year 5 children then read poems which they had written (*excerpts below and on page 1*).

Wreaths and Poppy crosses were laid to remember the Fallen, but in particular to remember the patients, ex military personnel, incarcerated in Winterton Hospital until they died. Their names are on the Winterton Memorial.

### Sacrificing Soldiers

I'm happy we are safe.

All I can hear is bombs,  
gun shots in the distance,

Lying in the grass; poppies blowing  
whilst the grass slowly grows  
When soldiers fight on and on,  
we pray to stop bombs ...

*from a poem by Caidan King*

### Poppy petals are red

their leaves are green

soldiers gave their lives for us  
all the suffering they have seen ...

... We all now think of them  
on this Remembrance Day  
we pray for all who died

wearing poppies for our grief today  
*from a poem by Finley Lowther.*

*Read the complete poems at  
[www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk)*

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**Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel present**  
**The Alan Sowerby Citizenship Award 2017**  
**to Sam Morrison at Sedgefield Community College.**

Somewhat later than normal, the presentation at the college took place on November 11th, when the award, made by Neighbourhood Watch Vice Chairman David Hillerby, was presented to this year's most deserving young citizen, year 10 pupil Sam Morrison (*photograph on page front page*).

Sam has been described as a real "role model" both in and out of school. He has successfully represented the College at various events throughout each of his years at the College. He has been most involved in Science related events which have taken him to venues such as NETPark and Durham University.

Neighbourhood Watch commend Sam for his consideration for others and his willingness to support and assist individuals and groups, both at school and outside school in the local community; we wish him every success for the future.

### A Force to be Reckoned With

Durham Constabulary is one of only two forces to have been graded 'Outstanding' in all respects in this year's report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). This is the third year in a row that the Durham force has achieved this rare distinction. HMIC highlighted "a high level of achievement in financial planning" and "a culture of inclusivity" in the force's management of its workforce.

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, Ron Hogg praised the force for maintaining its consistently high standards and offered his "heartiest congratulations" to all those who have "worked so hard to make this possible".

### What does a Police Community Support Officer Do?

The role of a PCSO is to interact with the public and offer assistance to police officers at crime scenes and major events. They complete an initial three-week training course before gaining frontline experience in their PCSO role. Training covers practical issues such as an understanding of the law and a grounding in the use of police procedures and IT systems. It also gives an overview of the skills and strategies that can be used to help in their work dealing with minor offences and offering the early interventions that can often deter people from committing offences.

Additionally, PCSOs provide crime prevention advice to the public and support for front-line policing. Other duties of a PCSO can include conducting house-to-house enquiries and you may also see them guarding crime scenes.

### SVAG Important information for residents (*continued from Page 3*)

secondly because DCC continue to put up barrier after barrier to the progress of the Sedgefield Plan. The delays have caused worry and deep frustration to residents and Sedgefield Town Council and have given every advantage to the developers.

Residents recognised that the town needed new development and agreed to 300 houses. Up to 400 have now been agreed. Refused applications on other green fields surrounding Sedgefield mount up to over 600. We know from experience that developers will resubmit, time and again. There is nothing in place to stop them!

If this latest application is passed, the argument against a development on the other side of the road is lessened and the outlying boundary for Sedgefield just gets bigger and bigger. On behalf of residents who made their views clear in the formation of the Sedgefield Plan, we will vigorously oppose this development. We're well past the stage of 'enough is enough' and in very real danger of losing the small town, with a 'village at its heart' that we enjoy and benefit from.

SVAG has also been informed that work begins on the 300 residential lodges on Brakes Farm early in 2018. This will of course impact on the infrastructure and local amenities. More support from local residents is needed, in order to make a stand. Please contact us via email: [sedgefieldvag@gmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldvag@gmail.com) or call Liz on **07523 457584**.

### Letter from PC Todd

Once again we have received complaints about the general behaviour of groups of youths around the centre of the village. To prevent further problems can I urge parents to speak with their children advising them not to gather in large groups and to keep the noise down to a respectable level. As the possession and consumption of alcohol is a major factor causing anti-social behaviour, any youth caught flouting the rules will be robustly dealt with. The majority of youths are well behaved and so I hope that common sense will prevail.

