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SEDGEFIELD NEWS

January 2016



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

A Happy, Peaceful & Prosperous New Year to you all

'Exciting ideas' for growing Sedgefield's ancient church

Part of our centuries-old parish church could be turned into a local history museum and gallery space and made available for local artists and photographers, if suggestions put forward by heritage enthusiasts get support from church authorities.

The suggestions were made by local residents in response to an appeal from a church team investigating ways to conserve the building for future generations and how best to make greater use of St Edmund's to benefit the wider community.

This week, the Rector, the Revd. Michael Gobbett, described early feedback as 'really exciting', but said that more suggestions would still be welcome. He also stressed that making Saint Edmund's available for wider community use would in no way affect the traditional life of the church or its services of worship, saying, "First and foremost, Saint Edmund's will remain a centre for Christian worship and related church activities.

Early thinking is that the local history museum might be housed in the north transept, an area currently filled with pews and chairs and little used except at major anniversary services. The exhibition space would be sited in an open area at the rear of the church near the 'devil's door'.

Other suggestions include using the church 'welcome room' to launch a film club, to introduce basic computing support sessions for people with little or no knowledge of new technology, as a book and CD swap shop, and for meetings of local charities and deserving causes.

Once work to raise the floor of the central crossing is complete, it is planned to make it available to local groups for concerts and rehearsals. Local history group treasurer and published author Alison Hodgson welcomed the possibility of using the church to display a valuable collection of documents and artefacts, currently held in private homes. She feels that the wealth of information about the area should be readily available to both



Many thanks to Jonathan Clegg for this beautiful photograph.

townspeople and visitors, as well as being preserved for future generations. Churchwarden Brian Mutch confirmed that all suggestions would be investigated by the St Edmund's 'Inspired Futures' team and then forwarded to the Church Council for a decision on which should be adopted. It was hoped that a decision could be made before the end of the year. *by Ron Eyley*

*The February edition deadline is Friday 15th January.
Please send copy to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com*

Steve's Nature Diary

The natural world month by month

In winter life can be hard for wildlife; days are short and for many creatures, especially small birds, finding enough food to survive takes up almost every hour of daylight. Most trees have lost their leaves and we see the shape of their trunks and branches most clearly in winter. As leaves fall from hedges and trees, birds become much easier to spot and winter can also be a good time to look for tracks and signs left by animals. Snowfall provides a wonderful opportunity to study animal tracks. Look for the double slot tracks of deer, or the prints of fox, badger or even an otter. Winter, even without snow, is the best time to find both tracks and trails as with fewer plants to obscure tracks on the ground and plenty of muddy areas and damp soft ground, you will have plenty of opportunity to practise your tracking skills. Some useful spotting sheets can be found at <http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/spotting-sheets>.

Winter is also a good time to visit wetlands such as Bishop Middleham Castle Lake, Hardwick Park, Saltholme and the Tees Marshes to see large numbers of migratory ducks, geese and swans. It is the best time of year for two very good reasons: the highest numbers of birds are present in winter months and drakes are in their brightest and best plumage of the year.

On a winter walk around Sedgfield you have a chance of seeing other winter visitors including Redwings and Fieldfares. Another Scandinavian visitor is the Waxwing, a plump bird, slightly smaller than a Starling, with a prominent crest. It is reddish-brown with a black throat, a small black mask round its eye, yellow and white in the wings and a yellow-tipped tail. It does not breed in the UK, but is a winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers, called irruptions, when the population on its breeding grounds gets too big for the food available.

In winter many birds roost together for safety and warmth including Pied Wagtails and Wrens. The best time to track down bird roosts is from one hour before sunset when you may spot birds all flying in the same direction, heading to safe roost sites. Starling murmurations can be seen at a number of sites including Portrack Marsh and Saltholme. The Royal Society of Biology is running a murmuration survey as part of a research project at www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/biologyweek/starling-survey.

Sedgfield Village Action Group (SVAG) - Update

As previously reported SVAG was specifically set up to support the Neighbourhood Plan and try and stop developers who were acting against the vast majority of those residents who voted for the plan in the public consultation meetings and the Site Preference Survey carried out during the plan's development. The current situation is:

Application No. 1 The 3 cornered field (42 Houses) - initially rejected by DCC; appeal by developer; Planning Inspector visited site 8 Dec; decision to be made in new year.

Application No. 2 The Eden Drive Development (315 Houses) - rejected by DCC; appeal by developer lodged on 26 Nov; existing objections/comments will be considered by the Inspector within 28 days of that date and any new objections/comments should be made by 7th January 2016. Comments to be made to leanne.palmer@pins.gsi.gov.uk or write in triplicate to The Planning Inspectorate, 3/01B, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN, quoting Ref Nos. DM/14/00263/OUT & DM/14/00261/FPA.

Application No. 3 - Land to the North of the A689 adjacent to Stockton Road (150 Houses) - Developer will present revised plans to the Town Council in January.

