

Produced by volunteers for the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Fishburn  
Published by Sedgefield Development Trust: Company No 4312745 Charity No 1100906



# Sedgefield NEWS

Text/call 07572 502 904 :

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

## January 2014

A very Happy New Year to you all, from  
Sedgefield Development Trust,  
Sedgefield News and Sedgefieldweb



### Sedgefield Development Trust looks forward to the New Year

Following this year's re-launch of SedgefieldWEB, the next few months promise some exciting new opportunities to really make a difference in Sedgefield!

First, the Trust has agreed to explore making **reduced Electricity and Gas bills** available to residents by a "collective switching scheme". Working with another "not for profit" organisation we wish to organise a situation in which the energy companies bid to offer lower cost supplies to residents here. Watch this space...

As has been announced already, SDT is working to take the lead in running the **Farmers' Market**, in partnership with the Town Council and other volunteers. We are committed to the re-launch at the March market.

Fresh ideas are coming forward, through which the Trust can help our area, and many of you will have other good ideas, and the enthusiasm to make things happen. We'll be in the Lounge at Ceddesfeld Hall on Monday 13th January from about 8pm, so why not come along and find out more about us or simply put your own ideas to us?

Or perhaps you'd like to ring me, Roger Clubley, on 01740 620609, for an informal chat.



### STOP PRESS!

With singing, dancing, booing and cheering, not to mention fabulous costumes and outrageous wigs, the magic of the Sedgefield Players' panto comes alive once again.

**"Oh yes it does!"**

Between Christmas and New Year a cast of seasoned players, alongside talented members of SPYS and the girls of Fishburn Dance, return with a traditional mix of comedy, drama, villainy and heroism in their panto, *Babes in the Wood*.

Do the Merrie Men thwart the evil intentions of the Sheriff of Nottingham and his dozy henchmen Mutt and Jeff?

Are the captured Babes safely returned to Nurse Nelly?

Does Richard the Lionheart return from the Crusades in time for the wedding of Robin Hood and Maid Marian?

You'll only ever know if you are lucky enough to nab a ticket!

## Local History Society Research: World War 1

Since our request for assistance in the December issue, members of Sedgefield LHS have been beavering away, discovering fascinating insights into the lives of many of the men lost in World War I listed on the war memorial. One such, Cecil Aubrey Lowes, pictured here in uniform, also figures in a lovely relaxed photograph in our archives. Taken in happier times, it shows Cecil with family and friends, all wearing casual summer clothes, enjoying the summer sunshine amongst the trees in Winterton grounds. The son of Richard and Bertha Lowes of Malvern House in Sedgefield, Cecil, a private in the 6th Battalion the Royal Army Medical Corps, lost his life in France on May 25th 1915. Just one month earlier, he had told his mother, in a charming letter full of life and hope, that he and his battalion had set up a hospital and dressing station in an old monastery. Sad to think that all that promise was snuffed out so soon afterwards. Cecil's story is one of many we hope to bring to our World War I exhibition on July 12th.

So we are doing well, but three men - Robert William Acomb, Richard Rainbird and John Welford - have so far eluded our determined researchers. If you have any information on these or any other of the brave men listed on the war memorial, we would love to hear from you. Also stories or photographs relating to the home front during World War I and to people who served in the war and returned home. Please contact me on 01740-620091 or email [norma@neal.myzen.co.uk](mailto:norma@neal.myzen.co.uk).



## Decriminalisation of Drug Addicts *continued from December.*

The cultivation of opium in Afghanistan reached its peak in 1999, and the following year the Taliban banned poppy cultivation, cutting production by 94 percent. After American and British troops had removed the Taliban and installed the interim government, the land under cultivation leapt back to near pre-1999 levels. In short, eradication hasn't worked; heroin is still freely available and cheap.

Heroin is a chaotic drug. Once the user is hooked, the habit needs to be fed. Nationally there are almost 300,000 heroin and crack cocaine users. Of those, 93,400 inject. In County Durham & Darlington, approximately 1700 addicts are in treatment for opiate addiction. Over the last 3 years, 40 individuals have died from overdoses and nationally we have seen many deaths from contaminated heroin. Anthrax has been found in some cases.

A high proportion of volume property crime (shoplifting, theft, theft of bikes, theft from vehicles, shed burglaries, house burglaries etc) is caused by offenders hooked on drugs, stealing in order to get cash to buy drugs.

