



SEDGEFIELD NEWS

February 2017

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

The Final Fling, 2016

Friday night certainly was Music Night as The Cricket Club hosted the annual Welly Hayers' Variety Show during the New Year's weekend. Attentive readers of The News might remember that this event was previewed in October's edition of the paper. Anyone who took the opportunity to attend was treated to a distinctive assortment of comedy and musical entertainment. Occasionally accomplished, sometimes not quite so, this good humoured fun was enthusiastically embraced by a receptive audience of over a hundred. The event, which has run for almost twenty years, is all about raising money for charity whilst having a fun night out. In that time, a number of charities have been beneficiaries with the Air Ambulance Service receiving donations on a number of occasions. This year Cancer Research will benefit from the Welly Hoyer's efforts following recent deaths due to cancer of friends and colleagues who have been associated with the show over a number of years. The show kicked off with a stirring performance of the Black Eyed Peas' party anthem, 'Tonight's Gonna be a Good Night'. The performers, looking more "Dippy Hippy" than "Hip Hop Dance Pop", revealed themselves to be a collection of members and friends of the organising committee. The earnest, but not too serious, approach to the evening having been established Charlie, one of the band members, stepped forward to explain the history of the noble and honourable art of Welly Hoyoing.

Taking the audience back to the 1970s, he conjured a vision of bored Sedgefield farmers passing their time competing to see who could throw their Welly the furthest. The idea caught on and very soon crowds would gather down 'The Crimer' (the playing field between Ivy House and Hornby Avenue), wellies in hand,



The Milliners. Below: Martin & Dave Hodgeson



desperate to be crowned Sedgefield Welly Hoyoing champion. Soon the sport had spread, team competitions sprang up and

continues on page 11

Charity fundraiser continues to raise the bar

A dedicated fundraiser has vowed to continue to raise money and awareness for cancer charity group Bloodwise, after seeing recent contributions under his #NotOneInch banner exceed £25k. Paul McGeary from Newton Aycliffe was 33 when he was struck with Acute Promyelocytic Leukaemia just over two years ago. Despite beating the disease in 2015, he suffered a heartbreaking relapse in July 2016. Throughout the ordeal, McGeary busied himself raising funds. With help and encouragement from family, friends and strangers alike, efforts in those 2 years accumulated £24,112.38, prior to Christmas. McGeary was buoyed just days into 2017 by a phone call from Sedgefield Community College, where he works as a Maths teacher, to say that staff and pupils had raised almost £1500, meaning the £25k mark was eclipsed, bringing the current total raised to a whopping £25,582.23. "I was made aware that school were raising monies, but had no idea contributions would

reach anywhere near £1500. I almost fell over when I was told of the total amount," he said.

"I couldn't have been much prouder of the efforts of the students and my work colleagues, and it gives me motivation to continue to raise awareness and funds, and also to beat this disease a second time and lead a normal life again, including a return to work." Previously, staff and students from the high-achieving school – which recently featured in The Sunday Times online list of the UK's top-50 11-16 schools – had raised £700, meaning almost 10% of the total amount has come via their efforts. The school supports many charities, but when student reps were asked who they wished to raise funds for via the annual non-uniform day and Christmas celebrations, they unanimously agreed on Mr McGeary's campaign.

A spokesman said "The students have followed his story from day one, and have really bought into the message of raising vital funds and awareness for

Bloodwise ... They should be really proud, as we are of them."

Mr McGeary has now launched a campaign to get more people signed up to the bone marrow registry; he himself seeks a donor to further improve his chances of beating leukaemia for good. People in good health, aged 16-55, can find more at www.anthonynolan.org



Paul McGeary with Head Boy, Robbie Till and Head Girl, Eleanor James

Steve's Nature Diary

The natural world month by month: February

I am writing this just after a birding trip to Hartlepool fish quay – a strange place you might think to go to look for birds. In winter, it is possible to see a number of birds that come into shelter and feed in and around Hartlepool Headland. This includes common waders like Oystercatcher, Redshank, Curlew and Turnstone which especially at high tide can be seen in amongst the rocks. You may also see small groups of hyperactive Sanderling following the tide in and out looking for food. There may be some sea ducks as well, such as Common Scoter and Eider.