Crimes committed recently include a burglary at the racecourse, a house burglary in The Lane, a garage burglary in The Garth and the theft of some lengths of RSJ from a property in Craggside. Vehicle crimes recorded were the thefts of a Ford Transit van from Naylor Road and a trailer from the Country Park. Tyres were also slashed on one vehicle in Sainsbury's car park and another parked in Wellgarth Mews. Three persons were arrested for shoplifting meat at Bolam's.

**Pub Watch:** A meeting was held recently at The Hardwick Arms Hotel. No incidents requiring action were reported in members' premises. Until next time, Keith

### De-Icing: a Police warning

Police are urging car owners to take extra care when de-icing their vehicles following the theft of a van after the driver left the vehicle un-attended with the engine running. Drivers should not leave keys in their vehicles just to save time, because it makes them so vulnerable to opportunist thieves. It takes about two minutes to de-ice, but just two seconds for a thief to steal it!

### Call 101 to contact Local Police

to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information. It is advisable to keep notes of the conversation & obtain an incident number.

**To contact PCLO Faye Callan**

Call 101 - extension 742317 email [faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk)



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## Ceddesfeld Hall

### Home of Sedgefield Community Association (SCA)

Life has been hectic at Ceddesfeld Hall over the autumn months. SCA were very pleased to host (free of charge) most of the events for Sedgefield Book Ends, a new festival, which was very successful. We look forward to supporting next year's event. We are looking forward to Christmas events and activities. The Christmas decorations are going up in time for the Christmas Craft Fayre (as part of this year's snow party) on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 1 - 3.45 pm in the main hall. There will be festive stalls, treats, toys, cards, tombola and refreshments. Following the carols on the green, (Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.30pm), folk are invited over to Ceddesfeld to enjoy a traditional glass of mulled wine. On the same evening, starting at 7.30 pm, Ceddesfeld Ukulele group is hosting a festive evening of entertainment. The event is free and open to anyone who wants to come along to enjoy and participate in some festive numbers as well as a range of other popular songs. Many of the different organisations and clubs that meet regularly in Ceddesfeld will also be enjoying their own Christmas parties and events. Details of the various community groups are on the SCA website. There is a lot going on so there's no need to stay home over the dark winter nights.

Looking ahead to 2018, SCA are holding their traditional Burn's Supper with piper, haggis, whisky and traditional poems and toasts on Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, for £ 24 a ticket. Tickets for this very popular evening are now available from the numbers below or STC offices.

Ceddesfeld bar is open as usual throughout the festive season, Sunday to Friday evening, although we are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The bar and lounge will be open on Christmas Eve, with a trivia quiz (for those who wish to take part), plus nibbles and mince pies. SCA are also pleased to announce that the bar and foyer is scheduled for redecoration early in the New Year.

If you would like to become a volunteer in 2018, please get in touch (*see right*). We'd love to hear from you. Events for 2018 are being finalised and will be on the website by the end of December.

## SDT Projects

News from Sedgefield Development Trust



### Sedgefield Energy Switch

#### Recent registrations greater than the same time last year

After a slow start, we're pleased to report that final numbers exceeded those of last year and the scheme continues to attract new people. As reported last month, SSE again won the auction by producing market leading tariffs. Costs for next year indicate an increase on last year but that seems to be significantly less than the market average quoted by the media during this last year.

SDT still believes that Energy Switch gives residents the best opportunity of accessing cost effective energy tariffs, so we intend to continue the scheme next year.

The next auction will be held in February so full instructions will appear next month.

Meanwhile, don't forget that if your existing energy contract comes to an end before the end of April 2018, you will need to register for this auction.

### Sedgefield Farmers' Market

#### Our market has really thrived this year.

In May we broke our record with 16 produce stalls, plus music, maypole dancing and a number of community & charity stalls. Since then we have operated at or above that level, and interest continues to grow, so you can be sure of a plentiful range of meat, fish, cheese, sausages, pies, cakes, preserves and crafts on December 3<sup>rd</sup> - and as ever, the queue will form early for Mellanby's ever popular winter veg!

We are very proud of our **Bees at Hardwick** project, and they have a stall this month.