Every now and again addict enter a drugs programme, but sadly they don't always succeed in these programmes and go back to buying the drugs from the dealers. The drug treatment workers do a fantastic job, but invariably the addict is put onto a methadone maintenance programme, which isn't always the most successful treatment available.

In 1994, Switzerland began a trial diamorphine maintenance program for users who had failed multiple withdrawal programs; they would present themselves at a clinic and be given injectable heroin 3 times a day. They found that addicts were more likely to stay in treatment, there was no evidence of increased tolerance, no overdoses, limited reports of problems in neighbourhoods. Use of non-prescribed heroin fell significantly, users avoided illegal activities and over 60% of addicts are in drugs treatment. Their success led to similar programs being established in Germany, Netherlands, Canada and Spain, to name but a few. Since 2009, Denmark has prescribed diamorphine to some addicts who have tried other treatments without success.

Between 2006 & 2011 the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust took part in a national research project known as the Randomised Injecting Opioid Treatment Trial, or RIOTT for short. A hardcore of heroin users were allowed to inject medical grade heroin under supervised conditions. These trials took place in Darlington, Brighton and London. Results published in the Lancet showed that prescribing pharmaceutical heroin in this way can reduce the use of street drugs and associated levels of crime. It was also shown to improve the individual's health and quality of life and gave them the stability they needed to recover from dependence on heroin. Subsequently a group of national experts said that the results from the three centres offered the Government "robust evidence to support the expansion of this treatment so that more patients can benefit".

These successes have led me and the Chief Constable to believe that this approach to treating heroin addiction should be explored further. In simplistic terms it is about taking drugs off the streets, removing profits from criminals and reducing volume crime. It will free up the time police spend dealing with volume crime and drugs possession, allowing them to target the dealers and crime groups. We would test low level criminals, to see if they are using drugs, if so to divert them into treatment, not the criminal justice system and treat addicts as victims, with the health service taking the lead, not the police. The treatment services would be given the proper tools to let them succeed. Treating the addicts with safe heroin will reduce disease and death.

What I am suggesting is nothing new, heroin has been prescribed in the UK since 1926, but not on this scale.

Together we can take the demand out of this market, and opportunities from dealers. Of course there will be a void caused by this approach; the dealers will have drugs they can't get rid of. But we need to educate those who may be vulnerable to dealers and ensure that they can't get rid of their drugs. There will of course be some who will turn to drugs to escape, but the police and drug workers will be there to help them.

I would like to re-assure you that Durham Constabulary has a good track record in tackling organised crime and dealing with the illicit drugs trade. A de-regulated drugs trade will not be tolerated and we will continue at the forefront of tackling criminal groups in enforcing current legislation.

We are not going soft on drugs; we believe we are going sensible. Durham Constabulary has been recognised as one of the most effective forces to tackle the problem. We need to make the market in controlled drugs less lucrative.

*Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner*





*Above; some of the projects come under scrutiny*

### **Rewarded by your votes ...**

The East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership held its Your Money, Your Area, Your Views event on Saturday 23 November 2013 at Sedgefield Community College. There were separate votes for projects and priorities. Amongst the projects which gained support were:

**Sedgefield Area and Surrounding Communities Art Project; £3,000**

**Fishburn Art Group Weekend Art School; £700**

**1st Sedgefield Scout Group Hall Improvements; £4,000**

**South Durham Amateur Boxing Club; £4,000**

**North East Bulls Wheelchair Rugby Club, Player Support; £2,040**

**Sedgefield Junior Squash Club Coaching Enhancements & Coach Development Project; £3,362**

**Sedgefield Youth Football Club; £3,620**

**Sedgefield Harriers Startrack Athletics Programme; £3,225**

**Sedgefield Village Games; £1,932.31**

**St William's RCVA Primary School, Everybody Out; £4,000**

**Durham Christian Partnership Foodbank Centres; £3,930**

**Investing in Children, Children and Young People's Voice; £3,995**

In the **Area Action Partnership Priority** vote, the category of **Activities for Children & Young People** came out way ahead of the rest.

### **Sedgefield News distribution**

A volunteer is needed for a short (about 15 minutes) delivery round to both sides of Durham Road, between the Hardwick Arms and the Dentists' surgery. If you can help, please call Judith Edgoose on 01740 620244 or email [sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com). And thank you - someone always steps up and it really is appreciated.