But in winter it's the Gulls and Divers that I go to see and it was my lucky day as I managed to see two of the white winged gulls both at the same time which helps with identification. Scanning gulls can get a little tedious but it's the only way to spot the visitors from the North – you need to check their wings. Both Iceland and Glaucous Gulls have white wing tips. The first bird I saw was the Iceland Gull, the smaller one of the two which is slightly smaller than a Herring Gull with a rounded head and smallish beak, giving it a somewhat dove-like expression.

This was then joined by a much larger bird; a **Glaucous Gull** (pictured), bigger than a Herring gull and bulkier, with a fiercer expression, larger beak and squarer head. Both feed on fish either alive or dead with the bigger Glaucous Gull quite often chasing smaller gulls and forcing them to drop their catch so they can eat it. It was a good start to the New Year list.



Next was to scan the harbour to look for some more winter specialities: a diver or two. Three divers can generally be seen off the east coast and I was looking for the largest of the three, the Great Northern Diver. This bird, like the gulls, breeds further north in Greenland, Iceland and Svalbard and is a winter visitor to Hartlepool. It has a bigger, heavier head (with bumpy forehead) and bill than its commoner relatives the Red-throated and Black-throated Divers. All the divers in winter are black and white and to see them in their true glory you need to go to Scotland in the summer. That's another story, but it is still good to see them in winter plumage not far from home.



Charities benefit from Sedgefield Tree Festival

Two local organisations have benefited from the highly-praised Christmas Tree Festival staged in December at St Edmund's Church, Sedgefield.

Cheques for £1400 each were this week presented to representatives from Butterwick Hospital in Stockton and DFW Adoption in Durham.

The presentations were made on behalf of the church by Lay Reader Michael King, who praised the enthusiasm and dedication of the team responsible for organising the festival, the tree sponsors and members of the community who had supported the event in many ways. "There is no doubt it has been a huge success", he said.

Michael (centre) is pictured right, handing over cheques to Jenny Parkin of DFW Adoption and Steve Jackson of Butterwick Hospice, both of whom thanked St Edmund's and the festival organisers for their financial support.

News in Brief

Temporary speed restrictions

are in place on the A689 until the end of February to enable works to be undertaken on the 'rail over road' bridge adjacent to the Vet Hospital/ petrol station near junction 60 of the A1(M). Delays can be expected.

Expansion of NetPark

A planning application has been submitted to Durham County Council, including a full application for a new road from the existing roundabout within NetPark, running parallel to the A177, and for a new junction giving the new road access to the A177.

There is also an outline application for up to 14 two-storey buildings. Further details can be found on the Durham County Council website.

The reference is DM/16/04042/FPA .



Our next Business Breakfast will take place on 28th February 2017 at the Hardwick Hall Hotel, 8 am to around 9.30 am. Booking is essential, but there is no charge. Anyone in business in Sedgefield, or living in Sedgefield with business involvement elsewhere, is welcome. **Please contact sedgefieldbn@gmail.com to reserve a place, by 13th February at the absolute latest, please.**

We also have the possibility of organising some digital skills training across one or two days, if there is sufficient interest. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

Bright Water display

Why not take time to visit Sedgefield library and find out about this project, which covers the regeneration of the River Skerne and surrounding area. For those who would like to explore further, the Library has free leaflets for walks around Bishop Middleham and Hurworth reservoir.



Barrel Racing *by Kelly Aitken*

Jessica Darnton, from Sedgefield, has been offered the opportunity to compete in barrel racing in America.

12-year-old Jessica has been offered the chance to go to Atlanta, Georgia to ride trained barrel horses and to represent England in the Youth World Barrel Competition at the end of July. Barrel racing is a sport which originated in America. Horse and rider attempt to complete a course around pre-set barrels in the fastest time.

Jessica is currently trying to raise enough funds to make her dream come true and enable her to take this fantastic opportunity in the birthplace of the sport, the USA.

Last summer, Jessica and her family sadly lost her beloved pony, Abbi, who she had been training and competing on for the past two years. Jessica told me that becoming Northern Lights Junior Champion twice on Abbi has been her biggest accomplishment in barrel racing so far.

The National Barrel Horse Association England, offered her this chance and Jessica and her family are currently trying to raise enough funds to go to the USA, which could open many doors for the 12-year-old to travel and compete in her sport all around the world.

If you would like to help, donations can be made at

<https://www.gofundme.com/get-jessica-to-usa-to-compete-in-yo>



Surviving Bereavement

One Step Forward (formerly Sedgefield Bereavement Support Group) have been meeting every Thursday (from 3 to 5 pm) in St. Edmund's Church since the beginning of November 2014. Although we are closed between Christmas and New Year, people can still contact me or other members of the group by phone, text or email during the festive season. Over the next few editions, I hope to be able to provide some insight into bereavement and how it affects us and those around us.