Application No. 4 - Land behind Sainsbury's, the Community College and The Orchard estate (Initially 371 Houses) An outline application has been received for a revised development; all previous comments will be considered by DCC when a decision is made and new comments should be made to dmstrategic@durham.gov.uk or in writing to DCC, Planning Development (Strategic), Room 4/123-128, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UQ, by 22nd December.

SVAG isn't against housing development within Sedgfield. We question the excessive development on green field, agricultural land when brownfield sites, within the Built Up Area Boundary are available and not being considered. We should not accept that development will automatically happen; we can and have already made a difference.



Mordon Hedgehog Rescue

officially opened its doors to hedgehogs in July. Since then they have released six hedgehogs to the wild, and now have seven hibernating. Three others are with carers and five are in special care. If you find a hedgehog out and about at this time of year, the size of or even smaller than a can of beans, or larger, but without a rounded bottom end, it needs help. Hedgehogs out in daylight need help.

From March onwards hedgehogs may be coming out of hibernation and would appreciate kitten biscuit and water in feeding stations in gardens.

Wendy Hammond runs the project, and her number is **07933048200** - but please do not leave voicemail. Send a text and you will be called back, or leave a message on their fascinating website, www.mordonhedgehogrescue.com.

They also have a Facebook page. Donations are very welcome and can be made using PayPal - there is a donate button on website. They are incredibly expensive for such tiny creatures!

Below - a typical hedgehog ward!



News Rounds

Huge thanks to those who responded last month. You've solved quite a few of our distribution problems!

Another has cropped up though, and it's a delivery round of **78 copies, covering Durham Road, Pine Ridge Avenue, Conifer Avenue, Rosedale Close and the flats on Woodland Mews.**

If you can help, please contact Judith Edgoose; mail@todds-housefarm.co.uk. **01740 620244, mobile 079899 984 464.**

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter @sedgfieldnews & Instagram at #sedgnews.

Contact the Editor by email sedgfieldnews@hotmail.com;

call/text **07572 502 904** or write to **55 White House Drive, TS21 3BU**

SedgfieldWeb - www.sedgfieldweb.co.uk - email sedgfieldweb@hotmail.co.uk

Sports editor - chrisjlines@aol.com Events & Diary - diary.sedgfieldnews@hotmail.com

1st Sedgefield Scout Group – a youthful 50 years old

2016 sees 1st Sedgefield Scout Group celebrate its 50th birthday. Since 1966, the group has been providing young people in Sedgefield with an opportunity to develop practical and leadership skills that will serve them well throughout their lives, while imbuing them with a real sense of community spirit and social responsibility. In the course of that, the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers (previously Venture Scouts) and their leaders have travelled far and wide and enjoyed a huge range of rich experiences. All of this has been made possible by the massive commitment of dedicated volunteers.

During 2016, the group will mark this major milestone in various ways and is appealing to current and former members to get involved. The main celebration will take place over the weekend of 24th-26th June in Hardwick Park, with a special 50th birthday event hosted by the Park. Full details will be confirmed in the coming months, but will include a special event on Saturday 25th June, which will be open to as many former members as possible, whether they live in and around Sedgefield or further afield. All will be very welcome. If you were a member of 1st Sedgefield Scout Group, or are in touch with someone who was, the team that is organising the 50th birthday celebrations would love to hear from you. You can make contact by emailing sedgefieldscouts50@gmail.com or calling 07971 868329. The group will continue to share updates on plans via Sedgefield News and on its Facebook page (search for 'Sedgefield Scouts'). It's going to be a big year for Scouting in Sedgefield, so watch this space! *Do you recognise anyone in these photos? More available on the website.*



Believe: A Fashion Show with a Difference

Members of Sedgefield Slimming World and their fearless leader Tanya joined forces with Elena from Jayne's Ladies Boutique to put on **Believe: A Fashion Show with a Difference**, to raise funds to help local girl Amy Stockill. The evening was filled with beautiful clothes, astonishing dancing skills and a superb buffet during the interval that was a feast for the eyes without adding inches to your waist!

The models sashayed down the catwalk showcasing the best that Jayne's has to offer; from casual daywear to smart office wear, to coats, clutches and finally evening gowns.

The moment of the night however has to go to the audience chipping in with a rendition of Jingle Bells while five Christmas girls danced their way down the catwalk. In amongst the clothes, there was entertainment ranging from Strictly-style Latin dancers to a 16-strong tap troupe dancing to the Hot Chocolate film theme, provided by the dancers from Fishburn Youth Dance and Drama. Catwalk photography was provided by Studio 8's Steve Warren



and alongside the on-stage entertainment was the chance to do some Christmas shopping, with a selection of gifts and beauty buys available from Temple Spa, and fun was had by all at the Silly Snaps booth! Watching all this was the evening's guest of honour, Amy Stockill and her family, who thoroughly enjoyed every moment. Frank Stockill, Amy's dad, paid special tribute to the bravery and inspiration that his daughter has shown over the last couple of years after a brain tumour in her cerebellum changed all of their lives. He then thanked everyone who had taken part, in particular the ladies from Slimming World who bravely volunteered to model. In the region of £900 was raised, which is phenomenal. Every penny will go towards adapting Amy's house to accommodate the brand new electric wheelchair that has been purchased, with a view to giving Amy the kind of independence that until now has simply not been possible. A massive thank you from Amy and her family. *Ceri Craig*

News in Brief

The Sedgefield in Bloom group is embarking on an exciting new project in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall. Colourful beds to the right of the entrance gate and beneath the bar window have already attracted compliments from visitors. Now we intend to tackle the much bigger area to the left of the entrance.