### **Poppy Day**

We would like to thank all those people who bought their poppy for Remembrance Day from us this year. We raised £1075.61 for Royal British Legion so again, many thanks!

*Alan Thompson and Peter Gaines at Sainsburys, Sedgefield, Peter Ovington at Sedgefield Co-operative, and Village Style and Heavenly Pets.*

### **Local Singer spreads Christmas Cheer**

Residents at Willowdene Care Home really got into the festive spirit when they were treated to a special performance from Jim Stark, a local singer, as part of their Christmas celebrations. The residents and visitors had fun singing and dancing along with Christmas classics.

### **World War 1 Centenary Year.**

Throughout 2014, we hope to publish features sent in by the Local History Society, Sedgefield Veterans, schools and individuals. Local History start us off with their article on page 2. We would love to hear from anyone who regularly travels to the battlegrounds and would be willing to share their experiences and photographs. Contact The Editor at [sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com)

### **Do you play the piano?**

#### **Would you like to help our choir?**

Sedgefield Lyric Singers are looking for a piano accompanist for their weekly rehearsals and twice yearly concerts.

We are a friendly four-part choir performing songs from the modern and classical repertoire.

We really enjoy our weekly sing, on Friday evenings, from 7.30 – 9pm at Ceddesfeld Hall, Rectory Row, Sedgefield

To find out more, and for an informal chat, please contact Joan Green on **01325 317039** or email [joan.green6@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:joan.green6@tiscali.co.uk)

### **5 up for Blocki's Boys**

#### **at the "Quiz That Helps Dreams Come True!"**



### **Bishop Auckland Civic Society Annual Town Quiz,**

held at Bishop Auckland Town Hall, raised a total of £850 for locally based 'Innovations', who support people to achieve their goals and dreams.

After missing out on his team's win last year, Mike Blocki (*above*) returned on December 4th to lift the trophy, making it 5 consecutive wins for the team, which consists of Mike Blocki, Chris Hancock, Andrew Cannings, Brian Lowes, Tony Bland and John Race.

35 teams took part in a hard fought contest and Quiz Master Glynn Wales delivered a challenging and entertaining quiz to the 35 teams who took part in this annual event. The Civic Society would like to thank Blocki's Boys, who kindly donated their prize money to the charity, along with all those businesses and individuals who donated prizes for the Grand Raffle.

## Best Wishes for a Healthy & Safe New Year

from the Neighbourhood Watch Team in Sedgefield. We will be back with a report next month. Meanwhile, look after yourselves and your neighbours!



## Sedgefield Residents' Forum Jottings December 2013

There was no scheduled meeting in December, so just a couple of updates. We reported last month that the Forum was waiting for updates from County Councillors on the cost of the 'agricultural' entrance created in East Park. We didn't get any, so we submitted a Freedom of Information request ourselves to Durham County Council for the information since so many residents are concerned about this unnecessary entrance – other than for using East Park as a car park of course. The County stated that they had minimised costs by recycling fencing materials and using volunteers for a great deal of the work other than the construction work undertaken by DCC Technical Services operational staff with as much construction materials as possible being obtained at no cost.

### Actual costs from the Authority budget were:-

Technical Services – total construction costs	£37,035.77
Technical Services – estate fence (installation and welding)	£451.35
Two (new) easy access hand gates c/w posts and latches	£444.00
Planning application fee	£170.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£38101.12</b> (with a further cost of £40 for trees in the New Year.)

DCC also stated that the requirement for the new access was comprehensively outlined in the Planning application. The design and access statement that accompanied the application shows that 'the request for the new entrance' came from Traffic management, suggested by the Strategic Highways Manager, who has since retired.

The money was taken from DCC Capital Budget not from Highways Budget which would seem to be the sensible budget since it was claimed to be a highways issue. It's amazing what they can fund from Capital when they want to!

Watch out for information on the work towards Sedgefield's Neighbourhood Plan. Please complete your questionnaire when you get it and hand it in as soon as possible.

**Another reminder:** DCC is Reviewing their Statement of Licensing Policy (this could make a difference to our village centre). Due to recent legislation changes, DCC are proposing to make a number of changes to our Statement of Licensing Policy to help prevent crime and disorder, improve public safety, prevent public nuisance and protect children from harm. To find out more about this consultation and to have your say on the proposed changes to the policy, visit Consultation on the council's Statement of Licensing Policy. The consultation runs from Friday 11 October 2013 to Thursday 2 January 2014.