As I write this, we have just finished celebrating Christmas and the New Year, a time when we are expected to be supremely happy. For many of us, Christmas is a painful reminder of those we have lost, but we are expected to put our grief to one side, and concentrate on having FUN.

What is grief? Grief is the love that we feel for someone when that someone is no longer with us. We grieve when someone we love dies, but we can also grieve when a child leaves home, or moves abroad; when we leave/lose our job; when a relationship ends; when we relocate. I refer to it as a steam train, as the effect is so total, so overwhelming, and we have no control over it. Some of these losses also act as a trigger, and a previous bereavement can resurface when we least expect it.

How do we manage grief? When the steam train comes, we have no option

First of a short series

but to go with it. There are as many ways to cope with the effect of grief as there are people. There is no right or wrong way, so long as no one is adversely affected, but one of the best ways is to acknowledge it. Painful as it is, it is far worse NOT to talk about the person who has died and the effect their death has had on us.

Grief has a very physical effect on us: we feel physical pain; we hear those we have lost; smell their perfume; see them even. And when we come across someone newly bereaved, we don't know what to say, so we avoid talking about the bereavement. We avoid eye contact, even cross the road to avoid talking to them, because we don't know what to say, for fear of upsetting the newly-bereaved.

Terry Kettering's poem 'The Elephant in the Room' describes beautifully the effect of not talking about a bereavement. Copyright prevents me from reproducing the poem, but it ends: 'For if we talk about her death, perhaps we can talk about her life.

Can I say her name to you and not have you look away?'

If you have been bereaved recently, or not-so-recently, talk to someone about the one you have lost, and please feel free to join us in St Edmund's on a Thursday afternoon. *Panny Pighills* Call 01740 620909, 07443 423114 or email pandppighills@btinternet.com



In 2017... why not pledge to use less plastic?

Plastic can be a menace to the environment and dangerous for animals but the good news is there are so many easy ways you can reduce the amount of plastic you buy, and throw away:

- Buy a reusable coffee cup
- Take a reusable shopping bag out with you – keep one in your car or bag!
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- Buy products without microbeads – look for Polyethylene & Polypropylene in the ingredients and avoid them
- Buy loose vegetables in paper bags rather than plastic packaged veg
- Avoid balloon releases

The deadline for the March edition is **Monday 13th February.**

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

For SedgefieldWeb go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk or email sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk

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Community Safety

To contact local police, call 101

Letter from PC Todd

Happy New Year to you all. I'd like to stay positive and look forward to a crime free 12 months but sadly, the New Year has not started well for some residents with a number of burglaries and cases of criminal damage occurring in and around the village. Burglaries took place at Sedgefield Cricket Club, Hardwick Park Visitor Centre and at a property at Howe Hill Plantation as well as at dwellings in White House Drive and Kerr Crescent. Residents should make sure they consistently take all routine precautions to minimise the risk of such danger to themselves. *(See Neighbourhood Watch advice.)*

In Chestnut Road a window was broken by a brick and in Naylor Road a window was smashed by unknown persons throwing an unidentified object at it. It is also a good time to remind residents to be ever alert to Fraud scams. Fraudsters will use telephone, post or email to target people (very often the elderly) to relieve you of your money.

Be wary of any stories given to you by unsolicited communications of this type – stories that will always end in a request for you to send some of your money or financial details. In a recent fraud of this type victims are informed that they owe HMRC tax and that, to prevent them being arrested, they should pay the debt in a manner which is then described to them. This is, of course all nonsense. Official bodies would never make such threats in such a casual way. The police take all crime seriously and invite all residents to report any suspicious activity they see, including vehicle registration numbers, which might assist in apprehending offenders.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently at the Hardwick Arms. Licensees reported a busy Christmas period but a quiet New Year. No incidents were reported that required further action by members.

Despite the regrettable closure of The Crosshills, the village still retains many drinking and food outlets, and I would encourage residents new and old to visit these premises – drinking responsibly at all times, of course!

Until next time.

Keith

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

Basic home security In view of PC Todd's latest crime report it is a good time to remind people of the measures we can all take to make the criminal's task more difficult. Make it a habit to keep doors and windows locked *even* when you are at home and check that all windows and doors are locked when you leave home. Don't leave the opportunity the thief or burglar is waiting for.

