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# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

## February 2016



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

### *Sedgefield's 'Legion of Volunteers' Celebrate Achievements*



Around 80 representatives of voluntary groups within Sedgefield attended 'A Celebration of Sedgefield Volunteers' in the Manor House on 17 December. The event, organised by Sedgefield Village Games, was in recognition of the work that residents of the village do for their community.

Sedgefield Town Council and the Co-operative sponsored the celebration, ensuring everyone could enjoy a glass of wine and some festive food. There was festive music from Lirica and SLYC, and speeches given by Chris Lines, who organised the event, and Hayley Gibson, Co-operative Team Manager.

Chris Lines spoke about the birth of the 'Sedgefield Village Games', and the work of the voluntary organisations, commenting that many of the people in the room hadn't met before, but despite this, they all have something in common; "a love of Sedgefield and a passion to sustain what makes our town special for the generations to come." Hayley focused on what the Coop could accomplish within the village, explaining the concept of the 'Doorstep Challenge' - an initiative launched nationwide by the company to encourage helping people in the community, by anonymously leaving shopping at their

doorstep. Hayley explained that in Sedgefield, residents can nominate a someone who they feel has had a tough time recently, and is selfless in their contributions to Sedgefield. The branch also has a Community Fund which any organisation can apply for, and in the past, the Community Hospital has benefited. The store has received formal recognition from Sedgefield's Mayor, and wishes to expand on its presence within the community.

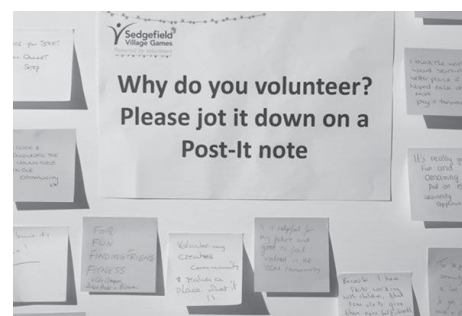
Representatives of various groups took part in the celebration, including Park Run, Guides, Harriers, Brownies, Lirica, Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir. When asked why they contribute to village life, most had a similar response: that volunteering is a way to make new friends, feel part of the community, and of course, have fun - to quote one of the Post-It notes on the SDT board, "Once you start, you cannot stop." Huge accomplishments are possible through volunteering. A member of the Sedgefield Guides has been selected to travel to the Philippines, which required her to be selected from all the Guides in the North East. Some organisations, such as the Lyrics choirs, have existed for over 40 years.

As well as being its own reward to the

volunteers, their work also provides a variety of activities that anyone can take part in; whether it be joining Rob Guest to sing in one of the choirs or running alongside 180 people at Park Run in Hardwick Park.

Sedgefield's vibrant community wouldn't be the same without our volunteers. There are hopes that this event will become an annual celebration, and that more voluntary organisations will be able to join in. Overall, it was great fun and an excellent chance for like-minded people to meet, as they continue to make Sedgefield a town to be proud of.

*Jake Graham*



#### **LAST MINUTE NEWS ...**

**The application by E.ON to build a wind farm at the Isles near Bradbury, has been withdrawn.**

On a cold wintery day it is still good to get out and about, as I often say there is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing. So where to go? Many of our local Durham and Tees Valley Wildlife Trusts Nature reserves are worth a visit in winter. As open water freezes at wetland reserves such as Portrack and Bowesfield Marshes, Rainton Meadows, Low Barns or Hardwick Lake, it can become easier to see some of the birdlife because they tend to concentrate in patches of water that haven't frozen or are out in the open on the ice.

You often see the two common members of the rail family trying to unsuccessfully walk on the ice; it can be quite comical as they look as though they are skating. If you look closely at Moorhens and Coots you can see their long toes which enable them to walk on soft surfaces. If you are very lucky and look closely at the edge of the vegetation you might get a glimpse of the slightly rare member of the rail family – the Water Rail. Smaller and distinctly slimmer than the Moorhen, the Water Rail is a fairly common but highly secretive inhabitant of freshwater wetlands. It has chestnut-brown and black upperparts, grey face and underparts and black-and-white barred flanks, and a long red bill, and is relatively easier to find in winter. The Wildlife Watchpoint at RSPB Saltholme is one of best places to glimpse this elusive bird.