**Next Forum meeting;** January 6th at 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome. A peaceful and happy New Year to everyone.

## Sedgefield Village Veterans

We would like to thank all the public and traders who supported our Xmas Fair, and for all donations received. We would also like to say a special thank you to Sedgefield Handbell Ringers for providing the festive atmosphere throughout the day, at our first ever Xmas Fair.

## Doctors' surgery open extra hours for winter

To reduce pressure on emergency health services during winter and to increase available appointments for patients, we are pleased to advise that Dr Jones and Partners will continue the extended hours which started in November up to and including Saturday 8th March.

### The surgery at Harbinson House, Sedgefield is currently open from 8am - 1 pm on Saturdays

It is accessible to registered patients from branches at Sedgefield, Fishburn, Trimdon Colliery and Trimdon Village.

Pre-bookable appointments for a Saturday are available via reception at any practice. Unfortunately, there is no facility to process Repeat Prescriptions or to offer a Chaperone service on Saturdays, but we do hope this initiative will improve access to our services.

## PC Todd

Overnight on the 4th December, nocturnal thieves stole the portable generator/flood lights from the rugby pitch. They entered the fields via the new entrance at the roundabout next to Hardwick Country Park. Information is required on any sighting of vehicles or persons in this area late at night or even lights coming from the fields.

Other crimes include the theft of two plant boxes from White House Drive, two windows broken in Cross Street and a window in the school bus smashed on Durham Road. A spare wheel was taken from a works van in West End and a works van was also targeted again in West End where they caused damage trying to remove the yellow beacon from the roof.

On a happier note, I would like to thank the pupils from Hardwick Primary School for taking part in this year's Beat Officer Christmas Card Competition. Well done to the overall winner, Sophie Richmond, age 10 and runners-up, Jasmine Platts, age 7, Abigail Bell, age 6, Bethany Cansfield, age 9 and Dylan Paterson, age 10.

## Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently at the Black Lion. No incidents were reported which required further action from members.

## PACT meeting

A P.A.C.T. meeting was held directly after the Neighbourhood watch meeting. Members decided that the priority for the Police Beat Team this month would be to continue to focus on Eden Drive and the duck pond area, to target anti-social behaviour by youths. *Until next time, Keith*

## Useful Numbers

### LOCAL POLICE 101

CPO Duncan Gill 01325 742714

Community Liaison Officer  
Neil Langthorne 01325 742755

Parking Shop 0191 3846633

### ADVICELINE (CAB)

Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm

**08444 111 444**

Or from a Mobile,

**0300 330 06 50**

and for TYPETALK users,

**08444 111 445**

# January Events Diary

## Friday 3rd

**Sedgefield Village Veterans Coffee Morning** Parish Hall, 10am-Noon.  
All welcome. Ex military welcome as new members of the group. 01429 882571

**Sedgefield & District U3A** 2pm, Parish Hall. 'The Great Escape; The True Story' by Bernard Hope. Members free. Guests £3 at the door. For info call 629574

## Saturday 4th

**Cricket Club Quiz Night** presented by Tony McGee. 8 pm start

## Sunday 5th

**Sedgefield Farmers' Market** from 9.30am on the Village Green

## Monday 6th

**Sedgefield Residents' Forum** 7pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall.

**Sedgefield Village Veterans General Meeting** 19.30hrs at Ceddesfeld Hall. Contact 01429 882571

**Sedgefield Methodist Wives & Friends** Carrier Bag Sale

## Tuesday 7th

**Chair-based Exercise Class** Parish Hall 11am. See opposite for more detail

**Local History Society** Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm. Gordon Morris "Saxon Heritage in the North East."

## Wednesday 8th

**Sedgefield WI.** Parish Hall 7.15pm. Social & Games Night with Ginger Wine & Mince pies. Members' Competition; Your favourite dessert recipe. Visitors welcome, £3.50 inc. refreshments. *NB 2nd Wednesday.*

## Thursday 9th

**Sedgefield Show Meeting** 8pm in the Nag's Head

## Tuesday 14th

**Ladies' Club** Evening out.

## Friday 17th

**Live Music Night** Sedgefield Cricket Club at 7.45 pm. Main guest Haley Sisters. Also John Wrightson Band and John Weighell. Admission £10, inc buffet. Tel 621347

## Saturday 18th

**Sedgefield in Bloom.** Dance to the music of Honky Tonkin - a mix of Country & Western and Rock 'n' Roll. In the Parish Hall. Tickets £8 inc. pie & pea supper, from council office. Please bring your own drinks.