After dark use timing switches to turn on lights or a radio while you are out; make your home appear occupied.

Don't buy from cold callers at the door. Why not display a 'No Cold Calling' home sticker and ignore any uninvited callers - *especially* those who ignore *your* notice?

Bogus Callers & Walk in Theft. Do not allow anyone into your house. A door chain or a door bar are very useful in helping you to control who enters your house.

Garden Security Mark your valuables with your post code using a simple UV pen. Don't leave tools, toys, bikes etc. out unattended; lock them away - preferably out of sight!

To report concerns, seek advice or pass on information to local police, please call 101. Note down details of any conversation and the incident number you will be given. You can also contact our PCSO, Faye Callan, by phone on 101 Extension 754269 or by email - Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk

The first meeting of the Neighbourhood and Crime Watch Panel takes place on Tuesday 14th February at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Come along and discuss matters with our local Police and fellow residents or simply hear about current crime matters direct from the local Police Team.

New Year, New Beginning

Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club is now "officially" in possession of its new home, having moved into the building in the last days of November, only a week or two behind the original schedule. Manager Sue Bell, explained, "Small groups of children had visited the new building in the days leading up to the completion of the centre, so that they would have some experience of their new space when moving day arrived. When the day came, we finished club on Friday evening and worked through the weekend so the children could start the next week in their new building."

The Out of School Club celebrated the completion of their new facility with an official opening ceremony and reception on January 12th, when the building was opened by nine year old Grace Rowe, assisted by the Mayor of Sedgefield, Cllr. Chris Lines. Grace, an Out of School Club member and pupil of the Rectory Row school, won the chance to cut the ceremonial ribbon when her name was pulled of the hat in a draw for the honour. Councillor Lines addressed the crowd of parents, children, supporters and friends of the Club, congratulating staff and management on the completion of the project. He highlighted the club's growth and development in recent years and looked forward to a continuation of that success. A reception in the new building gave everyone the chance to experience the spaces for smaller children downstairs and junior school children in the mezzanine area. The dedicated craft area and the large, well equipped kitchen also attracted positive comment. Visitors socialised together and to speak to staff and managers about this exciting, new stage in the development of the Out of School Club.

Ms Bell was gratified by the strong turnout for the opening was very gratifying and received "very positive feedback from parents". "Obviously," she continued, "the children are delighted with their bright new surroundings, comfortable furnishings and improved equipment."

More importantly, the new situation presents some exciting possibilities for the future. Managing the new facility will result in fewer overheads, allowing Fun Club to expand its provision during holiday times and the newly vacated room in the school building can now be used by Sedgefield Primary as a nursery facility. Sue feels that these developments can "lead to greater flexibility to respond to the needs of children and parents and to improve the provision of wrap-around care on the site."

Contact details for The Out of School Club are on the Sedgefield Primary School website.


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And, with others, Citizen of the Year

All of this belongs to all of you. SDT is propelled by volunteers (over 100 of us at the last count) who remarkably, are almost always willing to go the extra step to make things work.

Our AGM on Monday 13th will start with a short formal part: election of Trustees, annual reports, accounts etc., but that is usually pretty straightforward. The second part - informal, with a glass or two to sustain the chat, is the best bit. You bring ideas, we talk about them, you challenge us, we try to share a vision. And it works! Most of our best projects have come from these informal sessions. We're making a big song and dance about it here this month because together, we have such enormous potential. All *you* have to do now is to be there!

Roger Clubleby, Chairman

It's a New Year in February for our Farmers' Market

The first Sunday falling on New Year's Day gave us the chance to take a breather last month and gather our thoughts about the year to come; but oh, how we missed our fresh winter veg! It's great to be back.

The demand for gluten free products has grown hugely in the last few years, and we have been trying for a while to cater for that demand. So it's with real pleasure that we introduce Mandy's Gluten Free this month. This company is the brainchild of Mandy Bond (herself a Coeliac) and her husband Keith, also gluten free for health reasons. Their slogan is Gluten Free - not Taste Free. Promising!

Sedgfield Energy Switch

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR THIS PERIOD IS 13th FEBRUARY.

The October auction was a great success with more than 50% of the 226 people who registered switching to the winning supplier. With average household savings exceeding £150 this means that Sedgfield residents have saved themselves more than £113,000 since our scheme started.

