



SEDGFIELD NEWS

December 2018



A Very Happy Christmas to all our Readers, Volunteers, Advertisers & Contributors

Let the Fun Begin

An exciting first day in December sees the opening at 10am by Pam Royle, of the Christmas Tree Festival in St Edmund's Church *PLUS* a full day of entertainment at Sedgfield Town Council's Annual Snow Party. The Festivities continue on Sunday 2nd with the Christmas Farmers' Market and Music at the Christmas Tree Festival from 1pm. A piano recital is followed by Ceddesfolk at 2pm, and Ceddesfeld Ukulele Band will round off the day at 2.45pm. The festival runs until Thursday, December 6th. Admission is free but donations will be welcome.

Other Christmas events can be found on the Arts & Events page or listed in our Diary on page 5. This includes many church services, but for a full list covering all local churches, please go to <http://www.sedgfieldweb.co.uk/events.html#xmsservice>

Children in Need

School raises over £600 for BBC fundraiser!

Staff and students at Sedgfield Community College were united in a good cause, amongst much hilarity, for Children in Need week. Every £50 increment that was reached



unlocked a teacher to meet their fate – either an icy bucket of water or a leg waxing! Deputy Head teacher Paul Fleming and Assistant Head teacher Craig Hutton were amongst those unlocked, and the buzz and momentum gathered as the week went on, the students thoroughly enjoying seeing the teachers face their fate. Year Eight student Chloe Langley raised an additional £30 by completing a sponsored silence, which gained a special mention from Charity representative Paul McGeary.

Above, the leg wax queue; on p9, the Assistant Head, Craig Hutton meet his icy fate!

It's Up 2 U Funding Bids successful

Local groups who worked hard to obtain funding from the AAP in November are very grateful to the people who prepared their bids, spent voting day talking about their projects to anyone who would listen, and especially to everyone who made a special journey to vote. Where would we be without them? As a result...

Sedgfield Cricket Club will make progress on a new Member's Area in the bar;
Sedgfield Youth U9s Football Club can improve storage & fund FA coaching courses;
Fishburn Academy Band can purchase instruments, so more children can take part;
Fishburn Youth & Community Centre will convert unused space into a Craft Room;
Sedgfield Primary School PTA can build an Outdoor Canopy for play and learning;
and **The Woodland & Wildlife Project** can purchase essential equipment/storage.

EARLY JANUARY EDITION DEADLINE MONDAY 10th DECEMBER

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St Edmund's Explorer Unit Christmas Card Delivery

Drop Off Your Cards at
Number Four of The Library
Before December 14th
!! Sedgfield Addresses Only !!



It's good to see the St Edmund's Explorer Group taking on the local Christmas Card deliveries again. Well done and thanks in advance to you all.

Meanwhile ...

Calling all interested Adults and Ex Scouts...

1st Sedgfield Scout Group needs you

There has been a Scout Group in Sedgfield since 1966, and during that time the group has thrived, with a huge number of young people coming and going through our doors.

Although we continue to deliver a high-quality programme for our current members, we have a limited number of qualified leaders, and that restricts the number of young people we can take, as well as our ability to go outdoors or try new activities.

We need enthusiastic people who can spare a few hours every week (and occasional weekends) to come and assist, and train to become future leaders of the group.

If you can help to keep the group going please contact Group Scout Leader, Andrew Guppy. Call **01740 623747** or email atg7264@gmail.com

1918 - 2018 'We will remember them'

Around 70 children from Sedgefield schools joined veterans, local dignitaries and townsfolk on 9th November at a special wreath laying and remembrance service at the memorial at St Luke's Chapel Winterton, to mark 100 years since the end of World War 1.

Sedgefield veteran David Hillerby opened the ceremony and Year 5 pupils from Sedgefield Primary School sang 'From Now On', before readings by Sedgefield Mayor, Mavis Wayman, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Andrea Flynn, Town Council Chair Mel Carr and Sedgefield Community College's head boy and head girl, Joshua Wilson and Anna Haycock. Cllr Wayman said: "It is so important for our children to understand and acknowledge the heroes who fought and who died in war to protect the future for generations to come. When we talk about war, we don't want children to be scared, we want them to remember the people who bravely battled on their behalf."

Earlier that week Sedgefield Primary School invited Mr Hillerby, known locally for his work with Sedgefield Veterans' Association, to attend a special assembly in their school on Rectory Row where they performed Remembrance poem 'The Inquisitive Child'. Deputy head and class teacher Samantha Smith said: "The class has embraced learning about the war and taken their role at the Remembrance service very seriously. It's vital that each generation continues to understand the magnitude of this day by learning in the classroom and talking to their families. "It is a subject I love to teach because my own grandad Fredrick Edward Jones served in the Gloucestershire Regiment throughout World War 2. He received a letter of commendation from Lord Montgomery for his part in El Alamein – a pivotal turning point recognised by Sir Winston Churchill. I instil in the children the importance of remembering just how much these servicemen did for our country."