## Monday 20th

**Meditation Group at St Edmund's church.** 7 - 7.30pm. All welcome.

**Sedgefield Methodist Wives & Friends** Speaker, Alison Hodgson

**Family History Group** 7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Help Evening - we will try to help you to find that missing ancestor. New members welcome. For further information please see our website [www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk) or telephone 620367

## Tuesday 21st

**Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club** AGM at 7.30pm, followed at 8pm by a talk and picture show about a World Challenge Expedition to Botswana and Zambia given by Rob McGuinness. Please come along.

## Tuesday 28th

**Ladies' Club** What it was like to be poor in past times. Talk by Alison Hodgson

## Friday 31st

**Sedgefield Blues Club** Demand for tickets for Chantel McGregor's return visit has been exceptional. Internet sales have been stopped to give Sedgefield residents a chance. **Tickets from Post Office available from 10th January.**

## Regular meetings

### New Generation Church

Service on Sundays, 11am, Parish Hall

### NECP Concertina Workshop

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 1pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Contact 01642 588197

### Eddies@4

4pm, Welcome Room, St Edmund's. Informal service for 2-6 yr olds. 621125

### Winterton Wayfarers

Walking Group - Weekly Sunday walks, 5 - 10 miles. Contact 620034 or 620434

### Bridge Club

Sunday & Tuesday, 7.30pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners welcome. Jen 620434

### Sedgefield Players

Parish Hall, 7.30pm Sundays & Weds. SPYS: 7-17 yrs Sunday 6.30pm. 620091

### Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Church, Mon-Thurs 9:15-11:45. Spaces for 2+yrs. Call 620923

### Fishburn Art Group

Youth & Community Centre, Butterwick Rd. 9.30am -12 noon, Mondays

### Community College Bowls

Mons 6-8pm. Carpet Bowls/Short Mat Individual coaching. No age limit. 623198

### Sedgefield Mags

1st Monday of month in Nag's head at 8pm. Contact 07966029434

### Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

Ceddesfeld Hall. Tues & Thurs mornings 8.30-12 Beginners welcome. 622532

### Sedgefield Pop In Club

for elderly & disabled. Ceddesfeld Hall Tues 9.30-12 Wed 10-12.30 Thur 1-3.30

### Craft Club

Swinhoe Rm, Ceddesfeld Hall, 2nd/4th Tues 7.30-10pm. 620656. All welcome

### CAB Advice Sessions

Sedgefield Advice & Information Centre Fortnightly Wednesdays 10am-1pm

### Sedgefield Handbell Ringers

Wed 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall (Mon1st wk of m'th) Beginners welcome 621292

### Rotary Club of Sedgefield

Wednesdays, 7.30pm. Contacts, Bob, 07831270892 - Mel, 07530315331

### Sedgefield Acoustic Evenings.

Ceddesfeld Hall; 8.30pm. 1st Fri/4th Wed. Informal singaround, all welcome.

### Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members welcome. Contact Carl on 07775644598

### Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group

Small friendly group 10am -12 Thursdays

### Café@St Catherine's

Friendly chat & Fishburn gossip! Fridays 9.30am-12noon: Tea/coffee/ toast & chat

### Lyrics Choirs

Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall. SLYC 6pm Adults 7.30pm New members welcome.



## Sedgefield Library Tel: 03000 269521

**Open:** Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Thursday 10am - 6:00pm

Friday 1pm - 7pm

Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Sedgefield Library closed for Christmas on Saturday 21st December and will re-open on **Thursday 2nd January**, when normal opening hours will resume.

**Craft Club:** Thursdays 2nd, 16th & 30th January from 10am-12

*Back by popular demand, in association with Age UK, we present*

**Hand Massage for over 50s & carers** on Thursday 23rd January from 1pm - 3pm.

*Sedgefield library in association with Age UK present;*

### 'Stay safe online'

**Thursday 23rd January from 10:30am - 12:30pm.**

Great advice on web security and safe online shopping for the over 50's and carers.