The energy market still continues to be unpredictable with gas prices appearing to have settled down after earlier increases but electricity has seen further increases. Results from our scheme, in this changing market, have still been good and we hope that the February auction results will also continue with previous trends, particularly as the market appears to be more settled than it was in October.

We believe that joining our scheme still gives you the opportunity of avoiding or minimising those increasing costs. So register now - there's nothing to lose and maybe something to gain.

To register online, go to the Energy Switch page at www.sedgfieldweb.co.uk. Click on 'REGISTER NOW' and follow the prompts.

If you would prefer to register and receive information through the post, or if you need any assistance, please call the Sedgfield Development Trust Helpline on **07980 134 594**. We will be happy to help or complete your registration for you. Registering for the scheme commits you to nothing and you will not receive unwanted phone calls.

Home of Sedgfield

Community Association

On behalf of SCA may I take this opportunity to wish all members and visitors to Ceddesfeld Hall, very best wishes for the New Year.

2016 has been a busy and successful year. The big events such as mediaeval fayre, Sedgfield day, the beer festival and the Easter picnic were enjoyed by hundreds of local residents as well as visitors to the town.

Music seems to be very popular with increasing numbers of people joining the wide variety of groups based at the hall, as well as taking part in events such as Open Mic and other musical evenings. Other interest groups have also seen a rise in membership. Huge thanks must go to the volunteers who organise activities throughout the year.

Plans for 2017 are already underway with some exciting changes planned. As mentioned last month, a refurbishment of the main hall, including new furniture (tables and chairs), restoration of the floor and redecoration is to start soon. New musical equipment, (speakers, microphones, sound mixer and lighting) and new gazebos to improve outdoor events have also been purchased. Grants from DCC Neighbourhood Community Fund and the Co-op Community Fund have gone towards the costs. Special thanks must go to County Councillor John Robinson and to Hayley Gibson at the Co-op for their support and assistance. SCA is keen to grow and improve facilities in order to serve the community in the best way possible.

All information on special events and regular activities, as well as room hire (main hall & meeting rooms) and bar opening times can be found the SCA website which has recently been redesigned by Sedgfield Web Design. Ceddesfeld Hall is run completely by volunteers. We need people to help on the bar (during the week and on special days) and to help with the organisation of big events etc. Please get in touch if you'd like to help out. The main hall is very busy during the week and a slot has now become available on Friday mornings from 9am to 12am if anyone needs the space for a regular activity.

For more information, contact Wendy on 620206: Pat 620607: Sarah 622185 or go to www.sedgfieldsca.org.uk

SPYS and Players perform at the Georgian after another successful Pantomime.

The Sedgefield Players' production of Rapunzel which took place between Christmas and New Year was an enormous success with fantastic feedback from its sold out audiences. But the Players and SPYS are not resting on their laurels and they are already well underway with their next 3 projects. The March production this year will be Elaine Murphy's 'Shush', a warm and comedic play about 5 Irish Women coping with the dissolution of

their marriages and friendships on one drunken night.

After the success of last year's trip to the local round of the All England Festival at the Georgian Theatre in Richmond, the Sedgefield Players and SPYS will be taking their latest offerings on Friday 3rd February. The SPYS will perform first, with Fin Kennedy's 'The Unravelling' - a magical tale woven with skill and precision by the young performers.

This will be followed by the Sedgefield Players with 'The Regina Monologues', a wonderful piece exploring the six wives of Henry VIII, through modern eyes.

If either of the two performances are victorious they will move on to the regional round, competing against teams from around the Northern Final at Saltburn in May.

Last year's success at Richmond saw the Players and SPYS win 5 of the 9 awards, including Best Play.



Sedgefield Players & SPYS. Photos by Tom Guest

Fund raiser for Sedgefield Folk Festival

We are now in the 12th year of hosting the Sedgefield Folk Festival which takes place this year from 1st to 3rd September. As the Festival is run entirely without any external funding, we need to organise one or two fund raising events each year to help towards the expenses of the Festival.

The first of these is on 17th February at Sedgefield Cricket Club, when the performers are drawn from the people who support us year after year. They include Pipe Dream, Ray Thom, Bert Draycott, Ann Lamb, Broadband, Auld Vagabonds, Gebees, John Weighell and the John Wrightson Band.

Admission is £10 and includes a buffet. Please ring 621347 for further details.

Joan Edmundson

Sedgefield Development Trust
will hold its
Annual General Meeting
on Monday 13th February
in the Fletcher Room at
Sedgefield Parish Hall.

Doors open 7.30pm:
meeting begins at 7.45pm
Light refreshments served.