At 6am on November 11th, the WW1 Armistice Centenary commemoration began at the war memorial on Sedgefield Village Green. Lone piper, Anthony Robb played the traditional Scottish lament, Battle's O'er', to mark the time that the armistice was signed in Paris, to cease hostilities. This came into effect at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918.

At 10am, the Service of Remembrance took place in St. Edmund's Church. Attended by local civic leaders and many local people, the service included stories of ordinary people in both the UK and Germany, living through extraordinary times. Representatives from the uniformed organisations from scouts and guiding formed a guard of honour as the congregation left the church. Following two minute silence at 11am, poppy wreaths were laid, marking the end of 100 years of commemoration. In addition to the wooden crosses and the wreaths, Sedgefield girl guides rangers and trefoil guild, produced a stunning display for remembrance on one of the benches on the Green. A beautiful tribute. (photo below).



In Memoriam

A profoundly moving exhibition was mounted jointly by Sedgefield Veterans and the Local History Society showing letters, artefacts and tributes to the Sedgefield men lost 100 years ago.

Sedgefield During the First World War

A booklet describing Sedgefield Life at the time of the war, mainly using newspaper reports from the era, is available now, price £6, from the Town Council office or directly from the author, Alison Hodgson, Tel 620912.



Children take evacuee roles for trip to Beamish

As part of their study of the impact World War 2 had on families, Year 5 children at Sedgefield Primary School swapped their uniforms for typical evacuee outfits and spent the day at Beamish Museum. They were helped to understand more about the sacrifices made during the war, covering topics such as rationing, black out, wartime cookery and the Home Guard.

Teacher, Samantha Smith, said: "The children simply loved the experience. The smiles on their faces say it all." Children, mothers with infants, pregnant women and the infirm, were evacuated from British towns and cities during WWII by the Government, over fears that German bombing would cause a high number of civilian deaths. The first wave of evacuation occurred in September 1939. 1.5 million people, including 827,000 children, were sent to countryside locations deemed to be safe, with a few clothes and provisions, a gas mask and identity card. By the end of the war some 3.5 million people had experienced evacuation. Ross Towler, age 10, said: "It is the best day of the year in Class 5, we loved every minute. The air raid was so exciting!"



L-R: "Evacuees" Grace Dobson, Ashley Wong, Iona Darnton, Freddie Theakston, Sadie Clark, Ross Towler, Grace Stanley.



St. Edmund's Church news

People asking about progress on the **Raise The Roof Appeal** to repair the North Transept roof at St. Edmund's, following the theft of lead last November, will be glad to hear that in excess of £30,000 has been raised. That will cover the cost of the repair, which will take place in spring 2019. The temporary roof is watertight and it was felt better to wait rather than try to repair it over the winter. The sum raised includes the insurance claim, and a one off grant, but £10,000 has been raised from the community by way of donation. The District Church Council would like to express their gratitude to all those who have contributed in any way to the 'Raise the Roof Appeal'. We would also like to thank all those who have given so generously at funeral and other services. This year we have been able to donate £5,250 to charitable causes, most of the money being raised at funeral services and given to charities nominated by the families of the deceased. The charities supported were national organisations like British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research and Parkinson UK as well as smaller, local organisations.

The **Bishop of Durham**, the Right Revd Paul Butler, was in Sedgefield to meet members of St Edmund's Church and to preach at the parish Eucharist service. He was welcomed by Reader Michael King, who told him how parishioners were looking forward to welcoming the Revd. Geoffrey Short as Rector and the Revd. Elizabeth Bland as Vicar in the parish of the Upper Skerne. After the service, the Bishop found time to chat with members of the congregation. Strolling across the green after leaving St Edmund's, the Bishop visited Sedgefield Farmers' market, very apt, as our original Market Charter was granted by his predecessor in 1312. He talked to the Sedgefield Development Trust team about the market and their many other projects.

Pictured after the service, from left to right: Judith King, Alex Wainwright, Panny Pighills, the Bishop of Durham and Michael King.



Skerne Medical Group patient consultation

Skerne Medical Group (SMG), together with a representative of The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has just completed a programme of six public engagement meetings throughout the practice. The aim of the consultation meetings has been to explain the challenges the practice currently faces, particularly relating to recruitment and retention of GPs. Whilst accepting that the proposed measures will bring new challenges for patients, SMG has determined that such change is essential to "ensure high quality patient care and maintain safe and high standards of healthcare, now and in the future."

The first meeting took place at Sedgefield Parish Hall on Tuesday, November 6th. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Hearmon began by outlining the extent of a "national GP recruitment crisis". SMG's experience of the crisis has seen a gradual reduction in the number of practice partners from eight to four due to a combination of resignations, retirements and sickness. The group began highlighting some of these issues in June 2017 and since then the team has been working very hard to attract and retain new GPs. However, as is the case in practices up and down the country, recruitment is proving to be very difficult and the position has actually worsened. As this situation is likely to result in a significant reduction in GP appointment time by February 2019, and with no sign of improvement, SMG has determined that a structural review of the practice is necessary if the current level of service is to be maintained.