Joining the Coot and Moorhen jostling for space in any patch of unfrozen water are the ducks – look closely and unlike the long toes of the rail they have webbed feet adapted for swimming. They also have a number of other adaptations depending how they feed; some dabble, others upend and some dive for their food. Most people can recognise a Mallard but how many other ducks do you know? Take a closer look next time you see a mixed collection of ducks, it could include a number of different species.

A common sight is our smallest duck the Teal; the resplendent male has a chestnut coloured head with a broad green eye-patch. You may also see the red headed Pochard and the Tufted Duck, with its crest and yellow eye. You might even see a duck that has a very large beak that sometimes looks too big for its head. The Shoveler is a surface feeding duck with a huge spatulate bill and males have dark green heads, with white breasts and chestnut flanks. If you spot a duck with a long upright tail you might be watching a beautiful Pintail. Finally, what often is regarded as a boring grey looking duck, the Gadwall, may be present. When seen in close up the grey colour is made up of exquisitely fine barring and speckling. So, the next time you are out and about and the wetlands are frozen over, spend a bit of time looking more closely at the ducks to see which ones you can identify.

## New opportunities in post 16 education

**Auckland Castle and Bishop Auckland College have joined forces to launch a new Apprenticeship Academy** to equip students with the expertise needed for the planned £60m redevelopment of the Castle. Four apprentices have joined the workforce over the past six months. More than 100 new full and part-time posts are predicted at Auckland Castle, from horticulturists to business administrators, maintenance staff, trainee chefs, customer service and hospitality workers. Between 15 and 20 students are expected to sign-up for the inaugural course starting in September. 34 apprentices will be taken on over three years, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

For details email your CV to [apprenticeships@bacoll.ac.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@bacoll.ac.uk) or call 01388 825824.

**The first University Technical College in the North East will open in September.** UTC South Durham will specialise in training young people for advanced manufacturing and engineering. Built on Aycliffe Business Park, where over 10,000 people travel to work every day, the location reflects the UTC's specialism by placing it next to some of the most advanced manufacturing and engineering facilities in the country. The University of Sunderland, Hitachi Rail Europe and Gestamp Tallent are the founding members of UTC South Durham and are committed to offering fast track routes to successful students, including enhanced offers for UTC students who go on to study at the University, guaranteed interviews with Hitachi Rail Europe and Gestamp Tallent if suitable positions are available and apprenticeship places for Gestamp Tallent exclusively for UTC students. Visit [www.utcsouthdurham.org](http://www.utcsouthdurham.org) for more information



## Photo opportunity!



The Friends of Sedgefield Harriers are producing a calendar for 2017, to go on sale in November 2016, to help raise funds for their "Back the Track" campaign. The example above, of Hardwick Park, is by Zoe Dobson. The Friends are asking for photo submissions for each month (Oct 2015 – Sept 2016) of local community related scenes and events. Pictures will be judged by members and the best for each month will be used in the calendar. Final selection will take place in October 2016 and photos can be submitted for any month up until that date. Please send submissions to [calendar@friendsofsedgefieldharriers.co.uk](mailto:calendar@friendsofsedgefieldharriers.co.uk) along with your name (or the name and contact details of the person who took the photo). The person submitting the photo must have obtained the necessary permission from the person who took it.

**Please send the best resolution photo you have.** For more information on the Friends of Sedgefield Harriers or their Back the Track campaign, please visit the website, [www.friendsofsedgefieldharriers.co.uk](http://www.friendsofsedgefieldharriers.co.uk) or the Friends of Sedgefield Harriers Facebook page. Happy Snapping!

The Friends next fundraising event is **The Winter Beer Festival** at the Parish Hall on 5th & 6th February. You can enjoy a large selection of beers from various breweries across the north east whilst listening to acoustic music.

Come and join us!

## Looking for a barrel of laughs

*The Beer Festival's ales are sponsored by lots of local companies and community groups, including the publisher of this paper. They will all be out in force on the first weekend in February for a sample - or two or three - of their chosen tipple.*

*See you there! Editor*





## Your letters

May I, through the column of this newsletter, thank all those who contributed in any way to Foodbank in the period running up to Christmas. The collection points at Sainsbury's and the Co-op were well used, as were those in the churches in the Sedgefield area. In addition, the volunteer evening held at the Manor House, hosted by Sedgefield Village Games, saw a large amount of food donated (see picture below). In the week leading up to Christmas 280kgs (about ¼ of a ton) of food was delivered to the foodbank warehouse in Chester le Street. This food, along with other donations from around Co. Durham, will supply the foodbank outlets throughout the county and support people in desperate need by providing emergency parcels that will provide food for three days. In the year to December 2015, 105,555 kgs of food were donated to foodbank from all the collection points in Co. Durham. In the Sedgefield corridor area (Sedgefield, Fishburn, Bishop Middleham and the Trimdons) 1,900kgs of food was collected.