Limited places, so book early and don't miss out!

## Sedgefield Social Club

### Events in January

**Saturday 7th:** Ray Peachey

**Saturday 11th:** Mark Thomas

**Saturday 18th:** Alan Stevens

**Saturday 25th:** Danny Ocean

Cover charge £1.50 per person

Members & Guests Welcome

Concert Room available for functions.

Tel: 01740 620591 for bookings

## Wildlife group to close

For 18 years, once a month on Thursdays during autumn and winter, Sedgefield Wildlife Group has been meeting in the Parish Hall. Speakers have covered a wide range of topics and have come from an equally diverse number of organisations; the common link being the positive work that these individuals and organisations are doing to record, promote and protect our environment.

From bats to barn owls, from orchids to ancient trees, from Durham and Tees Valley Wildlife Trusts to the National Trust, INCA and the RSPB; all have been well received by a small but keen group of Sedgefield residents. Over the years the group, during the summer, in good and bad weather have also visited many nature reserves, seen the variety of species that live there and learnt about how organisations are managing their sites for wildlife and people.

However, over the past couple of years the number of regular members has declined, including some who have passed away and although the group has tried to promote itself it has not had any new or younger members joining.

At the November meeting I gave the final talk - Flamingos, Gannets and Fur Seals - and it was decided that it would be the last. It is with great regret we have decided to call it a day and I wish to thank everyone who has attended the meetings over the years and also anyone who gave us a talk. I also want to thank Jill and Ann, the previous chairs. The bank account will be closed with any residual money being donated to Tees Valley and Durham Wildlife Trusts to support them in their work.

If any Sedgefield organisations would like to learn more about the work of the Wildlife Trusts don't hesitate to contact me. In May this year, The State of Nature report revealed that 60% of species studied have declined over recent decades. More than one in ten of all the species assessed are under threat of disappearing from our shores altogether, so if you would like to do your bit, you can join your local wildlife trust at [www.wildlifetrusts.org/join](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/join).

*Steve Ashton, Chairman, Sedgefield Wildlife Group*

## Gentle exercise for older citizens

A chair based exercise class starts on 7th January in the Parish Hall at 11am. With exercises designed specifically for older people to improve posture, strengthen muscles & joints, and maintain flexibility and independence, you will soon start feeling the benefits. So why not join us? For more information please contact Andrea on 0191 527 0224

## New Toddler Club

Every new generation of mums and dads realises the need for this life-saver and there's now a new Toddler Club in Sedgefield. It meets every Wednesday afternoon in term time from 1.15 to 3pm in the main hall in Ceddesfeld Hall. The age group is 0-school age and the contact is Joan Brennan, telephone number 01740 622385.

## New Year + new hobby = new friends!

**Knitting... Crochet ...**

**Patchwork... Bargello...**

**Cross-stitch...**

**Prick & Stitch... Iris Folding...**

**Quilling... Card-making...**

**Tunisian Crochet...**

The Craft Club at Ceddesfeld Hall is an open, friendly group which gets round one big table every 2nd & 4th Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

Come to the Swinhoe room at

Ceddesfeld Hall, or contact

Jean Easson: 620656

# Sports UPDATE with Sports Editor CHRIS LINES

So, another sporting year draws to a close. While it hasn't quite matched its immediate predecessor, 2013 has been pretty great in many ways. On the world stage, we saw sportsmen get a couple of major monkeys off the country's back, as Justin Rose was the first Brit to win golf's US Open in over 40 years, and then Andy Murray was the next home player after Fred Perry to claim the men's single title at Wimbledon, after a gap of just 77 years (which made the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award a bit of a formality in the end). Back in 1936, before the short wait began, Perry claimed his 3rd Wimbledon title in a row – no pressure Andy.

Meanwhile, Mo Farah continued to build his claim for the title of greatest modern day long distance track runner by winning double gold in 5,000m and 10,000m at the World Athletics Championship. In 2013, Farah also broke the British record in the 1,500m (previously held by Steve Cram) and now has his sights firmly set on achieving great things in the marathon. Don't bet against him. And has there ever been an athlete with better timing in a race than Christine Ohuruogu? She claimed 400m world gold with a dip for the line in a thrilling final.