Dr Hearmon went on to outline a number of ideas for short, medium and long term restructuring. The slides from the presentation are now available to view and download on SMG's website at <http://www.doctorsnhs.co.uk/>. On the home page, just after the article "Serious GP Recruitment & Retention Crisis" you will find the following link: Public Engagement Meeting Slides. Click on that link to read the detailed argument for a change of GP provision in Sedgefield.

In the second part of the meeting SMG responded to questions and suggestions from the public. This part of the evening was constructive and generally supportive of the proposals. However, concerns were raised about the potential transport issues that would result for patients in communities that might lose their current provision.

One such community is Trimdon Village. Nine days later the third meeting of the programme was held in Trimdon Village Hall. The mood was, understandably, less supportive here. While the questions at this meeting were naturally more focused on the effect of restructuring in Trimdon, there was a general acceptance that, of all the SMG surgeries, the building at Trimdon Village was the least well appointed and equipped. On the night, the public response here focused on different issues. SMG was challenged to consider the specific adverse socio-economic conditions in their part of the practice which would often make travelling to more distant, centralised health provision problematical. There was a strong feeling that Trimdon Village's situation was not being considered equally within the four year review and that other solutions might be available. One or two of these were outlined by local council representatives including the use of other service providers and a proposal, currently being discussed with a developer, to build a local health centre in Trimdon. Both SMG and The CCG expressed an interest in meeting with Trimdon Councillors to explore these ideas. *By Tony Magee, who will continue to report on this difficult issue.*

Red Eye Clinic

Cooper & Barr Opticians, recently relocated to 4 Front Street, Sedgefield, are now accredited to provide a 'Minor Eye Conditions Service' in conjunction with local GPs and hospitals. This is covered on the NHS and means that if anyone is suffering from sore, red or gritty eyes, or blurry or distorted vision they can get an appointment to see an optician directly for advice and guidance, rather than having to visit a doctor.

We sorry that this important item was omitted from our November edition.

Local Police. Call 101 to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information. Always keep notes and ask for an incident number.

Crime Prevention Officer Rona Stocks. rona.stocks@durham.pnn.police.uk

Police Community Cohesion Officer Faye Callan. 101 Extension 742317.

Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk

Confidential email address. John.lamb@durham.pnn.police.uk.

Any information we receive will be developed and acted upon.



Daffodil Scissors

On Thursday 22nd November the Sedgefield Players Youth Section performed their version of Philip Ridley's 'Daffodil Scissors', the story of a young person bullied and teased for wearing hats that her dad makes. The performance was commissioned by Stockton Borough Council, to perform to primary school children and young people from the Stockton area. It is a great privilege to be asked to perform, and gives the SPYS the opportunity to show their skills and performance techniques to a wider audience. There have been some cast changes due to conflicting schedules, but the essence of the anti-bullying story remains the same and the SPYS hope that the message will allow the children to learn about the dangers of bullying in a new and exciting way.

As mentioned last month, the SPYS now go on to take part in the annual Pantomime, (see poster). In January the SPYS take on their next projects, a version of Little Red Riding Hood by Roald Dahl for the Stage 1's; Stage 2s & 3s will work on Lewis Carroll's classic novel, 'Alice in Wonderland'. 2018 has been an outstanding year for the SPYS with performances theatre trips and workshops galore. They took part in performances of 'Treasure Island', 'Daffodil Scissors' and 'The Jewish Wife and other plays' alongside the adult players.

With a lot to look forward to in the coming year the SPYS are looking for new members in the Stage 1 group (school years 3 - 5). If you are interested please email Tom at sedgefieldplayers@outlook.com.

After Pantomime, the Players start rehearsals for their March production - 'Humble Boy' by Charlotte Jones. Based on Shakespeare's Hamlet, the play follows nervous bee enthusiast and scientist Felix Humble as he deals with the death of his father and his mothers affairs, as well as revelations about his past relationships. They will then

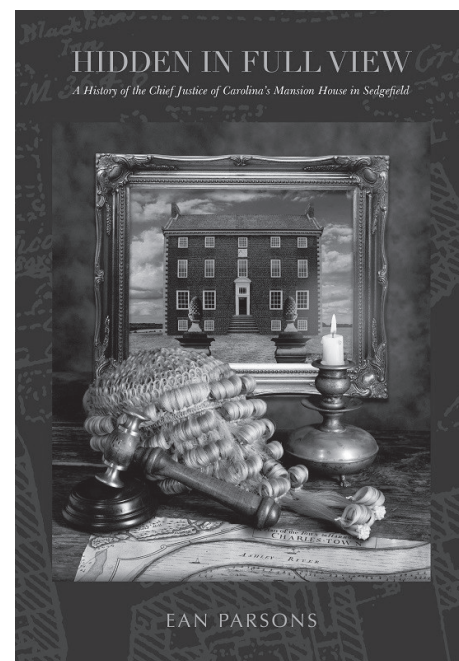
prepare 'War Brides' by Marion Craig Wentworth, for the Richmond Drama Festival in April, where they will compete for a place in the Northern Final of the All England Theatre Festival, which takes place this year at the Washington Arts Centre.