A startling statistic is that in Co. Durham 1 in 4 people are living below the poverty line. In the year to December 2015 approximately 12,670 people were fed through foodbank (8,527 adults & 4,145 children). In the Sedgefield corridor area 267 people were helped through the distribution points (167 adults and 100 children). Thank you to all those who donate food; please continue to do so in the New Year. The amount donated leading up to Christmas and that which is given during the year, helps people who are in 'food crisis' and is an invaluable help to the foodbank initiative. There are collection bins (yellow wheelie bins) located in each of the churches in the area, in Sainsbury's and the Co-op in Sedgefield and the Co-op in Trimdon Village, as well as at St. William's School.  
*Many thanks, Michael King.*

## The Boys of Peru 85

2015 was the 30th Anniversary of Durham Schools Expedition - Peru 85. Six boys from Sedgefield Comprehensive, Ron Smith, Simon Johnson, Frazer Hood, Ken Wilkinson, David Stanier (Mordon) and Barry Cummings, along with teacher Peter England and Sedgefield's Dr Peter Jones, travelled to The Andes of Peru in 1985.

Improving and assisting in agricultural projects in the San Marcos region of the eastern Andes; searching for and bringing samples to Kew Gardens, London of the rare and previously un-propagated plant Rima Rima; and making the first ascent of Mount Tornillo in the Andes were only some of the expedition's achievements and success. Thirty years on, the expedition continues to have an influence on those involved, as well as on the wider community.

The expedition would not have been the success it was, had it not been for the help and support from the community of Sedgefield.

The expedition members wish to thank the business and charities as well as individuals from the community who gave their support to help 6 local teenagers achieve so much so young. Thank you Sedgefield, from the Boys of Peru.



## News in Brief

### Sedgefield correspondent retires

Having contributed weekly to the Town and Village page of Darlington and Stockton Times since April 2008, I gave up the post of Sedgefield correspondent in October 2015. I have approached a couple of likely candidates to take over from me, but no success so far.

If you are interested and would like further information on this useful and interesting amateur post, please call **01740 620091** or email **norma@neal.myzen.co.uk**.

### Have your say on devolution

If you are on the electoral role in County Durham (as at 1 December 2015) you will receive or will already have received a communication asking for your views on various aspects of the proposed North East devolution agreement. The questions in the Durham County Councils Devolution Poll have been impartially set by Durham University and the poll is being conducted independently of DCC. You have until 5pm on Monday 8th February to send your views by post or online.

### Our Post Office

Following the consultation, it has been confirmed that Sedgefield Post Office will relocate to the following location; **The Corner Shop, 1 White House Drive. It will re-open at 1pm on Wednesday 23rd March.**



### Sedgefield News Information

The deadline for the March edition is **Monday 15th February.**

Please send copy to **sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com**  
call/text **07572 502 904** or write to **55 White House Drive, TS21 3BU**

For SedgefieldWeb go to **www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk**  
email **sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk**  
Sports editor: **chrisjlines@aol.com**  
Diary & Events, email **diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com**

Sedgefield News is on Facebook, Twitter @sedgefieldnews & Instagram at #sedgynews.

## Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch

The first Neighbourhood Watch meeting of 2016 will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall at 7pm. Police Community Liaison Officer Lauren Wray and PC Keith Todd will be available to follow up anyone's problems.

In the absence of a January meeting, it might be a good time to revisit previous Neighbourhood Watch advice on the 'Keep a Light On' strategy and recent updates on telephone fraud given out through Durham Constabulary's 'Keep in the Know' messaging service.

**'Keep a Light On'** works by using timers to operate lighting within your house, while you are not there, to simulate the lighting of an occupied house in the hope of deterring opportunist thieves. This can be made more effective by using a special lamp which emits light similar to that of a TV set. For further advice and assistance, contact PCSO Wray (tel. **01325 732020**)

The police's **'Keep in the Know'** service has recently updated advice on telephone fraud. Fraudsters have taken to pretending to be from HMRC, attempting to convince victims that they owe money to the taxman and persuading them to forward substantial cash figures in settlement of this fictitious debt. Another approach is to pose as representatives of PPI recovery firms and then convince victims that they are eligible for a substantial PPI compensation award, payable on receipt of an upfront fee from the victim. In recent fraudulent calls victims have been asked to transfer funds to another bank account via 'Moneygram' or 'Western Union Transfer'. Remember these conmen are very well scripted and can be very plausible. Current advice is to never give or confirm personal details on the phone, to insist that you do not do business on the phone and simply hang up.