They will talk honey, beeswax, bee-life in general until the cows come home!

Butterwick Hospice will be with us too, as well as festive singing from Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir and Lirica.

Whatever you do and whatever you buy, do keep warm with our festive freebies - delicious alcohol free ginger wine and luscious, teeny tiny mince pies - served all morning on a slightly sticky Development Trust stall!

### Homework Club

We hope to launch a homework help group in the New Year, so that any local students between approximately 8 and 18 will be able to find support from our volunteers - or maybe just a quiet space in which to work.

This will not be teaching, tuition or child-minding; helpers (all will be DBS-checked) who are willing to share their knowledge or help untangle any difficulties with things that pupils are learning. Please keep sending me your ideas. Would you like to volunteer? What day and time of day would work best for you? What subjects interest you? Tamzin Lafford. [homeworkhelpsedgefield@gmail.com](mailto:homeworkhelpsedgefield@gmail.com).

### New Year in the Greenwood-to-be!

#### Exciting news on the SDT's Woodland and Wildlife area at NETPark, with confirmation of a Woodland Trust grant of 420 trees to be planted in March.

Planting days will probably turn out to be family affairs, because all ages will be welcome, and of course more days will follow, with wildflowers and hedges to plant as well as ongoing management for Wildlife. **This is for the long term.**

More news follows soon, but meanwhile, if you would like to be part of our latest venture, please get in touch with Trust chairman, Roger Clubley on 07803 269956, for a chat about the project. A walk around the site will be arranged in the New Year for everyone interested. There's such a lot to look forward to!

### Days In, Days Out

**Another successful Charity Dance supported by SDT.** A big thank you to all who supported our Halloween Charity Fundraising Event on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October in the Parish Hall. We raised £600, which was divided equally between North East Air Ambulance and The Teenage Cancer Trust Unit, Ward 4, Great North Children's Hospital. Local group, Tumbledown and Lee Davies provided the entertainment, and caterers, Robinson's brought the usual high standard 'pies & peas'. Thank you all once again for making this such a special night. *Angela and Ron Bannister.*

**You can contact SDT via the individual project telephone numbers and email addresses, or simply email [sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk)**

**For SCA information, see the website, [www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk) or contact Wendy, 620206; Pat, 620607 or Sarah, 622185.**



### Sleighbell Serenade

Sedgefield Lyric Singers' Christmas Concert is in the Parish Hall, at 7.30pm on Friday and Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December. The choir will be joined by the fabulous Lirica and their awesome youth choir, SLYC, making for two evenings of fantastic festive entertainment. There's something for everyone in these concerts - a huge variety of Christmas music, and an opportunity to appreciate our new contemporary look, debuted earlier this year! Please come along and let us entertain you for a couple of hours.

Both SLYC (for young people aged 8 to 18 years) and the Lyric Singers welcome newcomers who enjoy singing. No auditions are required and it is not essential to be able to read music.

Anyone interested can contact musical director, Rob Guest or secretary Avril Hannon (01740 622512), or simply come along to a rehearsal at Ceddesfeld Hall on a Friday evening at 6pm for the youth choir and 7.30pm for the adult choir. Rehearsals start again on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2018 and we would be delighted if you came along.

### Carols on the Green followed by "Festive Ukeleles"

The annual Carols on the Green event will be taking place on Friday 22nd December, and will be followed this year by a free Ukelele Concert in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30. The Ukelele group, tarted by Lol Crallan, will perform a set of songs including Christmas Favourites and classic pop, rock and folk music. Don't miss out on this wonderful free event. TG

### Players present the Pied Piper

No, it's not some kind of complex tongue twister (though I may half-inch it for vocal warm ups)! The Sedgefield Players' Pantomime offering this year is an adaptation of the classic children's story, The Pied Piper of Hamelin, written by Alan P Frayn. For those of you of an anxious nature, don't worry, there's not much in the way of mass genocide in this production (as has been discussed with some particularly worried SPYS).