Hidden in Full View (see right)

is a new book about the history of The Manor House on West End in Sedgefield, researched and written by current owner Ean Parsons. Many interesting facts are revealed - who built The Manor House and why, and who has had title and lived in it over the years? There are surprising details about the importance of the design and architecture and a section on The Manor House as council offices and a magistrate's court, including accounts by local people who worked there and extracts of council minutes.

The book ranges beyond Sedgefield to Carolina and Georgia in pre-independent America and Westminster Abbey and Hampton Court. It is sure to be of interest to anyone connected to Sedgefield. Copies priced at £12.99 are available from ean@manorhousesedgefield.co.uk or by calling 07771 828 568.



DIARY: December 2018

Submit your events to diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Sat 1 st	Drop in Surgeries: Cllr John Robinson. 9 – 9.45am Bradbury & 12 pm Mordon Village Hall; 10 – Sedgefield Library; 11.15 – Fishburn Community Centre. 11am Sedgefield Town Council's Annual Snow Party: See right column for details.
Sun 2 nd	Sedgefield Farmers' Market: On the Village Green from 8.30am. New Generation Church: Sedgefield Parish Hall at 10.30am. St John Fisher Catholic Church: Mass 10.45am
Mon 3 rd	Local History Society: Ceddesfeld Hall. 7.45pm. "History of the Fairground" by Trevor Carroll.
Tue 4 th	Neighbourhood Watch Extraordinary Meeting: (to elect Committee) followed by Normal Panel Meeting in Fletcher Room, Parish Hall 7.00pm - All Welcome. Sedgefield Gardening Club: Ceddesfeld Hall at 7-30pm. Christmas Party.
Wed 5 th	Sedgefield WI: 7.15pm at Sedgefield Parish Hall. "Seaglass Jewellery - Treasure from the Sea" with Joan Laverick. Members' comp. An ornament connected with the sea. Visitors welcome (£3.50).
Thu 6 th	Civic Carol Service: 6 pm, St. Edmund's, Sedgefield Sedgefield Methodist Church: 7.30 to 9 pm. Five Impossible Things to Believe Before Christmas: The Crack in the Universe. Meeting room. All welcome.
Fri 7 th	Sedgefield in Bloom coffee Morning: 10am - 11.30 in the Parish Hall. U3A: Christmas Party & Quiz 2pm Parish Hall. Members free, visitors welcome: £3 Cricket Club Quiz: 8.30 start. Quizmaster, John Bryan.
Sun 9 th	New Generation Church: Sedgefield Community College at 10.30am St John Fisher Catholic Church: Mass 10.45am
Mon 10 th	Sedgefield Wives and Friends: Christmas Night Out.
Tue 11 th	Ladies Club: Christmas Social & Buffet.
Thu 13 th	Memory Café: 10.30am to 12 noon @ Sedgefield Fire Station. Sedgefield Methodist Church: 7.30 to 9 pm. Five Impossible Things to Believe Before Christmas: The Star in the East. Meeting room All welcome.
Fri 14 th	Sedgefield Country Market: Parish Hall 10am to 11.30am. Home baked produce, Crafts, Jams, Cards, Plants, Refreshments. For information call 629441. This Christmas Night: Lyric Singers, SLYC & Lirica in The Parish Hall. Also Sat. 15th Sedgefield Cricket Club: Live Music Christmas Party. 7.30 pm start. Main guests : Marty Craggs and Trevor Sewell. Also featuring: Billingham Silver Band, Trevor Bond and John Wrightson Band. Admission £12, includes buffet. Tel 621347
Sat 15 th	Sedgefield Twinning Association: Celebrate Christmas with a German flavour in Ceddesfeld Hall, with mulled wine, tea and coffee/soft drinks, German nibbles and cake, and German carols. Cost £7. Call Judith Edgoose on 07899 984464 or email mail@toddshousefarm.co.uk
Sun 16 th	New Generation Church: Bethany Centre, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4UD at 6.30pm. (Christmas Production 'The Perfect Gift') St John Fisher Catholic Church: Mass 10.45am
Tue 18 th	Ferryhill, S'field & District Flower Club: Members Xmas Lunch at the Dun Cow
Wed 19 th	Willowdene Care Home: 2pm to 4pm Elvis Tribute Show. Top impersonator Mike Memphis. Refreshments served. Free, all welcome. Call Angela 01740 771310.
Fri 21 st	Sedgefield Cricket Club: Family Christmas Evening. Buffet and Family fun from 5.30pm. Free entry and all welcome. Carols on the Green: 6.30 pm, refreshments afterwards in Ceddesfeld Hall
Sun 23 rd	New Generation Church: Carol Service Sedgefield Parish Hall at 10.30am St John Fisher Catholic Church: Mass 10.45am Carol service: 10 am, Methodist Church, Sedgefield Christingle service: 4 pm, St. Edmund's Church Carol service: 6.30 pm, St. Michael's, Bishop Middleham Sedgefield Cricket Club: Kids Christmas Party. Buffet, Santa visit and disco from 12.30pm. Free entry and all welcome.
Mon 24 th	Crib service: 4 pm, St. Michael's, Bishop Middleham Christingle service: 4 pm, St Catherine's, Fishburn Midnight Mass: 11.30 pm, St. Edmund's
Tue 25 th	Family Christmas services: 10 am St. Edmund's and Sedgefield Methodist Church. Holy Mass, 10.45 am, St. John Fisher
Sun 30 th	New Generation Church: Bar Zero, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 5DE St John Fisher Catholic Church: Mass 10.45am