If you do get a call like this and someone advises you to ring somewhere, such as the police, your bank etc, to check that everything is genuine, you must be aware that even if you hang up it is possible to keep your telephone line open. This means that if you do follow the advice to make that second call then you run the risk of talking to the original caller (the conman) who will pretend to be the police or your bank, and will fool you into thinking that it is safe to do what the fraudster has suggested.

### Laura Bashford - a brief update

Thank you for your continued, kind support for Laura in her quest to replace her very inadequate wheelchair. Donations continue to arrive at the Editor's address, for which Laura is very grateful. Complications have arisen around the suitability of her car for the wheelchair, but progress is being made and we hope to show you results soon.

### Heartfelt thanks from Amy's wheelchair Fund

You know when you read an article that says a community has pulled together to try and make a difference for a good cause, when the heartbreaking reality is that it's actually a handful of people doing their best against the odds? Well that could not be further from the truth when it comes to the community effort that Sedgefield is capable of: it may be a small town but it has a massive heart and together it can achieve amazing things.

When Amy Stockill was diagnosed with a life threatening tumour in her cerebellum in June 2013, the world came crashing down on the Stockill family.

A twelve hour operation to save Amy's life was only the start and months of treatment, rehabilitation and physiotherapy followed. Now, two and a half years later, she is cancer-free but left with long term mobility issues that threatened to take away any chance of a normal, independent life. She needed a wheelchair that would suit her specific mobility needs - something unavailable on the NHS and which would cost thousands of pounds to buy privately. So we looked to her friends and the wider community to help, not really knowing what to expect. But you did AMAZINGLY. At the beginning of December, Amy finally took delivery of a brand new customised electric wheelchair that has already given her a level of independence and confidence that until now was impossible. From everyone at Wheelchair HQ we would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone that has helped to achieve this. *Ceri Craig*



# meikles

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### PC Todd's report

I am happy to report that crime remains low at the start of the New year.

However, two Burglaries were reported at Hardwick Country Park, where thieves smashed a window to gain entry and stole the charity box and on another night cut open a steel container and stole a quantity of electric tools.

An unprovoked assault was reported on Front Street where a male was punched for no reason.

The rear bumper was taken from a vehicle in Beech Oval and in Hawthorne Road a parcel left for the occupants at the door was stolen.

Youths are still wandering around late at night - two vehicles in Eden Drive which were egged had damage caused.

**Pub Watch.** Due to unforeseen circumstances, no Pub Watch meeting was held this month.

*Until next time,  
Keith*

### Useful Telephone numbers Local Police 101

Police Community Liaison Officer,  
**Lauren Wray 01325 732020**  
Parking Shop **0191 3846633**

### CAB Adviceline Numbers

From a land line: **08444 111 444**  
From a mobile: **0300 330 06 50**



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**It's been an exciting year for the Trust, with new projects coming on-stream, older ones developing; new trustees and new ideas abounding!** There should be lots to talk about at our AGM on the 15th and we'd like to invite anyone with an interest in our community to join us in the Old Courtroom at the Manor House for the evening. The formalities won't take long, so there will be plenty time for a chat over a drink and some nibbles!

Several of our projects have come from discussions after the meeting. If you live work or just visit Sedgefield, Fishburn, Mordon or Bradbury, you probably have ideas yourself, so why not let us hear them and find out what others think. These are quite relaxed occasions.

Current projects are Sedgefield News, SedgefieldWeb and linked social media, Sedgefield Energy Switch, Sedgefield Farmers Market, DIDO (days in days out) & Sew Easy. How are we doing, what could we do better? Let us know.

The Bee Keepers group is coming together and we are investigating establishing an apiary. Other suggestions are:

- A community growing project to grow food plants on public or community land with the produce freely available
- A tree planting project, perhaps with the Woodland Trust? Where could we find suitable land? Should we extend a woodland area or plant new shelter belts?
- Have we any solutions to the perennial need for a youth facility?
- Can we help use the library's closed times with a reading room venture?
- Is there demand for a "retired men's forum"

**It's your Trust - let us hear your voice!**

**Market News.** [farmersmarket@sedgefieldweb.co.uk](mailto:farmersmarket@sedgefieldweb.co.uk) Our new, dedicated email address should be up and running by the time you read this.