Weather permitting, contractors will begin work in January, removing overgrown ivy, self-seeded holly and other designated plants. Their area of work will be cordoned off and should cause very little inconvenience to car park users. This will be a two year project, aimed at transforming the present neglected area into a garden reflecting the heritage of Sedgefield. Regular up-dates will be provided.

Flu campaign thanks

Skerne Medical Group wish to thank everyone involved in the recent flu campaign, both staff and local people, who made the whole process quick and easy. There were no queues again this year and 85% of eligible people have now been protected with their flu injection, 10% above the national target set by NHS England. It is not too late for any eligible adults or children to have their flu vaccination - please ring the practice for an appointment. Wishing you all a happy and **healthy** 2016.

In our next edition

Next month we will have news from the new treasurer at St Edmund's Church, some brilliant news from Amy Stockill. and much more.



Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club

Reg Charity No 1041230 Patron: Rt Hon Tony Blair

We wish to recruit a **Playleader** on a 16 hours per week contract. The successful applicant would work flexibly to cover between 7.40-9am & 3-6pm, Mon-Fri in term time and 8am-6pm in school holidays. Level 3 childcare qualification or experience of working with children would be an advantage.

For further information contact Sue Bell on 01740 623565, or send CV to Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club, Rectory Row, Sedgefield, TS21 3BJ or email sedgefieldfunclub@tiscali.co.uk.

Closing date: 15th January

Countryside Crime on the Rise?

by Kelly Aitkin

Crime in rural areas certainly isn't unheard of but recently, theft from farms and rural properties in and around the Sedgfield area has become a hot topic. Living in an area where your nearest neighbour is around half a mile away can of course mean that it is hard for neighbours to see any suspicious activity; this may lead to targeting from thieves. Farms have been recent victims of theft, in particular bikes and tools. I asked a member of the Durham Constabulary about their thoughts surrounding these worrying crimes.

"Criminals sometimes target isolated properties, particularly during the winter months, as they see them as easy targets – primarily because of their position and the reduced risk of being spotted". These crimes could be perhaps all linked and leads many residents to worry about their property and possessions, especially in the lead up to Christmas.

One Sedgfield victim of these recent crimes said "it's not just about your hard-earned possessions being stolen, it's the fact they are coming into your property and land whilst you're asleep. You feel you should be safe and you're being violated." With concern ever-growing, these events lead us, of course, to the question - is rural crime becoming an increasing problem?

Sergeant Clarke told me, "Rural crime tends to occur in fits and is often dependant on the time of year and on which particular criminals are operating in the area at any given time." With winter being a prominent time for these crimes, advice has been given to help people who would be at risk to keep themselves safe.

"There are things people can do to reduce the risk of being targeted by thieves. We would recommend that people install alarms in both houses and outbuildings, improve lighting on land, install good quality CCTV with lots of signage, fit quality locks and where possible secure items within the outbuildings." Clarke continued. "Keep your property in good repair to avoid any weak spots which a thief could use to enter a property. Marking property using ID stamps or a UV marker can help an item to be identified if it is stolen." Your local beat officer can help you with marking your property.

Surely if these crimes are all linked, it won't be long until the residents' minds are put to rest and justice prevails. Clarke's final advice was, "If you live on an isolated property, become part of the farm watch scheme. Above all, be vigilant and call the police if you see anything which appears suspicious or out of place."

Sedgfield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch

Sedgfield Village Neighbourhood Watch Meeting 1.12.15

Salters Lane/Trading Est. Entrance road: Following two objections, Durham County Council's proposal to introduce parking restrictions at this junction will go before the Highways Committee on 4th Feb. Residents will be aware of growing congestion in this area, which will inevitably increase over the Christmas period. PC Todd advised the meeting of the PACT team's recent actions in this respect

Police Community Liaison Officer, Lauren Wray updated the meeting on the new communication channel known as **In The Know**, which will replace the previous **Voice Connect** system. She outlined the following;

Everyone registered with **Voice Connect** will receive a telephone call notifying them of the **In The Know** system.

Everyone will be automatically enrolled onto the new system unless they opt out.

Under the **In The Know** scheme, data currently held by the police in the **Voice Connect** system can be shared with organisations such as: Action Fraud, Crimestoppers, Fire & Rescue Service, Local Authority etc. Users have the right to opt out of these data sharing arrangements. If you allow these organisations to have your data, you can choose how you would like to receive messages from them.