Players in rehearsal. Photo by Elizabeth Flanagan

Sedgefield Lyric Singers, SLYC and Lirica present

## Sleighbell Serenade

An evening of Christmas music

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> and  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December  
7.30pm, Parish Hall, Sedgefield

Tickets £6 / £5 under 16s

Available from Tickety Boo,  
by calling 01740 621196 or from  
members of the choirs

**SEDGEFIELD LYRIC SINGERS**

COME AND JOIN  
**CEDDESFELD UKULELE GROUP**  
FOR A FREE CONCERT  
AT CEDDESFELD HALL ON  
**FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2017 - 7.30 PM**  
AFTER CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Instead there are lots of laughs, some daft gags, bright costumes, fun filled songs and dances, and the odd slapstick routine to boot.

All details are on the poster (right). Get them while you can though because they're sure to go faster than one of Helga's Hot Sausage Rolls washed down with a pint from Heidi's Bierkeller! TG

## POLICE INTERCEPTORS

NEW YEAR AFTERNOON TEA

**Tuesday 2nd January 2018**  
Arrival from 12 noon

**Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield TS21 2EH**

Adults £20 - Children £10 - Family\* £48  
\*2 adults, 2 children

For tickets contact Butterwick Hospice  
on 01642 628 930 or [www.butterwick.org.uk/policerinterceptors](http://www.butterwick.org.uk/policerinterceptors)

Includes afternoon tea, meet and greet with officers from Durham & Cleveland RPU, Durham Constabulary Male Voice Choir, family entertainment, and more!

RAISING FUNDS FOR BUTTERWICK HOSPICE  
IN MEMORY OF PC 2353 SMITH

### Fundraising Tea in Memory of PC Gavin Smith

Members of Durham Constabulary are holding a fundraising Afternoon Tea for Butterwick Hospice at Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield early in the New Year, in memory of their colleague who died in 2017 and who was cared for by Butterwick Hospice in his final days.

Organisers would be very grateful for donations of goods for raffle prizes etc, either from individuals or from local businesses. They are also interested in anyone who can circulate and entertain guests at their tables; magicians, balloon artists etc. If you can help, please contact PCSO 8108 Hall at: [lisa.hall@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lisa.hall@durham.pnn.police.uk) or call **101 Ext: 754283**. More information regarding the services provided by Butterwick Hospice can be found at <https://www.butterwick.org.uk/>

**SEDGEFIELD PLAYERS PRESENT**

# The Pied Piper

by Alan P Frayn

**WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> - SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 7PM**  
**MATINEE SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 2PM**

**SEDGEFIELD PARISH HALL**

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07763257846

We are charging towards the end of the year, but there's no let-up in the world of sport. By the time you read this, the Ashes will be underway. Like many England cricket fans, I will already be bleary-eyed after staying up far too late to follow the progress of the team in Australia. The women's team failed to regain the trophy in their multi-format competition, but here's hoping that the men can retain the urn, despite a tricky build-up for various reasons. The Australian team isn't without its weaknesses and I'm an inveterate optimist... Well, not much cricket in Sedgefield right now, but plenty of other sporting news to report, as always.

## Squash

Racketball - a sport in its own right - is a variant on what we know as squash. Played on the same court but with a larger ball and different rackets, it is generally regarded as being "less stressful on the old joints".

Sedgefield Squash Club's annual competition on 6th November saw notable victories for juniors against seniors, but for the fourth successive year, the final featured the same pair. However (like McEnroe v Borg in 1981 perhaps?) for the first time, Simon Hill (right of photo) triumphed with a 2-1 victory over Peter Redshaw in a titanic struggle. Congratulations to Simon!



Back in the world of squash, the senior teams are well underway in their season in county leagues, with the men's first team sitting joint fourth after five matches in the county premier division, with some notable scalps taken by what is a very youthful team. The next fixture is against Norton on Tuesday 5th December, from 7:30pm onwards. The club will be open to spectators who for free can enjoy genuinely top-class sport, right in the heart of Sedgefield. There's another date to save too. Members, families and friends are invited to Sedgefield Squash Club's Christmas social event on Thursday 28th December. Those taking part can join in with any or all of: a morning walk up Roseberry Topping; an afternoon's squash round robin; an evening meal at the Dun Cow. If you are interested, add your details to the notice posted inside the club.