Sedgefield Library

Tel: 03000 269521 Opening Hours:

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

Thursdays 10:30-12:30: Basic computing, tailored to your needs.

Thursdays 2.15pm: 'Boogie Beat' Pre-school session. Booking essential.

Craft Group: 1.30pm 2nd & 4th Fridays
Book Circle: 2pm 3rd Friday.

New members welcome

@The Hub

at Sedgefield Community College

New Dance Generation - Mon

U9s 5pm to 5.45. Over 9s 5.45 to 6.30

Clubbercise - Tue Start 6.00pm

Zumba: Tue Start 6.30pm & **Thurs** 7pm

Call 01740 617882 for all enquiries.

Sedgefield Social Club

Saturday 1st December: Kim Stevens.

Saturday 8th December: Russell Kent.

Saturday 15th December: Sparky.

Monday 17th: Country Night, Dave Cash

Monday 24th December: Colin McGann.

Monday 31st December: John Conlon.

Telephone Number: 01740 620591

Sedgefield Tea Dance

In the Parish Hall, 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month. For more information please ring Joyce - 01740 622601 or Ann - 01740 629070

Fishburn Art Group Christmas Exhibition

Stockton Library, Church Street.

Art works, prints and other crafts are available. Exhibition starts on

Monday 3rd December for the month.

Sedgefield Snow Party

10am-11.30 am: Methodist Church

*Advent Gift Day. Coffee Morning +
Hardwick School Choir*

10am-5.30pm: St Edmund's Church

Christmas Tree Festival

12.30pm to 3pm: Parish Hall

Santa Claus. Tickets available in advance from the council offices (£2.50) include a gift. Bouncy castle, face painting + Refreshments.

1pm - 3.45pm: Ceddesfeld Hall

Xmas Craft Fayre. Stalls, refreshments and Tombola

3.45pm: St. Edmunds Church

Carol Singing

4.20pm: The Village Green

Dancing with Snowmen. SCC Brass Band and the Snowman Parade

4.30pm: Christmas Lights Switch On

Glo stick raffle tickets £1 from local primary schools and the council offices. Draw 4.25pm. Lights switched on by holder of the winning ticket.

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Rural Crime

In November, Durham Police took part in a nationwide day of action to disrupt criminals who offend in rural areas across constabulary borders.

Codenamed Operation Checkpoint, the operation ran throughout a 24 hour period, and saw dozens of Durham officers involved in the largest rural policing operation of its kind. Inspector Ed Turner of Durham Police explained that the operation had been aimed primarily at disrupting organised crime groups who operate between force areas, saying, "We have carried out a number of stop checks across the county, targeting suspicious vehicles and provided high visibility reassurance to rural communities."

During the day of action, 29 police officers, police community support officers and special constables worked alongside firearms licensing staff, 50 farmers and 2 environment agency officers. More than 20 vehicles were stopped or searched across the force area. From Peterlee to Barnard Castle and Weardale a number of sanctions were employed including seizure of illegally used vehicles, verbal warnings and fixed penalty notices. One man is now under investigation after being found carrying a bladed article.

Engagement and awareness raising events were also held in Darlington.

The force is determined that rural homes and places of business, often the same thing in rural areas, will not become soft targets. Durham's Crime and Victims' Commissioner, Ron Hogg, commented, "This is a great example of continued work across Co Durham and Darlington to tackle rural crime and clearly demonstrates the enthusiasm and dedication of our rural officers and volunteers to improve safety in those areas." Inspector Ed Turner was keen to stress, "Rural areas are not soft targets and we will not tolerate offending in

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Neighbourhood Watch

Last month we asked if Neighbourhood Watch would survive. It is most pleasing to say that N/Hood Watch is indeed still very much valued.

At the extraordinary general meeting to be held on 4th December, members will elect a new committee who are willing take N/H/Watch forward.

Remembrance

Once again NHW was strongly represented at the Ceremonies held at St. Luke's Friday on 9th November and St Edmund's on Sunday 11th November. We wish to thank David Hillerby (retiring NHW Vice C/man) for all his tireless work at both events.

David also had the pleasure of presenting the **Alan Sowerby Citizenship Award 2018** at Sedgefield Community College on October 18th, to a most deserving student Imola Clarke. We congratulate Imola for being such a good, caring person and wish her continued success for the future.