For more on the **In The Know** system you might like to visit www.KeepInTheKnow.co.uk/pages/3673/1/FAQs.html If you have any queries or difficulties with registration or messages, contact **Lauren Wray - tel. 01325 732020**

Other PCSO Issues: Police are aware of recent financial scams, whereby fraudsters pose as police officers, either online or by telephone. They will tell you detailed and convincing stories to persuade you to pass over financial details or to send them money. PCSO Wray advised that you should **never give out any information** to someone claiming to be from the police. You should challenge them to give you their name and number, then contact local police (tel. 101) to verify that information.

In view of the heightened National Security Threat Level, PCSO Wray requested vigilance and reports from the public.

The Police **Dark Nights** campaign, which aims to reassure people of their safety and security is now underway. If anyone would like to volunteer to assist in the **Dark Nights** project, please contact Lauren as above.

Figures provided compared crime in Sedgfield in 2014 & 2015. Reported crimes in those years were 264 & 293 respectively – a rise of almost 11%.

continued right

PC Todd's report

In a good result for all, a male has been convicted of 13 shoplifting offences committed in Sedgfield and Fishburn; hopefully, he will not return to our area. Since then, reported crime has reduced; fingers crossed, so it will continue.

Crime reported: **damage to vehicles** in Boynston Grove, Salters Lane & Thurlow Rd; **theft** of an indicator from a parked vehicle in Rectory Row; of a trailer in The Lane; the head of an antique petrol pump from Stockton Rd and 2 folding washing lines from Caden Court.

Sadly, I must comment on thoughtless youths both from Sedgfield and the wider communities. They have been responsible for indiscriminate throwing of mud and stones from the cemetery aimed at passing vehicles and pedestrians. The Neighbourhood police team have spoken to a number of youths. Parents, please talk to your teenagers, pointing out the distress, danger and damage caused to vehicles and the public.

Pub Watch: 1 incident required further action and a male was issued with a Warning Letter regarding unacceptable behaviour in the Black Lion.

P.A.C.T. It was decided that the priority for the Neighbourhood police team would continue to be parking in Salters Lane Industrial Estate. I remind you that 'No Parking' cones have been placed in that location for a reason - the free flow of traffic for business and public.

I hope you all had a Happy Christmas and enjoyable New Year. I look forward to working with the community to provide a safe environment for us all.

Until next time, Keith

Contacts: 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**
TYPETALK: **08444 111 445**

Neighbourhood Watch continued

PC Todd's report included several issues concerning parking and safety infringements at the zebra crossing. Keith suggested that photographic evidence e-mailed to police might enable the police to take action.

He also gave a summary of crimes in the period 13th Oct – 1st Dec. Fifteen crimes were detailed including burglary (1), plus a number of cases of theft and criminal damage, details of which can be seen in his report for Sedgfield News (above.)

Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th Feb

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The Trusty

News from Sedgefield Development Trust

Great results again for Sedgefield Energy Switchers

When the October 2015 Switching Campaign closed, the people of Sedgefield had indicated their growing confidence in the scheme. Over 200 people had registered, with over 130 of them deciding to switch their supplier. Savings were, again, very good, with first time registrants saving, on average, over £220/ year and re-registrants saving a further 10% on their costs of the last year. Unfortunately, some people missed the chance to continue saving by not re-registering before their contracts had come to an end. **The only way to take advantage of the savings is by registering again before your current contract comes to an end.** So, if yours has come to an end already, or will come to an end before the end of April 2016, we recommend that you register again. **Key Dates are as follows:**

CURRENT REGISTRATION opened on 1st December and **CLOSES ON 2ND FEBRUARY**. Auction Day is 3rd February and Personal offers will be issued from 12th February. Offer Acceptance closes on 15th March.

If you are re-registering or registering for the first time, the process is the same. As before, there are 2 ways to register. If you are happy to register on line yourself, go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk, open the ENERGY SWITCH section, simply click on the RED 'REGISTER NOW' button and then follow the links. 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 help you or complete your registration for you.

Farmers' Market: Sunday 3rd January: the 1st NE market of 2016!

"We really enjoy trading at this laid back, community inspired market." Rachel Wreford

Blow away that post-festivities feeling and replace stale leftovers with fresh, local produce. On our Community Stall we have Olivia Summers, who attends Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College. In October, she will be travelling around Borneo with other students from QE, to support conservation for endangered sun bears and local communities. Olivia is hoping to fundraise at the market for this adventure.