Everyone is welcome

Right: Grace Rowe helps to open the new Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club building and below; artwork designed to thank those who made it possible.



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Rugby Union

Sedgefield District RUFC has been made to battle hard often this season but they have never been overwhelmed by some very tough opponents. Hosting high-flying Redcar they secured a very hard won 16-10 victory. The following game they lost narrowly, 39-34, to a very accomplished Darlington team. Trailing 21-8 at half-time they battled back to leave their hosts relieved to hear the final whistle. It was a sign of the club's recent progress that they ran a strong Darlington side so close.

Meanwhile, the 'social' Saxons team also continues to make good progress and have more fixtures lined up for 2017, offering plenty of opportunities for players of all abilities. The club continues to recruit new blood (aged 17 and above) and has three coaches to help develop talent. And as with all community organisations, new volunteers will be welcome. Training is held every Tuesday and Thursday evening on the pitch, starting at 7:00pm. You can find out more about Sedgefield District RUFC on Facebook, Twitter, Teamapp, or by calling the club telephone on 07732 399541.

Athletics

For the senior men at Sedgefield Harriers, a big focus of the 2016/17 cross country season is the North East Harrier League. This team event sees clubs across the region compete over six fixtures at locations across the North East. Sedgefield Harriers (men, women and juniors) have been participating in the events for years, but have rarely managed to field full teams on a consistent basis, until this season.

In the senior men's event, each club's first six runners count in the scoring.

Clearly, to be successful in the competition, it is crucial to for each club's runners to finish in as high a position as possible. These finishing positions are converted into points which decide the clubs overall position in the fixture. League table points are then awarded according to that position and this determines the club's standing in the North East Harrier League after each fixture.

To succeed in the Harrier League, a club needs to have a committed squad, with strength in depth. It's not just the first six over the line in each race that matter. Of course, it's crucial to record low scores among the six counters but it's equally important for other runners in the squad to perform well and push the competitors from other clubs down the rankings. Are you still with me?

Because Sedgefield Harriers did not field full teams consistently last season, the senior men started the year in the third of the three divisions in The Harrier League. After the first fixture, they sat in seventh place. However, the subsequent three races have seen Sedgefield fly up the table and with two races to go, the club is in second place. In the most recent fixture, at Herrington in Sunderland, the aggregate score recorded by the first six Harriers was the lowest recorded by the 55 clubs in all three divisions. The top two teams will be promoted, so the Harriers will be pulling out all of the stops to continue this great run of performances in the final two races, on 11th February (Thornley) and 4th March (Alnwick).

The Harriers ice-affected first event of the year, the winter handicap, was run over a shortened course but still provided a good challenge for the competitors who all arrived in close order, before heading back to Fishburn Club, where Durham County Councillor Rachel Lumsdon presented the prizes. The overall winner Carl Marchant of Hartlepool Burn Road Harriers, closely followed by Andrew Swinbank (Sedgefield) and John Lynch (Swaledale AC) claimed the Gerry Kearsley Memorial Trophy. The fastest man was James Oldfield (Sedgefield Harriers) and the fastest lady was Oonagh Bathgate (Swaledale AC). First juniors for The Harriers were were Ciaran Lines and Peta Collins.

The club is grateful to all of the volunteers who made the event possible, especially Ray Carmichael for setting out an alternative course at extremely short notice, and to Cllr Lumsdon and Fishburn Club for their support.

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

Squash

A hugely successful charity event, sponsored by Durham and Cleveland, was hosted by Sedgefield Squash Club in December. The event saw Players from around the county, supported by members, playing into the early hours, raising £670 for a life-saving trip to America for Sumner Malik.

The annual Sedgefield Squash Club triathlon also took place over the Christmas holidays. Members participated in walking, golfing, and (the highlight of the day) drinking in the local pub afterwards. As always, everyone enjoyed this successful social occasion.

James Knowlson won the individual club handicap beating Leon Lamb 2-1 in the final, in a fiercely competitive match.

Anyone interested in joining can contact Chris Rowsby on 01740 621125.



Prize-winners pictured after the Sedgefield Harriers Winter Handicap

A Celebration of Sedgefield Volunteers

An evening to thank our volunteers was organised by Sedgefield Village Games and brought together representatives of scores of community groups.