### Sedgefield Development Trust Limited Notice of Annual General Meeting

This is to give notice that Sedgefield Development Trust Limited will hold its Annual General Meeting on **Monday 15th February 2016 at 7.45 pm in the Manor House.** The business part of the meeting will be short, leaving plenty of time for discussion. This AGM is an open, public meeting. SDT is owned and controlled by the community.

Any special or general resolutions proposed must be with the Company at its registered office, 7 Melgrove Way, Sedgefield, TS21 2JN, no later than 12 noon on Friday 12th February 2016. All nominations for Directors must be with the Company Secretary by latest, noon Friday 12th February 2016.

Sedgefield Development Trust is a company limited by guarantee; Company Number: 4312745 and a registered charity, Charity Number: 1100806

### Sedgefield Energy Switch

#### LAST CHANCE FOR FEBRUARY AUCTION.

**Registration for the February Auction closes on 2nd February.** If you want to join the scheme this time your registration needs to be submitted by then. There will be no extension to this date. For those who joined last February, your contract will be coming to an end before the next auction in May, so if you want to continue with the savings the scheme might achieve, you must register again. Your contract only lasts 12 months and our advice is to register again for the auction that occurs just before your contract ends, not after.

#### THE NEXT AUCTION IS IN MAY and the key dates are as follows:

Registration opens on Tuesday 22nd March and closes on Monday 16th May. Auction day will be 17th May and Personal Offers will be issued from 27th May. Finally, Offer acceptance closes on 27th June

If you are happy to register on line yourself, go to [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk), open the ENERGY SWITCH section, simply click on the RED 'REGISTER NOW' button and then follow the links and fill out your details.

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

### Ceddesfeld Hall



*Home of Sedgefield Community Association*

Thank you to all who returned our questionnaires. A full report on the findings is to be found on the notice board. As expected, the most well attended event is the Mediaeval Fayre and other events such as the Snow Party, Sedgefield Day, the Beer Festival, Village Fireworks and Folk Festival, are very popular also. Ceddesfeld is busy throughout the year and 67% who took part in the questionnaire, visit once a week or more often and 71% visit the bar/lounge. Sue Archer and Thomas Guest were the lucky winners of the iPad mini and the steam cleaner. New event suggestions have already been considered, the first one being an Open Mic Night on February 20th (see details below). Our events list for 2016 is filling up fast. Easter Monday of course brings the traditional egg hunt and we look forward to celebrating Shakespeare in April. We hope to see you soon, and don't forget, the bar is open Sunday to Friday with real ale at very competitive prices.

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

#### Saturday 20th February

##### Open Mic Night at Ceddesfeld Hall

Open to anyone with an interest, or a need to share a performance with a willing and excited audience! If you can sing, play guitar, recite poetry, tell stories, perform a stand up routine, then we would be thrilled to hear you. It's £3 for a ticket and free to perform. A mic, amp and piano will be provided and the bar will be open. For tickets please call 622185 or email [diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com](mailto:diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com) TG



*Meet the Homebryth Jiggers!  
 They had great fun putting  
 this jigsaw together*





### Players @ the All England

On February the 11th Sedgefield Players and SPYS will take two award winning productions to Richmond Theatre Festival, which is part of the All England competition. If either production wins, the group will be expected to represent the region at the Northern Final, held in York. The two productions have already been presented at Sedgefield, winning multiple awards each, including for youth, direction, acting, ensemble and best production.

The SPYS offering is Celeste Raspanti's 'I never saw another butterfly', a tragic play based on the Jewish Ghetto of Terezin, during WWII. The Players, have something slightly more upbeat with their production, Anthony Nielson's 'The night before Christmas', where a suspicious elf, breaks into a warehouse in Christmas Eve and tries to convince three hapless victims that he really *is* an elf. Although very different, each production is equally entertaining and it would be wonderful to see audiences from Sedgefield, supporting the Players in Richmond.

For tickets, please go to [www.georgiantheatreroyal.co.uk](http://www.georgiantheatreroyal.co.uk).

### Tap Success

6 months ago, after a discussion with like minded friends and a posting in Sedgefield News, I started a Tap Class in the Parish Hall. The group has been massively well attended with regular attendees and new members joining all the time. Mattie Campbell, the tap teacher, has an excellent way of aiming the class at all ages and abilities; those who are new don't feel like they're never going to catch up, and those who are more advanced, are given more difficult options when developing routines.