Regular Events, Meetings and Get-togethers

Acoustic Evenings 1st Fri & 4th Wed. Ceddesfeld Hall 8.30pm All welcome.
Bereavement Support Group 3 - 5pm. Thursday, St. Edmund's Church
Bridge Club Ceddesfeld Hall Sunday & Tuesday 7.30pm Beginners welcome. 620434
CAB Advice Sessions alternate Wednesdays 10am - 1pm Advice & Information Centre
Café @St Catherine's Friendly chat & Fishburn gossip! Fridays 9.30-12.00
Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group Small friendly group 10am-12.00 Thursdays
Ceddesfeld Hall Pre-School Mon, Wed, Fri am; Children 2+years. 620934
Craft Club Swinhoe Room, Ceddesfeld Hall, 2nd & 4th Tues 7.30-10pm Tel: 620656
Fishburn Art Group Youth & Community Centre, Butterwick Rd. Monday 9.30am-12
Fishburn Taekwondo Tues & Thurs 6pm, Youth & Community Centre. 07743455065
Fitness classes in the Parish Hall Tuesdays in term time: **Tai Chi** 10 - 11am and on Wednesdays: **Exercise to Music** 11.30am - 12.30pm: **Pilates** 12.30 - 1.30pm and **Healthy Horizons** 1.45 - 2.45pm.
Lyrics Choirs Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall. SLYC 6pm Adults 7.30pm. All welcome.
NECP Concertina Workshop 2nd & 4th Sun 1pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. 01642 588197
New Generation Church Every Sunday 11am at the Parish Hall. All welcome.
Rotary Club of Sedgefield Wed 7.30pm Call Bob 07831270892 or Mel 07530315331
Round Table 1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members welcome. Carl 07775644598
S'field Art Group Tuesday 6.30-8.30pm Methodist Church Hall. Tuition, all welcome
S'field Bowls Club Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners welcome call 622532 for information
S'field Handbell Ringers Weds 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall or 1st Mon of month 621292
S'field Mags Hardwick Arms first Tuesday of month at 8 pm. Tel: 07966029434
S'field Players Parish Hall, 7.30, Sunday & Wednesday. SPYS Sunday 5.30. 620091
S'field Playgroup Methodist Hall, Mon, Wed & Thursday 9.15-11.30. 620893
S'field Pop In Club C'feld Hall Tues 9.30am-12 Wed 10am-12.30pm Thurs 1-3.30pm
Tea Dance Parish Hall from 1-3pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month.
Toddler Club Wed term time 1.15 - 3pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Tel: Joan Brennan, 622385
Regular Events & Meetings is always available to view at www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk but now appears only quarterly in the paper. Please cut out and keep for the months in between. If you would like to change, add or delete an item, please contact us by mid March. Contacts details are on p2.



Ceddesfeld Hall



Home of Sedgefield Community Association

SCA are looking forward to a busy schedule of events and activities for 2016. Organisation of such big events as the Mediaeval Fayre (21st May) and Sedgefield Day (June 11th) has already begun and we hope to add a few more events to the calendar.

Thanks very much to all of the people who returned the questionnaire. Some new events were suggested, such as an 'Open Mic' night, quiz night, indoor games evening and 'Salsa' evening. We'll certainly be taking some of those ideas forward, so keep an eye on the local press for details.

The SCA have been very touched by the very kind, appreciative comments made by residents. Some referred to the long term impact that Ceddesfeld Hall has had on family life, over several generations. We are delighted to be in a position to continue traditions as well as hopefully provide new events which reflect modern family interests and pastimes. We will need some help to continue to do this, so if you're interested, come and join us, in any capacity you can. You will make a difference and it's very true that you often get out of things, what you put into them!

Speaking of new events, 'Really Easy Bridge' lessons are to take place every Monday, 1.30 pm to 4 pm, beginning on 11th January. Get your thinking caps on and come and join in! Another January event is the Burns Supper on the 23rd. Tickets are nearly sold out, so don't miss out.

We will let you know in next month's newsletter about the raffle prize winners, for the returned questionnaire. Best wishes to all residents for 2016, and we hope to see you at Ceddesfeld, over the course of the year.

For more information about the SCA, contact Wendy, 620206: Pat, 620607: Sarah, 622185 or visit www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk.

Sedgefield Village Veterans

We hope our supporters have had a Happy & Merry Christmas and have a Prosperous New Year in 2016!

All prizes from our Christmas Prize Draw drawn on December 4th, have been collected.

The winning ticket numbers can be viewed at www.sedgefielddeb.co.uk

Our next Coffee morning is on Friday 8th January. Hope to see you there.



National award for loan shark production

A theatre production designed to bite back at loan sharks has won a national award. Bishop Auckland Theatre Hooligans (BATH) joined forces with Durham Constabulary, King James I Academy and the England Illegal Money Lending Team to put together the six-part show. The story, which followed the paths taken by six different families who needed to borrow money, will be used to educate people across the UK about the pitfalls of borrowing from illegal money lenders.

The BATH group received a national award plus a cash prize from the National Illegal Money Lending Team to mark their efforts. Keith Philpott, a Tactical Advisor with Durham Constabulary's Organised Crime Team said "BATH have done a fantastic job bringing our warning messages to life in their show and I am extremely proud that they have been honoured with this award."



Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club - thriving after 5 years

To my great shame and embarrassment I have not yet attended one of the Rock and Blues nights at the Parish Hall; not for any specific reason, just other commitments. However, my presence has been far from missed! Tickets to the regular club nights are like gold dust. Every gig sells out, and has done from the early days of the Club. Since 2010 the Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club, which is run by a small group of passionate volunteers, Garry and Viv Jacobs, Rob Moran, Matt Wilson and John Tate, has been going from strength to strength and for many residents of Sedgefield has become one of the highlights of their social calendar.

For those who are regular gig attendees the lack of quality entertainment, poor venues and lacklustre audiences, as well as great travelling distances to see artists, has always been a difficulty. Garry and the team felt there was a niche in the market and so arranged the first Rock and Blues Gig in Sedgefield, initially in order to raise money for the Round Table, as part of their charitable contributions.

After the successes of the first few gigs, the group continued, under their own steam, to bring some of the biggest names, as well as up and coming, and local artists, to Sedgefield. You only have to take a look at their website to see the endless lists of groups, solo acts and performers that the Club have hosted. Many who have performed at Sedgefield have gone on to further success in their field, developing not only the Clubs national, but their international reputation. Last year the Club was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame, where artists such as Billie Holiday, Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix have also been recognised. It is one of the only venues in Great Britain to have had the honour. The Club also sponsored the award for Best Album at the British Blues Awards 2014, with the prize going to King King.

The feedback from audience members and visiting artists, is a tribute to its continuing and developing success. Howlin Mat, a renowned Blues Guitarist said "Sedgefield is a club amongst clubs. 100% committed to providing its members with the best acts nationally and internationally. It is also helping to develop the music scene in the north east by providing a forum for up and coming acts to hone their skills and by offering support and encouragement to others involved in putting on music in the region."

Over the years the group have donated money to a variety of local charities - Sedgefield in Bloom, Ceddesfest, Cancer Wards and others have benefitted. Any profit goes back into the club to guarantee new performers, or to charities. This fantastic, internationally renowned, innovative and exciting local club, with their iconic blue guitar logo, is going from strength to strength, and I shall be doing my best to try and get a ticket to their next gig. That's if there are any left! TG

At Sedgefield Rock & Blues Club - below, Ben Poole.
Above right, Aynsley Lister & Mitch Laddie
Bottom right, Buddy Whittington & Laurence Jones
Photos by John Finlayson



Blocki's Boys Win!

Sedgefield based Blocki's Boys regained the B.A.C.S quiz trophy at Bishop Auckland Town Hall in December 27 teams were present for this annual charity quiz and over £650 was raised for the 'Help for Heroes' charity. Mike Blocki's team won a close contest to add to their 6 previous wins despite slipping up last year! Team members are Mike Blocki, Andrew Cannings, Tony Bland, Graeme Oram, Brian Lowes and John Race.

Old Red Eyes

On Friday 29th January at the Parish Hall, Andy Johnson will be performing a tribute concert. **Old Red Eyes** is a solo, acoustic tribute to the songs and sound of Paul Heaton of The Beautiful South and Housemartins fame. It's a classic songbook of British pop, including Happy Hour, Caravan of Love, Build, Song For Whoever, Prettiest Eyes, Sail This Ship Alone, Old Red Eyes Is Back, One Last Love Song ...

Andy Johnson (Old Red Eyes) performs across the country with the highly acclaimed tribute act The Southmartins. He brings not only his outstanding vocal likeness to Mr Heaton but also the same engaging, soulful and energetic performance to his solo show with a good deal of audience interaction and humour throughout the set and between songs. A show not to be missed. For ticket information please see Page 12.

Open Mic Nights

I hope to organise occasional open mic nights in Ceddesfeld Hall, starting in February. Watch this space! TG



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SPORTS UPDATE

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Often at this time of year, I allow myself a bit of a rant about the circus that the BBC Sports Personality of the Year (SPOTY) has become. In short, my gripe is that the great institution that was once the BBC Sports Review of the Year has deteriorated into a ratings grabbing, X Factor (and its ilk) influenced pale imitation of its previous incarnation. The programme used to be essential viewing in early December (yes, the date has moved too), offering an in depth and insightful summary of the sporting year with substantial segments about each of the main sports, and the presentation of a small number of awards. Nowadays, it's all about hyping up the shortlisted SPOTY candidates and encouraging the public to vote for them. So, each of them gets their own specially produced short film within the show and at regular intervals the full list is read out (along with the obligatory telephone number to call or text) – again, and again, and again. I note that there are 12 on the shortlist this year (I think it used to be 10, but could be wrong), which means there will be even less time for anything other than a popularity contest. All of this is at the expense of much of the review element of the show that for me made it such an enjoyable viewing experience.

By the time you read this, SPOTY will have been and gone. It has been mired in controversy this year; some clearly stirred up by other media who like nothing better than to attack the BBC, but I think that a lot of it was brought on by whoever is responsible for SPOTY. Undermine the integrity of your own product and you must expect others to do the same. I hope that the BBC uses this as an opportunity to have a long hard look at the whole 'thing' and consider trying to restore at least some of the original spirit and dignity of Sports Review of the Year in 2016.