For all membership enquiries (including joining on a short-term trial basis) please contact Sue Smith at [curlietailz@aol.com](mailto:curlietailz@aol.com), or for junior coaching for ages four and upwards, contact Simon Hill on 01740 629417.

## Rugby Union

Since the last update, Sedgefield District RUFC's first team has had mixed fortunes, beginning with a disappointing 22-5 away defeat to Ryton, and followed by another loss at Sunderland. Despite taking the lead with an early try from Anthony Smyth, penalties and yellow cards resulting from poor discipline, along with enforced changes due



to injury, allowed an average Sunderland side to run out comfortable 34-17 winners. However, Sedgefield appear to have learned from these results, and the pick of November's performances was a resounding 47-8 win against a high flying Whitby team. Sedgefield ran in seven tries, including four from man of the match Adam Grieve. This result was backed up on the road with six tries in a 41-19 victory at struggling Winlaton Vulcans, leaving Sedgefield in the top half of Durham & Northumberland Division 2 after 10 games.

Sedgefield Saxons have started to convert their good early season form into victories. First was a narrow 32-31 win over Hartlepool BBOB, then a more comprehensive 36-0 defeat of Stocktonians, lifting the team off the bottom of the Tees Valley Social League.

The club's scheduled home fixtures in December are as follows:

1st XV - 09/12/17 vs Hartlepool - kick-off 2:15pm

Saxons - 02/12/17 vs Billingham III - kick-off 2:15pm

## Athletics

Last month, I reported that Sedgefield Harrier Justin Cox represented his country as a member of the England Masters Marathon Team at Chester. A few weeks later, Justin took part in the Northumberland Castles Marathon, a two-lap course in Bamburgh (starting in the castle courtyard). Justin led virtually from start to finish, completing the far from flat race in an extremely impressive time of 2:51:52, six minutes ahead of his nearest rival. Not only that, but fellow Harrier Gary Thwaites claimed third place in 3:07:37, demonstrating the strength in depth in endurance running at the club. Fast forward a few weeks, and Justin and Gary were joined by Ray Carmichael to take on the huge challenge of the Peak District South 2 North Ultra, a two-stage race over two days, covering 58 miles on paths and trails, and involving plenty of climbing and a fair bit of navigation. All three Harriers completed the punishing event – a tremendous achievement. Sedgefield Harriers have been out in force as the cross country season becomes a big focus over the autumn and winter. Last year, the senior men were promoted to Division 2 in the North East Harrier League, and this season, they are working hard to consolidate after that success. The club needs to field at least six runners at each fixture and that has proved challenging in the early part of the season as events have clashed with other races entered by Harriers (such as the ultra mentioned above). But along with regular participants, some new members like David Bentley and Mark Raine have really got stuck into cross country (without getting stuck in the mud!) Harriers have fielded full teams at all three fixtures so far and anticipate rising up the league before the end of the season in March.

Although they haven't managed to field full teams at each race, the senior women have also laced up their spikes, representing the club in good numbers.

Meanwhile, supported by head coach Scott Hydon, Junior Harriers have turned out in force for cross country. At a Harrier League meeting in Durham, 20 juniors from U11 through to U15, tested themselves against a muddy, hilly course. With some great performances, they showed signs of huge potential.





## Walking Football

Walking Football is one of the latest crazes in the football world. It is an activity that gives those that have given up, the chance to get back into the sport they love. As you've guessed Walking Football involves a lot of, well... walking. It carries all the same rules as every day football except that you can't pick up too much speed. It provides a sociable, fun and safe environment for those looking to be a little more active in their spare time. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Penny Walmsley. Call 01740 617777 or email: p.walmsley@sedgefield.cc

## Food for Thought

Residents and businesses of Sedgefield are to be invited to help make the village a more welcoming place for people affected by Dementia. Volunteers are being sought to give their time, resources (or both) to the "Dementia Friendly Communities" programme, a movement working towards positive change for Alzheimer sufferers. As the baby boomer generation ages Dementia is becoming one of the greatest challenges for modern society. It is understood that over 120 families in the Sedgefield area are now living with Dementia, a condition which affects not only the sufferer but also each member of their family.