Sedgefield Village Games started life as a series of events inspired by the London 2012 Games. Although its main focus is on sport, the initiative has also contributed to many other aspects of community life, thanks to the work of volunteers. This year, SVG organised a two week festival of free sport, dance and outdoor activities for young people in Sedgefield. Many of the clubs and individuals involved in the festival were also present at the celebration event.

Residents who attended the Manor House event, pictured below, represented sports and youth groups, cultural and arts organisations, and many other special interest clubs and associations. Donations for the local food bank were made on the night and three large boxes of food were handed over by Michael King of St. Edmund's Church. The event was supported by Sedgefield Co-op, which provided refreshments, and Lirica, who provided entertainment.



Bowls: making an intriguing sport a secret no more

One of Fishburn's best kept secrets has undergone a facelift!

The Parish Council obtained the services of a contractor who lifted and re-laid the flagstone footpath which surrounds the bowling green, where over time, flag-stones had settled, leaving gaps between them. Members have also completed the re-decoration of both interior and exterior of the clubhouse, materials being donated by the membership.

Fishburn Bowls Club has members living in Sedgefield, Trimdon, Trimdon Grange, Hartlepool, Thorpe Larches as well as Fishburn. The Club competes in three outdoor leagues during the season and has built a reputation as a friendly club. The annual membership fee is a competitive £15, which gives free access to the green and clubhouse from May until the end of the season, usually early September.

You are welcome to come and try.

It is proposed to hold two taster sessions when the green opens in April/May 2017. Anyone with an interest in trying this intriguing sport will be welcomed with some informal tuition and a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits.

Details will be announced nearer the time, so watch this space.

Continued from page 1

the invincible Sedgefield team travelled far and wide to defend their reputation – even as far as Wolsingham on one occasion, it is said – until they were brought back down to earth by a scandal involving two female Russian Welly Hoyers and a series of failed drug tests. Believe this unlikely account if you must, but the tone for the evening was now well and truly set.

First on the bill was the country duo The Milliners, comprising Sedgefield's own Kimberley Workman together with her guitarist, Dave. Together they performed a couple of numbers including a lovely version of State Lines, a recent hit for The Shires. They were followed by an Abba tribute act who performed an excellent medley of ABBA hits which had the audience bouncing. Other artists included Martin (and Neil) Hodgeson, Sean Henderson, David Pratt, Andrew Watson, Sharon and Steven Flockett, who between them performed a mixture of thoughtful cover versions, karaoke classics and even some original material. The first half finished up with a musical comedy duo called The Hillbillies whose cheeky performance of Mule Train had to be seen to be believed. If you know anyone who attended the show, ask them about it; I couldn't begin to do it justice in print!

Second half contributors included Rich Hinton, Neil Hodgeson, Bobby Edwards and comedy duos 'Bobby and Chris' and 'The Two Phils'. By the end of the evening 15 different acts presented 19 performances in just under 4 hours – by common consent, a fair return for the £5 admission fee.

A spokesman for the organising committee said, "Co-ordinating people's often changing commitments and circumstances, assembling equipment and resources and making sure that all are "good to go" at the exact moment can be an intense experience.

"Resignations" in the New Year are quite common but after a week or so to reflect on a job well done they are mostly withdrawn. We're again delighted with the way the night went this year; the atmosphere was electric and £525 was raised for Cancer Research"

So if you need something to brighten up those dark, dreary days between Christmas and New Year 2017 why not make a note on your calendar to attend the next Welly Hoyers' Variety Show?

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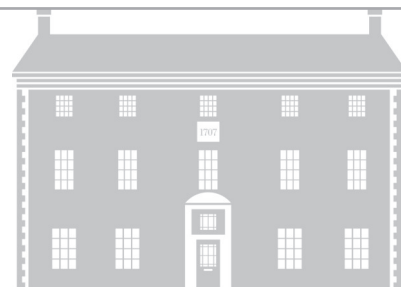
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February 2017 DIARY

email diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Wed 1st	Sedgefield WI Parish Hall, 7.15pm. Slideshow by Dr Pete Edwards - "Isn't the Universe big and Beautiful?" 99th birthday cake. Members' competition, a pin cushion. Visitors always welcome
Fri 3rd	U3A Parish Hall, 2pm. "New Views of the Planets" with Dr Pete Edwards Members free. Guests welcome, £3 at door. Further details, 629276 SPYS & Sedgefield Players Richmond Theatre performance. See p7.
Fri 3rd & Sat 4th	Winter Beer Festival Friends of Sedgefield Harriers. Parish Hall 2-11pm. Music both days and children (U18's) welcome on Saturday till 7pm.
Sat 4th	Surgery with Cllrs Rachel Lumsden & John Robinson. Sedgefield Library Sedgefield Cricket Club Quiz Night, 8pm. Presented by Matt Rowley
Sun 5th	Sedgefield Farmers' Market: our first market of the new year!
Mon 6th	Sedgefield Local History Society Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm. "Ladies go to China" by members, Suzanne & Lesley
Tue 7th	Sedgefield T Dance Everyone welcome, on your own, with a friend or partner. Parish Hall 1 - 3pm. Tel Ann: 629070 or Joyce: 622601
Thu 9th	Sedgefield Show Meeting, Social Club, 8pm
Fri 10th	Country Market Parish Hall, 10 – 11.30, Home Baked Produce, Jams, Crafts, Cards, Plants, Refreshments, Tel 629441 Authentic Chinese Banquet Sedgefield Parish Hall. Tickets £18. Contact jake.smedley@live.co.uk . As advertised in January edition.
Sat 11th	Sedgefield in Bloom Dance with Rootin' Tootin' 7.30 pm Parish Hall. £10 from council offices, incl. pie & peas supper; bring your own drinks
Mon 13th	Sedgefield Development Trust AGM. 7.45pm. Details on pages 6 & 7 Sedgefield Energy Switch. Last date to register for the current Auction. Details on page 6
Tue 14th	Neighbourhood Watch Panel Meeting Fletcher Room, Parish Hall, 7pm Sedgefield Ladies Club in Ceddesfeld Hall
Fri 17th	Sedgefield Cricket Club Live Music Night 7.45pm. Pipe Dream, Ray Thom, Bert Draycott, Ann Lamb, Broadband, Auld Vagabonds, Gebees, John Weighell, John Wrightson Band. £10 includes buffet. Tel 621347 Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. 9.30—11.30am, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. Meet friends for tea/coffee and scones.
Mon 20th	Sedgefield Family History Group Ceddesfeld Hall 7.15pm Lyn Lamport "A Weaver went to war in 1825" All welcome.
Tue 21st	Sedgefield T Dance Everyone welcome, on your own, with a friend or partner. Parish Hall 1 - 3pm. Tel Ann: 629070 or Joyce: 622601 Ferryhill, Sedgefield & district Flower Club 'Just for you' by Jan Faulkner, NE Demonstrator
Fri 24th	Sedgefield in Bloom Coffee Morning 10-11.30 Parish Hall – refreshments, stalls, raffle, tombola
Sat 25th	Centenary Commemoration 10.45am at the war memorial. LHS and Veterans centenary commemoration of Sedgefield men lost in WWI – Herbert Waite Ward and John George Snaith.
Tue 28th	Sedgefield Business Network Breakfast 8 am – 9.30 am, Hardwick Hall Hotel. Booking essential (sedgefieldbn@gmail.com).

Looking ahead to March. Thurs 16th - Sat 18th 7.30pm. Sedgefield Players present Elaine Murphy's 'Shush'. Tickets from sedgefieldplayers.co.uk or Tickety Boo.



Photography Exhibition at the Manor House

Friday 10th February 10am - 4pm

& Saturday 11th, 9.30am - 1pm

Complimentary refreshments served.

The exhibition will feature work by local photographers and is open for anyone to display up to two of their own pictures. The best picture overall, judged by the exhibitors, will receive a prize.

Closing date 8th February.

More details including about exhibiting please contact Marie Walker on

01740 62 92 64

Sedgefield Library 2017

Tel: 03000 269521 Opening Hours

Wednesdays 9.30am - 12.30pm

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Thursdays (termtime only) 2.15pm

Wiggly Bookworms for pre-school children. £2 per session, limited places. Due to high demand, booking essential.

Bright Water Project Display

Described on page 2, this interesting display will run for a few weeks.

Sedgefield Social Club

February entertainment

Saturday 4th: Kevin King.

Saturday 11th: Stephz.

Saturday 18th: Ryan King.

Mon 20th: Country Night, Jim Clarke.

Saturday 25th: Steve Lavelle.

Fitness Classes @The Hub

Sedgefield Community College

Clubbercise with Sharon: Tues 6 - 7pm

Zumba with Emilia: Tues 6.30 – 7.30pm and Thurs 7 - 8pm

Chi Taekwondo: Sat 10.30 – 11.30am

For tennis, wheelchair rugby & other sports, call the Hub on 01740 625300

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