Meanwhile, in the North East, we do have an awards programme that properly celebrates grass roots sport. Every year, the Northern Echo Local Heroes Awards recognise the people and organisations that perform well in their chosen sport or work hard behind the scenes. Sedgefield and Fishburn have enjoyed success in the past – only last year, Sadie Abel was a winner. This year saw more plaudits head this way. Senior Team of the Year was awarded to Achieve Northside Skinnergate Road Cycling, of which Sedgefield cyclist Ben Hetherington is a leading member. One of the night's major moments was the presentation of the Sir Bobby Robson Leading Light Award, which went to Ean Parsons, founder and outgoing chair of Sedgefield Harriers. Although very modest and always quick to point out the contribution of many others to the club's success, Ean has been the main driving force since day one and thoroughly deserves this accolade. It came just two days before Sedgefield Harriers hosted the biggest event in its history, the North Eastern Counties Athletic Association Cross Country Championships...

Athletics

Saturday 12th December was a red letter day for Sedgefield Harriers.

At the end of its tenth birthday year, they hosted one of the country's major cross country running events; certainly the biggest that has ever come to Sedgefield. The 110th North Eastern Counties Athletic Association (NECAA) Cross Country Championships were held in Hardwick East Park. The event attracted the highest number of entries since 1993 and despite some of the toughest conditions that any of the runners had faced in a race, the championships recorded the highest ever number of overall finishers at 964, including a record number of 410 in the senior men's event. On the day, competitors were faced with proper winter conditions. Sedgefield MP Phil Wilson started the first race of the day at 11:00am, when the U13 boys set off. The early junior runners braved freezing rain on an undulating course that included some standing water and plenty of mud. The rain soon turned to snow and by the time the senior runners competed, it was heavy and lying thickly on the ground. When the final race (men's U17) ended, several inches of snow lay on the ground.

Following the event, runners, clubs and officials quickly took to social media to applaud the army of volunteers from Sedgefield Harriers, NECAA, the Friends of Sedgefield Harriers charity and 1st Sedgefield Scout Group, who together made the event possible. The marshals and car park team, many of whom were on duty in the same place for over four hours in freezing conditions, came in for particular praise. Last year's host Tyne Bridge Harriers described them as "men and women of steel", while Tyne-dale Harriers noted their "unbelievable effort". Leading British long distance athlete and Sunderland Stroller Aly Dixon finished third in the senior women's race and summed it up: "Massive thank you to officials and volunteers at today's North Eastern Cross Country Champs. By far the worst conditions I've ever raced in." Phil Houghton, chair of Sedgefield Harriers, added: "It was a momentous day in our club's history and a fitting finale to our 10th birthday celebrations. We can't



The senior women's race gets underway, almost in a white-out. Photo by Ian Dunn

Karate

In the recent British University Karate Championships, Sedgefield's Michael Jones was part of the Cambridge University team that finished second overall and he won the individual title for Kyu grade kumite (fighting). Michael began karate as a junior with the Sedgefield Ishinryu Club, coached by Phill Bournier and Jeff Hetherington. Congratulations to Michael. I hope to be reporting on his success in the future.

Athletics continued

... thank the volunteers enough – from the club and its friends, to the NECAA and 1st Sedgefield Scout Group.

The same goes to the medical team who were on hand throughout, quickly and effectively helping runners who suffered from the effects of the cold and wet. They also stayed behind after the races to help some get some vehicles moving that were stuck in the field, which was much appreciated. We thank Hardwick Hall Hotel for use of its car park, which really helped, though getting in and out proved difficult once the snow arrived! We're grateful to the NECAA for giving us the opportunity to host the championships - I think we did this great event justice."

"None of this would have been possible without Ean Parsons, the driving force behind bringing the event to Sedgefield. He was instrumental in securing the championships, then took on the role of event director and did a brilliant job.

Finally, well done to every single runner who took part in what were hugely challenging conditions. You were all amazing." Sedgefield has hosted one major cross country event in the past. In 1955, the Northern Counties Cross Country Championships were staged on Sedgefield Racecourse. There was a thick carpet of snow on that day too!

Well, that's all for this month and this year. Apologies that this update has been dominated by my SPOTY rant and such an emphasis on athletics. I have to confess a vested interest in the latter, as I took part in the championships (I'm still drying out), but regardless of that, it was genuinely an extremely significant event for Sedgefield to host (safe to say that it was very memorable and for the right reasons - snow = proper cross country weather!) Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, dominated by praise for the many volunteers from our community who made the event possible and worked hard throughout the day with smiles on their faces. *Concludes opposite*

Your letters

A true friend remembered

It is with sadness and much respect that I record the loss of a good friend, ex-colleague and most respected Doctor. Dr S A Timol, Stan to his many friends, passed away on the 8th November 2015 at his home in Thorpe Bay, Southend on Sea after a long and protracted illness which he bore with typical stoicism and humility. Stan's good wife Eva kindly informed me of her loss, knowing his affection for Sedgfield, and the friends he made here. Born on 15 December 1926 in Burma, Stan served as a medical officer in the British Army, before becoming a full UK citizen and settling here to make a career in mental health, predominantly at Winterton Hospital, Sedgfield. Stan also supported Dr Sinhar at Wingate as his locum for many years, dispensing his high standards of care to patients of that practice. A humble man, Stan really did care for his patients and for their families. Throughout his working life at Winterton he strove to improve the patients' lot, and I feel privileged to have known Stan as a skilled Doctor, colleague and ultimately, a friend.