Finally, a reminder: **Keep Sedgefield Safe**

- Keep doors locked even when the house is occupied
- Use light timers
- Don't leave valuables on display in the home or in your car.
- Don't advertise "valuables" in the home (packaging on display).

Have a Crime Free Christmas! Joe McKenna,
Secretary, Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Hood & Crime Watch Panel

our areas. Rural communities are our eyes and ears and we encourage everyone to report crime and suspicious incidents. Police and Farmwatch volunteers will continue to work together to keep rural areas safe by giving out security advice, sharing information on a day-to-day basis and taking part in future operations."



All part of the fun! Children in Need fundraising at Sedgefield Community College



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Steve's Nature Diary December

Looking back to a recent trip, not far away but to a reserve I had only been to once before, we were lucky with the weather and pleasantly surprised at the range of species we saw. **Nosterfield Nature Reserve** is 150 acres of wet grassland and open water situated between the Rivers Ure and Swale not far from Nosterfield Village. It is generally regarded as one of North Yorkshire's premier wetland grassland; however, it is the underlying magnesium limestone and its associated aquifer which makes the location special. A dramatic rise and fall in the water levels, associated with the natural water table and rainfall, results in a huge range in water levels, typically 2.5 m per year. Sand and gravel were produced from a former quarry here until the late 1980s. It was designated a reserve in 2001 and is the only Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in the Hambleton District. It is now managed by the Lowe Ure Conservation trust who have developed the site for visitors and wildlife including hides connected by a pedestrian walkway which is fully accessible for those with mobility issues.

We were there to see the autumnal birds but in summer it has other attractions including nine species of orchid, it's the only place in Yorkshire to see the Bloody-nosed Beetle, and 25-odd species of butterfly have been recorded. Highlights of the visit included massive skeins of geese flying over the reserve honking away and then landing right in front of the hides. Most of the flock was made up of Grey Lag Goose and of course the next task was trying to find the occasional Barnacle Goose and Pink-footed Goose amongst the throng. However stood out like a sore thumb was a very white Snow Goose, it was sat down initially, but when it stood up were we able to see its black wing feathers a real contrast the rest of the white bird. Also in the water feeding was another rarity a Ruddy Shelduck. With both these species it is difficult to work out whether the birds are pure wild birds or have escaped from a collection and now living wild, but it's very nice to see them anyway. The other highlight was a bird which when I was growing up in the 70's was a really difficult bird to see unless you traipsed off to the Cornish cliffs or Scottish highlands. We were scanning one of the islands in the gravel pits and at one end was a bird, on its own, standing tall and looking out of place - it was a Peregrine Falcon. Peregrines are now a regular sight in many areas, including on Teesside. Their comeback has been swift and dramatic. The organo-chlorine based pesticides of the 50's and 60's, which killed them by becoming concentrated in their prey and causing them to lay thin-shelled eggs, have been banned. Public attitude in general has changed and the birds have taken to feeding on pigeons and nesting on high buildings including industrial ones and cathedrals. We thoroughly enjoyed our day out and it is important that these reserves and other green spaces are protected. The Wildlife Trusts are part of a Green Futures Alliance and are asking for a new Environment Act and a Wilder Future for us all.

Visit www.teeswildlife.org/how-you-can-help/campaign-for-a-wilder-future/ for more information.

Sainsbury's Talking Tables

Talking Tables is an initiative being trialled in 20 stores across the UK, including Sainsbury's Sedgefield. Local groups are invited to use the Talking Tables, designed to help facilitate conversations. One table in the café is designated as a 'talking table' – customers, colleagues and those in the local community are invited to share a conversation together.

It's been developed in close association with the Chatty Café Scheme, founded by Alex Hoskyn, who had the idea whilst in a Sainsbury's café. Community is at the heart of this scheme and Sainsbury's are looking for local groups who could benefit from using the Talking Tables to bring their network together and invite others to get involved. Whether it's a knitting group, prenatal or bridge club, Sainsbury's are offering a friendly space to meet. Local groups can register interest and become part of this scheme by popping into Sainsbury's Sedgefield.

Nicola Young, Store Manager at Sainsbury's Sedgefield, said:

'We've always been committed to playing a key role in our community, and we're proud to be part of this simple and innovative trial. We're always looking for ways to further improve our customers' shopping experience and now we're pleased to be the place to not just a cup of tea and a slice of cake, but a chat too.'

Your Letters

Audrey Lofthouse would like to thank her many friends and neighbours for their kindness over the past few months and to wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Angela and Ron Bannister would like to thank everyone who supported the Halloween Dance in the Parish Hall in October. They raised £720 shared between Prostate Cancer and Stroke Services in local hospitals. Thanks to entertainers who provided their services for free and everyone who supported the event.

Remembrance

On Friday 9th November 2018 a Service of Remembrance was held at The War Memorial, St. Luke's Church, hosted by Sedgefield Village Veterans and supported by Mr Michael Turner, of Eclipse. Our Town Council, Churches, Police, workers from Net Park and members of the public attended, and all of our local schools were represented, with staff members Mrs Penny Walmsley from SCC and teachers, Mrs Newton & Mr Roach from Hardwick Junior School and Mrs Sam Smith from Sedgefield Junior School bringing pupils. The youth of today "will remember them" if their attendance is an indication. Many thanks to you all.