Elsewhere, the British and Irish Lions triumphed in Australia and the England cricket team edged the Ashes on home soil (the 3-0 score flattered England and the Aussies are currently exacting sweet revenge down under). Durham County Cricket Club won their 3rd county championship in 6 years, after being written off as relegation favourites by many pundits. In Sedgefield, sport is thriving and many teams and individuals are making amazing progress. Looking back at the year, Sedgefield's squash, cricket, rugby union, football, wheelchair rugby and athletics clubs have all moved forward in a big way, both in competition and in achieving their wider ambitions. Sedgefield is really fortunate to be blessed with so many active and successful clubs, sustained by a very large number of passionate and committed volunteers. I tip my hat to all of them. Keep up the great work!

## Cricket

Rapidly moving on from the current Ashes series, there has been some more positive local cricket news. Teenage Sedgefield Cricket Club coach and player, Connor Whitelock, right, has won a national award. At the Brit Insurance Annual Awards, Connor was crowned Young Leader of the Year for the work he does in coaching younger children in Sedgefield. The judging panel praised how Connor has shown remarkable enthusiasm and maturity beyond his years in his support of John Swindle, the main coach. After collecting his award, Connor said, "Every weekday or weekend I came to the club, I just wanted to help the youngsters to come through. It just means everything to win this award, I'm so happy." Huge congratulations to Connor for this well deserved recognition.



## Racketball

Sedgefield Squash Club held its inaugural racketball competition at the end of November. With a bouncier ball and shorter racket, racketball still provides a good workout, although it is arguably lower impact than squash. The competition was won by Peter Redshaw, who beat Simon Hill in the final. With both players being new to the sport, they learned the hard way that typical squash tactics and shots did not translate well to racketball! However, it was Peter who adapted quicker, to edge what were some close games and win the match 3-0. The club hopes that this will become a regular fixture on the calendar in future seasons, and welcomes players who wish to take up the game.

## Squash

The Durham and Cleveland Squash leagues reached their halfway point, and so far the Sedgefield teams can report a lot of positive progress. The 1st team hold a comfortable lead at

the top of Division 2, having won all their games so far; a great result given that they were only promoted at the end of last season. Fingers crossed that this continues and the team can win promotion to Division 1. The 2nd team have found it tougher going in Division 3 and are currently 3rd from bottom, although comfortably ahead of the bottom two. The team hope to consolidate their status in the division during the second half of the season, if the first choice team remains available and injury free.

The 3rd team top Division 5 in what is shaping up to be a close run league, with only 10 points separating the first four teams. Nothing can be taken for granted in the second half of the season, although with five of their seven remaining games being at home, promotion must be a realistic target.

Also in Division 5, the 4th team hold fifth place, despite having only lost one more game than the 3rd team,

which goes to show what a close league it is shaping up to be. The next 'derby' match is scheduled for 29th January - with both teams looking to gain as many points as possible it will certainly be a competitive fixture!

The ladies 1st team sit in third place in Division 1, and while leaders Yarm are a long way in front, Sedgefield sit only two points behind Darlington and will be fighting hard for second place over the next few months.

The ladies 2nd team sit fourth out of five in Division 2, although having won two and lost three, they are still performing well. With the addition of a couple of juniors (allowed in the ladies leagues under local rules) for the second half of the season, this will provide some much needed strength in depth to the team. All in all, it has been a good first half to the season for Sedgefield Squash Club and I look forward to reporting on significant successes at the end of March.

## Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers have taken to the mud of winter cross countries with alacrity this year, competing so far in the North East Harrier League at Blaydon, Jarrow and Wallington Hall in Northumberland. The Harrier League provides tough and entertaining competition with all of the region's top clubs represented and Sedgefield Harriers have added to the growing numbers involved in the league, demonstrating the recent rise in popularity of cross country competition in the area. This will now be transferred to championship competition at the North Eastern Championships in South Shields, followed by the Northerns in Liverpool in January and the English Nationals in Nottingham in February. There is a depth of quality in seniors and juniors at the club and it is expected that results in senior and junior age groups will progress the Harriers up the rankings in the area and region. Those expected to go well for the seniors include Paul Weir, Chris Lines, Geoff Hill, Justin Cox and Nick Munro, while Abie Hearmon and Kieran Walker are among those expected to do well for the juniors.