It's not about performance, but more about exercise, learning a new skill and camaraderie. We have a great time every Monday and at just £3 a class, it is a fantastic way of spending an hour on a Monday evening. All ages, genders, abilities are welcome and it would be fantastic to see new members joining at any time. For information check out our advert, right. TG



Sedgefield Players  
 'The night before  
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 By Anthony Nielson



SPYS  
 'I never saw another  
 butterfly'  
 By Celeste Raspanti



**OPEN  
 MIC  
 NIGHT**

*See page 6 for details  
 of this new venture at  
 Ceddesfeld Hall*

### Snowdrop Walk

On Sunday 28th February a Snowdrop Walk will be taking place at Hardwick Park. The event is free and will include arts and crafts, Snowdrop planting and refreshments. Donations on the day will go to support Child Bereavement UK.

Patron, Alan Titchmarsh said "Please support Child Bereavement UK's Snowdrop Walk. It's a lovely way to shake off the cobwebs at this time of year and enjoy the fresh air.

By planting a snowdrop in memory of a loved one, you will be helping Child Bereavement UK support bereaved families and children, helping them to rebuild their lives."

You can take the walk at any time between 12 noon and 3pm.



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## SPORTS UPDATE

email [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)

As we start another year in Sedgefield, sporting life in our community continues to thrive. In these updates, I do my best to report the highlights, but I am always conscious that there is a lot more happening than I cover. It's impossible to write about everything and I can only include that which I know about. However, it would be great to hear from a few more correspondents, so do please get in touch if you have sporting news to share.

Wherever we look, 2016 is going to be big in the world of sport. Along with all of the usual annual events, we can look forward to the European Championships in football and the Ryder Cup in golf, and of course, it's another Olympic and Paralympic year. Can Team GB come anywhere close to matching the achievements of London 2012? That might be a bit too much to expect, but Rio is bound to present another fantastic festival of sport in the summer and I am sure that we can anticipate plenty of excitement much closer to home too.

### Football

At the start of the season, St. Edmund's FC had a strong squad of players available for selection and everyone at the club was optimistic about the prospects ahead. Unfortunately, the team endured its worst start for years and a massive improvement was needed. That is exactly what has happened.

At the time of writing this, the team is enjoying an 11 game winning run, which has seen St. Edmund's reach the last 16 of the County Cup, the semi-final of the League Cup, and continue to make progress in the Heart Foundation and Alan Smith cups, while also slowly climbing the Premier League table. This is the club's 50th season as a Sunday league football club, so to win a trophy this year would be extra special and this team is certainly good enough to do that.

### Squash

The annual Sedgefield Squash Club handicap competition was held over December and January, with a large number of members competing across the whole ability spectrum. Once again, the organisers had their work cut out assigning handicaps to ensure that all matches were as closely contested as possible, and it is fair to say that they did well this year, with the final being played by two non-team players for the first time in over 10 years - Chris Stephenson and Shaun Bottomley.

With Shaun conceding only two points to Chris, it was always going to be a tight game, and the players did not disappoint. Shaun took the first game and found himself at match point in a closely fought second game at 14-14. However, the pressure told as Shaun served out to hand Chris the second game, drawing level. In the deciding game, Chris developed an initial lead but Shaun rallied towards the end, setting up a close finish, before another serving error handed Chris the match. An enjoyable game was appreciated by the spectators. Well done to both players.

#### Where they stand now

At the halfway point of the Durham and Cleveland squash season, the outlook for the rest of the season looks positive for Sedgefield's teams. The men's 1st team have had a great start, winning six of eight matches in the Division 1. The team currently lies fifth in the division, only separated from second place by nine points, which can quickly be recovered if they have a strong second half of the season. Home matches have once again seen a packed balcony watching the county's best players in action.

In Division 3, the 2nd team have led the division for most of the season, and at the halfway point lie in second place, with a game in hand. By contrast, the 3rd team, who have lost some key players to injury, lie at the foot of the same division. It will be a big ask to avoid relegation, but they have had some close matches so a "great escape" cannot be ruled out! The 4th team lying 5th out of 10 in Div 5, have put in solid performances and have again introduced new players this season.