David Hillerby

Sunderland Empire Theatre Wednesday 20th March

See "Calender Girls The Musical" by Gary Barlow & Colin Firth - an award winning production based on a true story of ordinary ladies doing extraordinary things. Starring Fern Britton, Anna Jane Casey, Ruth Madoc.

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Children's Liturgy

Adoration: Thursday 7.00pm

Legion of Mary meeting after Friday Mass.

Parish Office contact email -

parishsecretary1961@btconnect.com

Ceddesfeld Hall

Home of Sedgefield Community Association

The dark nights are now well and truly here and SCA were very pleased to welcome families and friends to Ceddesfeld Hall for Sedgefield Town Council's annual firework display and pumpkin competition. The event was very well organised with a fabulous display of fireworks and pumpkins, much enjoyed and appreciated by the many visitors.

As December draws near, groups and sections that use Ceddesfeld are busy planning and preparing for festive events. In support of STC Snow Party, a 'Christmas Craft Fayre' will take place in the main hall on Saturday 1st December from 1pm to 4 pm. There will be a varied range of stalls, including a tombola; refreshments will be served and the bar will also be open.

On Friday 21st December, following STC 'Carols on the Green', a glass of warming mulled wine will be served at Ceddesfeld, followed by a night of live music with Ceddesfeld's own ukulele group. The programme includes some Christmas songs as well as lots of other popular music, the bar is open and the event is free. 'Ceddesfeld Ukuleles' are also performing at St Edmund's on the afternoon of 2nd December, as part of the Christmas Tree Festival.

On Christmas Eve, there is a quiz night, which begins at 8 pm. There will be prizes for the winning team as well as mince pies and nibbles. This is another free event and everyone is welcome to come along and join in the fun.

Looking ahead to next year, SCA's Burns Supper is to take place on Saturday 26th January. A drinks reception is followed by a 5 course meal (choice of haggis or roast beef in advance please) to include a cheese board and coffee. In true tradition there will be 'pipes, toasts, talks and quotes' too, all for £25. Tickets can be purchased by contacting any of the numbers below.

And talking of next year, here's a rather special date for your diary!

Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre
is on **Saturday 18th May 2019**

For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, please contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 620607, Sarah on 622185 or visit www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk

SDT Projects

December Farmers' Market Sun 2nd Dec

We had just gone to print last month when we heard that Dryden Farms couldn't make it to the November market, but they will definitely be here this time, with samples of their delicious Christmas poultry to tempt you.

The Christmas market is always a bit special, with stallholders making a special festive effort, and the lovely voices of SLYC, our local youth choir singing carols and other Christmas songs. Butterwick Hospice is the visiting charity and SDT invite you to join them for warm ginger wine and mince pies. Come and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

Woodland & Wildlife

Lucky with our recent funding bid (see page 1), we can now equip the group properly for next year's endeavours. Trees have been ordered for the next big planting day in early spring, and though we all hope for less Siberian conditions this time, we know that, whatever the weather, those saplings will go into the ground!

We're delighted that Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School and Sedgefield Primary School have recently been involved with the Woodland & Wildlife Project. As part of their science lesson, children from Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School enjoyed planting and learning about acorns. The children will watch as young oak trees grow from their acorns, then care for them until they are eventually planted at our NETPark site. *Pictured below L - R are: Lily Diccio, Reception Class, Eliza Hinton, Yr 1, Rosie Hinton, Yr 3, Hannah Davey Yr 3, Taylor Forbes Yr 1, William Hacket, Reception.*



U3A Sedgefield



Our November Speaker, Dr Pete Edwards, Durham University, wowed us with his 'Update on Space'. His knowledge, enthusiasm and ability to share such an awe inspiring subject in a way which we can all understand is breath-taking. The main focus of this year's talk was Curiosity, the small car-sized Rover which is exploring Mars for signs of life - past or present. Some superb photographs, the most recent sent back to earth on 15th October, gave an idea of what is happening 35 million miles away. During October, at the Sedgefield Book Festival, our **Creative Writing Group** hosted two very successful workshops and other members attended various talks and hands-on sessions and discovered new skills or unearthed forgotten ones! Members have also been out of the village.

We've visited **Durham Police Headquarters and Control Room**, been to Ushaw College to see John Ryan's Captain Pugwash drawings and his cutting and perceptive cartoons for the Catholic Herald; enjoyed a delicious lunch amidst chat and laughter at Bowburn Hall; the **Photography Group** made a productive visit to take images of the Autumn foliage at Thorpe Perrow Arboretum and hosted an exhibition of their Lines of Life Photographs during the Book Festival. The **Theatre group** have been to Billingham, Durham and Newcastle. U3A do not sit at home waiting to be old. We've even started a new group. Our **Card Players** are learning to play whist for a few sessions, then we hope to move on to Cribbage, Canasta, Rummy, Poker...