"Dementia Friendly Communities (Sedgefield)" aims to foster values of understanding, respect and support around Dementia and to embed these values in Sedgefield so that people with dementia will feel included and involved in the wider community, and have more choice and control in their day to day lives. To this end we are aiming to get both businesses and individuals "on board" to help make Sedgefield a Dementia Friendly Community.

Our first aim is to set up a "Memory Café" where people who have been diagnosed can come along, together with their carers/family. There, through conversation and activities they will be able to access support from others in similar situations and from Dementia Friends. They and their families will also be able to access advice from professionals in this field.

If you feel you could help you could do so in a number of ways. You might provide tea, coffee and biscuits for example; volunteer to act as a Dementia Friend, play games with clients, do puzzles or simply just be a friendly face who chats and reminisces about the good old days. Whatever your strength, find out more by attending our Launch Event at Sedgefield Fire Station on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> between 11am and 2pm. If you would like any extra information in the meantime, feel free to call Jill Anderson on 07940 111442, Andrew Wells on 07809 893086 or Dorothy Anderson on 07773 286743.

## Grant Funding: for Businesses and Farmers in Sedgefield Area

Almost £400,000 has been committed to businesses, farmers and rural community groups across the Durham Coast and Lowlands area through LEADER, a funding pot from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). The area covers rural areas between Dawdon in the north to Newton Aycliffe in the south so Sedgefield and surrounding areas including Foxton, Mordon, Bradbury, Fishburn & Bishop Middleham are all eligible for funding between £2,500 and £180,000.

Across the patch LEADER has funded the likes of robotic milking systems, glamping pods, building extensions and the purchase of equipment including a cnc machine, hayledge packaging system and digger. Applications are particularly welcomed by:

- Farmers who want to invest in new innovative pieces of kit such as GPS linked Variable Rate fertiliser spreader, Mobile handling units, crushers and ID systems.
- People starting or developing an existing tourism activity business or developing accommodation whether hotel, b&b or glamping.
- Applicants wishing to start or develop an existing food and drink based business.
- Any business based in the area who are looking to expand and take on or increase hours of current staff members.
- Farmers looking to diversify into non-agricultural based service

Project Coordinator, Sarah explains "LEADER is European funding so I encourage any business or those thinking about starting a business to come forward before the funding disappears. From what we have in the pipeline only 30% of the budget will be left for new projects. The Sedgefield area is new to this funding so it would be fantastic to continue to support the area".

To discuss an idea or for more information contact Sarah Marshall-Newcomb on 03000 266894 or sarah.newcomb@durham.gov.uk

## Letters & thanks

### Deal did not benefit St Edmund's

I hear that an old rumour has resurfaced to the effect that the church has benefitted from the sale of land for the current development, which I gather is to be called St Edmund's Manor. I wish it did.

The land was not owned by the parish of Sedgefield, so we see not a penny of the deal; it goes to the Church Commissioners, who have responsibility for funding much of the clergy stipends and pensions, so it has to go a long way! It saddens me that people still seem to think the church is rolling in money. In fact, its resources are diminishing with inflation and I only hope the pension fund will see me out!

*Rev Martin King*

### Thanks to Good Samaritans

Recently my husband had a fall near the junction of The Lane and Old Durham Road. Thankfully, numerous Good Samaritans went to his aid, to whom I am most grateful. He was not seriously injured, but understandably a little shaken. Sincere thanks to those who stopped to help; I appreciate your kindness and support.

*Sheila McMillan*

### Breast Cancer Fundraising

On October 19th at Sedgefield cricket club, 90 ladies enjoyed afternoon tea and a makeup demonstration with Alan Pan, Estee Lauder international makeup artist. £1600.00 was raised for the charity, all proceeds from the day being donated. A big thank you to all who helped. *From Barbara Robinson, Janet Bell and Mavis Elders*

### Trimdons Sponsored Walk.

On Saturday 21st October four of us walked around the Trimdon area from St. Mary Magdalene's church. On our return, the Mayor & Mayoress, Mr & Mrs David Brown were there to meet us. We raised £311 for the Great North Air Ambulance and the Macular Society. Thanks to everyone who walked and sponsored us. *Suzanne Hopper*



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