The Ladies 1st team have had a remarkable turnaround from last season, and are in second place in Ladies Division 1. The Ladies 2nd team sit at the foot of

Division 2, although once again, Sedgefield is the only club that has been able to field two ladies' teams. The season resumed in January and all teams will be hoping to maintain form, with the men's 2nd team looking like a particularly good prospect for promotion.

Work commenced on refurbishing the squash club entrance and changing rooms in December, and is now complete, providing the club with vastly improved male and female changing facilities, and also allowing disabled access to the club. This work was made possible through funding received from the Terrace Hill funds allocated by the town council, and from county councillor John Robinson, and Sedgefield Squash Club would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you for the support received which allows the club to be such an asset to the community.

### Athletics

The winter cross country season is in full swing, with regular trail and fell runs taking place all over the North East and further afield.

The year's fun and games started on New Year's Day with the Captain Cook's Race, a five mile dash from Great Ayton to Captain Cook's Monument and back, that always attracts a strong field of runners. Five Sedgefield Harriers tackled the senior race, and one junior ran in the U14 event. James Oldfield led the seniors home in 10th place overall, followed by Ian Blakemore, Chris Lines, Martyn Cooper and Ray Carmichael. Ciaran Lines was third U14 boy. Two days later, there was a big turnout for the Harriers' first grand prix race of the season, the Old Monks, another multi-terrain route of about five miles that started and finished in Hart village.

First male Harrier, and second overall, was James Oldfield, soon followed by club colleagues Paul Weir, Ian Blakemore and Justin Cox in seventh, tenth and eleventh respectively. First Sedgefield lady was Tracy Henderson, followed by Emma Featherstone and Lisa Darby. Well over 20 Harriers took part in the race, getting the grand prix competition off to a great start.

#### Winter Handicap

A week later, Sedgefield Harriers



*Harrier James Oldfield enjoying himself far too much in the water during the winter handicap! Photo by Paul Glaister*



hosted its first event of the year, the winter handicap race for the Gerry Kearsley Memorial Trophy. Once again generously supported by Peggy Kearsley, the event saw over 100 runners of all ages from numerous clubs (and unattached runners) tackle a very wet six mile route on paths and trails between Fishburn and Bishop Middleham.

Due to the handicap system, runners started at different times, depending on their best 10K time from the previous 12 months. Some runners started 25 minutes later than others, which resulted in most finishing their race within a few minutes of each other. The overall winner was Peter Smith of Aycliffe Running Club. First Sedgefield man was Mil Walton, followed by Graeme Addison and Gary Thwaites. First Sedgefield lady was Siobhan Dowson, followed by Alda Hummelinck and junior Sam Glaister.

As always, the handicap race was made possible due to the hard work of many volunteers before, during and afterwards. Sedgefield Harriers is grateful to everyone involved and to Fishburn Club for allowing the venue to be the base for the event.

That's all for this month. As always, please send any sports news to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com).

## A message from the new Treasurer at St Edmund's Church

During 2015 I took over as Treasurer at St Edmund's from Brian Whitehead, who had fulfilled this role for many years. I thought that as the year turns, it would be a good time to share with everyone who attended Community Services of Celebration and other Services at Church last year, how their generosity, when they have supported friends and relatives at a time of sadness through bereavement, have benefited local and National Charities.

Service collections and church donations led to a total of nearly £5,200 through the year, for which all groups receiving the monies have expressed their thanks.

### Charities to benefit have been;

The Disasters Emergency Committee (£1000), The Lullaby Trust (£400), Cancer Research (£686), R.A.B.I. (£337), Christian Aid (£528), Royal British Legion (£200), Church Urban Fund (£500), Justice First (£500) and the Mayor's Charities Fund (£380).

The remaining amounts have gone to other charities selected by families of the bereaved:

Guide dogs for the blind, NE Air Ambulance, British Heart Foundation, North Tees NHS Trust, Save Our Strays, Mothers Union, SCA and Scouts.

Once again thank you for your valued donations in 2015, it really does make a difference. If you would be interested in making regular donations to St Edmund's through the gift aid scheme, either by means of the envelope scheme or a standing order, please get in touch via email, [crowsby@crowsby.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:crowsby@crowsby.fsnet.co.uk) or call 01740 621125. I can also explain how higher rate tax payers need to record their participation in this scheme with their tax office.

As an ad hoc visitor, you can support us by putting your collection into the Gift envelopes and filling in your details in order that we can claim an extra 25% gift aid on top of your donation from the tax man; envelopes and pens are in every pew for your convenience.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2016.