After our Christmas Party this month, on 4th January Mal Bell will tell us all about Smart Motorways. If you're retired or semi-retired we'd love you to come along.

Sport in Sedgefield

Email club reports to Chris Lines: chrisjlines@aol.com

Youth teams - please call Tony Magee on 07837 114 271 if you would like him to report on your club or matches

Winter is coming, to use a well-worn phrase, so we're hurtling towards the end of another busy year of sport in Sedgefield. It also means that the annual BBC Sports Personality of the Year event is looming (yes, long-time readers, I still pine for the traditional Sports Review of the Year format!) The Beeb has changed the process for 2018, so we won't find out who the shortlisted nominees are until the night of the show, on Sunday 16th December. As always, the public will choose the winner and there will be no shortage of worthy candidates to succeed Sir Mo Farah. Meanwhile, the BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year has already been announced, the brilliant para-athlete Kare Adenegan, who this year set a world record on the track in the T34 100m, and was also crowned European champion. Talking of awards...

Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers held its annual awards event recently in the Manor House. The majority of the awards were voted for by club members. The roll of honour includes:

Club Member/s of the Year: Beth & Mark Raine (*pictured right*)

Club Runner: David Bentley. **Individual Performance:** Justin Cox, for his time of 2:45.46 at the Manchester Marathon. **Track & Field Athlete:** Jane Spink.

Volunteer: (selected by the club committee) Marie Walker. **Supporter:** Helen Letts

Newcomer: Ian Spencer.

Awards were also handed out to the winners of the club's Grand Prix series of events that took place throughout the year. Runners in six divisions earned points for their relative position (compared to other Harriers) over 10 races, with their seven best results counting. The 2018 winners were:

Men's Elite: Chris Lines. **Women's Elite:** Jane Spink. **Division One:** David Walker

Division Two: Matthew Walker. **Division Three:** Andy Corfield. **Division Four:** Beth Raine.

Congratulations to all of the winners. A separate awards event for junior Harriers will be held in January and I will report on that in a future sports update.



Squash

Sedgefield Squash Club has secured an appearance from a real sporting superstar! On Friday 14th December, multiple world champion, Commonwealth Games gold medallist and former world number one Nick Matthew will be in Sedgefield for an evening of coaching and exhibition play. Nick will begin the evening with coaching sessions for the club's junior contingent – an amazing opportunity for the kids.

At least one club member (I'm looking at you Chris Bunting) is still dining out on the single point he won against Nick's long time professional rival James Willstrop, on the previous occasion a top professional paid a visit, so here's hoping that Sedgefield's youngsters will have similar stories to tell after their chance to play against one of the greatest players to have graced the sport.

After coaching the juniors, Nick will then move on to show Sedgefield's best players exactly where they really stand in squash's pecking order, and will end the evening with supper and drinks in Ceddesfeld Hall. It promises to be a fantastic evening and with club membership thriving, tickets for the event sold very quickly!

As ever, membership enquiries should go to Sue Smith at curlietailz@aol.com.

Cricket

Sedgefield Cricket Club has broken new ground following Paula Swindale's election as chair. After several years on the executive committee, Paula becomes the first woman to serve in this role. Given the long-standing efforts of women and girls over the years, increasingly so in recent times, this is a great milestone for the club. The AGM in early November was a genuinely positive affair, with all vacancies filled and on the junior front, the biggest problem is a surplus of coaches for all of the teams! This is a very positive position for Sedgefield Cricket Club to be in, and further testament of the determination to continue building upwards from the grass roots. Everyone at the Club also wishes to place on record their sincere thanks to Duncan Moss, who has been a popular chair over the last three years, but unfortunately through poor health decided that he needed to step down. The club is sure that Duncan will continue to support Sedgefield CC as the genuine "club-man" that he is. The recent bar refurbishment is now complete and has really improved the appearance of that area, at the same time creating more space for social functions. The clubhouse is available for hire to both members and non-members. See the Facebook page for details of how to make booking enquiries. You can easily keep up to date with everything going on by liking Sedgefield Cricket Club's Facebook page or following the Twitter feed.

Junior parkrun

At 9am on Sunday mornings, 5 year old Tilli Lewis (*right*) is on the start line of Junior parkrun, with lots of other children, all running, jogging or walking 2km round Hardwick Park.

Tilli is in Reception class at Sedgefield Primary School and has already run 50 parkruns – that's 100km or 62 miles! She started running when she was only 3, watching her Mum run and asking if she could do it too. She particularly likes to run with Mum or Dad and really likes to beat them! Tilli's own personal best time is 12 min 52 seconds.

Parkruns are free to take part in, very friendly and inclusive, and for any standard of runner, jogger or walker. If you are not ready to take the plunge, come and see it in action one Saturday morning at 9am or the junior run on Sunday. We start at the visitor centre in Hardwick Park. The event relies on volunteers so if you fancy standing in the park and cheering people on, come along and help with that. It's a great community to be part of.



That's all for this month. Please send sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com