In addition to the cross countries there is the usual schedule of races over the festive period, including the Saltwell Park 10k, The Loftus Poultry Run, Guisborough Woods Fell Race, Captain Cook's Fell Race on New Year's Day and the Old Monks trail race from Hart Village on 5th January.

The club will also host its first event of 2014, the Gerry Kearsley Winter Handicap, on January 12th. Kindly sponsored by Peggy Kearsley, this popular cross country event starts and finishes just outside Fishburn (on the field to the left just before entering Fishburn when heading there from Sedgefield) and follows an undulating and scenic multi-terrain route to Bishop Middleham and back. The first runners will set off at 10.00am (with registration from 9.00am) and is free to enter, in advance or on the day. For further information or to register contact Ean Parsons on 07771 828 568 or email [ean.p@sedgefieldharriers.co.uk](mailto:ean.p@sedgefieldharriers.co.uk). The senior event is preceded by a one mile junior handicap race at the same location, starting at 9.30am (children who want to take part must be registered by 9.15am).

Recently, the Harriers were delighted to pick up a cheque for £5,000 for their Back the Track campaign at the Northern Echo Local Heroes Awards. The presentation was made by grass roots sports charity Future Sport North East and the County Durham Community Foundation and was a new initiative under the Local Heroes banner, designed to support a club project that was judged to be particularly worthwhile and which had the potential to make a large positive impact for a community.

The Harriers also have several other fundraising initiatives underway to help them achieve their goal of siting a community athletics track at Sedgefield Community College. Many individuals and groups in Sedgefield have already provided significant support to the project, reflecting the support that it has here, and the club is very grateful to all those who are getting involved, including most recently The Inner Wheel of Sedgefield and Sainsbury's. There is a lot of money to be raised, but the project is gaining momentum all of the time. That's all for this month, and this year. I hope you have enjoyed the last 12 month's Sports Updates. Many thanks to everyone who sent news - I couldn't manage without you - and here's to another fantastic sporting year in Sedgefield in 2014.

**STOP PRESS:** At the North East Cross Country Championships on 14th December, the Sedgefield Harriers U13 girls claimed bronze in their team event, ahead of some of the longest established clubs in the region.



# Your Letters

## No fireworks decision provokes a rocket or two!

It is rather disappointing to read that one of the few events in Sedgefield when large numbers of the Sedgefield Community, of varying age groups, gather, namely The New Years Eve fireworks on The Green, has been cancelled.

It is also unfortunate that this information was only published in the December issue of the Sedgefield News and as such gave people short notice of the decision when no doubt this was taken some time ago. We are advised that the monies saved will go into the new "Community Chest" to be used for local good causes.

While supporting the idea of helping "local good causes", does it have to be at the expense of cancelling an event which the majority of the Sedgefield Community enjoy? It would be interesting to hear by how much the Community Chest has benefited financially on the back of this decision.

*Howard Smith*

I have just finished reading the excellent Sedgefield News for December and I have to say that I am extremely disappointed to learn that the New Year's Eve fireworks have been cancelled.

I believe it was mentioned at a Town Council meeting that numbers attending the display were dwindling. Well, I have attended all the New Year firework displays except one since they started, and whilst I certainly haven't counted the numbers, it most certainly doesn't appear to be any less popular. Even when the weather has been very poor it has always been well attended.

Whilst monies put into the Community Chest are always to be welcomed as they will benefit local good causes, I do not believe that the New Year's Eve firework display should be abolished to assist the Community Chest financially. The Community Chest is already funded from government and council sources so please, Sedgefield Town Council, give us our New Year's Eve fireworks back! *Stephen Gilmore*

*Editor's note: With councils all over the country cutting spending, perhaps another organisation would consider coming forward to revive the fireworks tradition for future years. Any ideas?*

### **Sedgefield News - Text/phone 07572 502 904. Email [sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com)**

Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher: we strive to be impartial & independent.

We reserve the right to edit copy & will not publish letters of unknown authorship. Please send your contact details with correspondence.

Sedgefield News is published by Sedgefield Development Trust and printed by The Print Factory, 01429 264777.

### **For Sedgefield Development Trust & its other projects please contact**

**Company Secretary**, 7 Melgrove Way, Sedgefield, TS21 2JN Email [sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk)

**www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk** email [sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk) & **DIDO**: 07899 022 133; Hare Hills Lodge, Sedgefield, TS21 2EG

*Sedgefield Development Trust is a member of the Development Trusts Association.*