*Chris Rowsby*

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# FEBRUARY 2016 DIARY

email [diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com](mailto:diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com)

Date	Event
Mon 1st	<b>Sedgefield Local History Society</b> 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall. Death, dirt and Diseases in Durham by David Butler
Wed 3rd	<b>WI Parish Hall</b> 7.15pm "Titanic - Truths and Myths" an illustrated talk by Bernard Hope. Members' competition is a necklace. Faith Supper.
Thu 4th	<b>Sedgefield Library's Harry Potter Book Night.</b> Activities will continue throughout February
Fri 5th	<b>Sedgefield Veterans Coffee Morning</b> in the Parish Hall, 10am - 12 noon <b>U3A Parish Hall</b> , 2pm. Pamela Petty from EBAC. "An Entrepreneur's Daughter" All members welcome - guest £3 at the door ☎ 620526
Sat 6th	<b>Sedgefield Cricket Club Quiz.</b> 8pm <b>Sedgefield Library</b> National Libraries Day, Councillor Rachel Lumsdon Drop in from 10 - 11.30am. Story session for younger children 10.30am
Sun 7th	<b>Farmers' Market</b> on the Green from 8.30am.
Mon 8th	<b>Methodist Wives &amp; Friends</b> 7.30pm. Costa Rica - Kate Dovaston <b>Really Easy Bridge</b> Lessons at Ceddesfeld Hall. 1.30 - 4pm. For more info: ☎ 620607 - Pat Buckley
Tue 9th	<b>Neighbourhood Watch Panel Meeting</b> Fletcher Room, Parish Hall, 7pm <b>Sedgefield Ladies' Club</b> 7.30pm, Ceddefeld Hall. Liz Smedley on China
Thu 11th	<b>Sedgefield Show Meeting</b> 8pm at Sedgefield Social Club <b>Sedgefield Players &amp; SPYS.</b> All England Theatre Festival. See article p7.
Fri 12th	<b>Country Market</b> 10 - 11.30am Parish Hall. Home baking, plants, crafts
Sat 13th	<b>'Strictly Come Sedgefield'.</b> Dance to the Little Big Band. Tickets £10 inc buffet supper from STC Office or call 622447
Mon 15th	<b>Deadline for Sedgefield News March edition</b> <b>Sedgefield Family History Group.</b> Ceddesfeld Hall 7.15pm. Drunken Midwives & Common Strumpets: Parish Registers & contents by David Butler <b>Sedgefield Development Trust AGM</b> , 7.45pm, The Manor House.
Tue	<b>Ferryhill, Sedgefield &amp; District Flower Club</b> Parish Hall 7.30pm. Rebecca Hough "It's a Vibrant Life"
Thu 18th	<b>Sedgefield Library</b> Free Arts and Crafts Session. Limited availability so please book in advance. ☎ 03000 269521
Fri 19th	<b>Sedgefield Cricket Club</b> Live Music Night, 7.45 Performers include Broadband and John Wrightson Band £10 inc Buffet ☎ 621347
Sat 20th	<b>Sedgefield in Bloom</b> Dance to Rootin Tootin. Parish Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets £10, inc. pie & peas, from council office. BYO drinks & glasses.
Mon 22nd	<b>Methodist Wives and Friends</b> 7.30pm Signing, with Katie McGuinness
Tue 23rd	<b>Sedgefield Ladies Club</b> 7.30 Ceddesfeld Hall, the Music of Jerome Kern by George Hetherington
Sun 28th	<b>Snowdrop Walk</b> Hardwick Park, 12 - 3. Entrance free, donations to raise money for Child Bereavement UK. ☎ 01494 568912

## Looking ahead

### Friday March 4th: The Annual Civic Ball at Hardwick Hall Hotel

Tickets are £28.50 - email [jane@sedgefield.net](mailto:jane@sedgefield.net) or telephone 01740 621273. Cheques payable to Sedgefield Town Council Mayor's Charity. Black Tie event, with tables of 10. Entertainment by Jeff Wright & Music for Dancing by Celebration Entertainment. In aid of local groups & organizations and the Alzheimer's Society

### March 17th - 19th: Sedgefield Players present 'Dirty Dusting'

A hilarious comedy by Ed Waugh & Trevor Wood. Tickets from Tickety Boo, visit [www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk), or ☎ 621771

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Saturday 13th: Jimmy Moon.

Monday 15th: Colin Mee. Country Night

Saturday 20th February: Danny Ocean.

Saturday 27th February: Terry James.

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