I am sure that there are many ex colleagues and local people who will remember Stan and feel the same as I do, as a most caring man who helped many of the most troubled of people, and a man whom I counted as a true friend.

Ken Saiger

Support for Laura

I am writing this in support of the wheelchair appeal for Laura Bashford, first featured in November and followed by Laura's update in December, where she graciously thanked us for our financial contributions. On reading the initial request for help, my family and I decided immediately that this was a deserving cause. I have repeatedly witnessed the kindness, generosity and goodwill of people in the village and I felt that if every household could spare just a few pounds, then Laura could have her new wheelchair easily and quickly. Having read Laura's letter it is clear that although generous contributions have been made, there remains an amount still needed. I would love to see the target of £3500 reached and have faith in the good folk of Sedgfield. Could we have updates in future issues until the target is reached please?

Den Smith and family.



Player of the Year 2015

It was a clean sweep for Edith Cherry at the Sedgfield Bowling Club Annual Presentation evening at Ceddesfeld Hall. Edith is pictured here with her many trophies winning the most points overall to become our Player of the Year 2015. It was a special evening of celebration for the club which has just won planning permission for an outdoor all weather bowling green adjacent to the cricket club.

The Indoor Club meets at Ceddesfeld Hall and new players are always welcome and can play for fun and exercise or join in the competitions. Information about our opening times are available on request from the club secretary Sheila Sutherland 01740 622532.

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Looking ahead, 2016 is sure to be another great sporting year, both near and far. The Rio Olympics and Paralympics are looming, along with UEFA European Championships. I expect there will be plenty to report on and celebrate from Sedgfield and surrounding area, so please continue to send any sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com. Happy new year.

*Samantha Glaister and other U17 girls in action in the 110th North Eastern Counties Athletic Association Cross Country Championships. Photo by Paul Glaister
More photographs at www.sedgfieldweb.co.uk*



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JANUARY 2016 DIARY

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Date	Event
Sun 3rd	New Year Farmers' Market on the Green from 8.30am.
Mon 4th	Sedgefield Local History Society 7.45, Ceddesfeld Hall, 'Skin Care the Ancient Roman Way', by Jo Bath
Wed 6th	WI Parish Hall 7.15 "Mosaic Magic" with Susan Warlock, Ginger wine and mince pies! Members' Competition - an eggcup
Fri 8th	Sedgefield Veterans Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall, 10am - 12 noon U3A Parish Hall , 2pm. Gary Bankhead 'Jewels reclaimed for The River Wear'. January Offer - Membership £11.00 for 6 months. All members welcome - guest £3 at the door ☎ 620526
Sat 9th	Sedgefield Library 10—11am drop-in Surgery with County Councillor Rachel Lumsdon. Come along and discuss any local issues or concerns. Country meets Rock'n'Roll A Mayor's Charity event in the Parish Hall with Honky Tonkin Duo and Silly Snaps! Tickets £10 inc pie & peas from Angela Bannister, ☎ 621287 or STC Offices. Bring your own drinks. Sedgefield Cricket Club Quiz at 8pm, presented by Sean Henderson
Mon 11th	Methodist Wives & Friends 7.30pm, Church Hall. Carrier Bag Sale NEW - Really Easy Bridge Lessons at Ceddesfeld Hall. See below.
Tue 12th	Sedgefield Ladies' Club 7.30pm at Ceddefeld Hall. 'Roman Medicine' by Gordon Henderson
Thur 14th	Sedgefield Show Meeting 8 pm at Sedgefield Social Club
Fri 15th	DEADLINE DAY for Sedgefield News January edition Live Music Night at Sedgefield Cricket Club 7.45pm. Haley Sisters supported by Andy McLaughlin Band, John Weighell & John Wrightson Band. £11, includes buffet.
Tue 19th	Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club 2pm Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. AGM & Quiz. (please note change in time & venue)
Wed 20th	Willowdene Care Home 2pm "Hello 2016!" Coffee Morning Refreshments and cakes served. ☎ 01740 771310
Mon 25th	Methodist Wives and Friends Methodist Church Hall. 'Love Songs from Titanic' by Maeve Nattrass
Tue 26th	Sedgefield Ladies Club Evening Out
Fri 29th	Old Red Eyes 8pm, Parish Hall Tickets £6 on the door/ £5 in advance from www.wegotickets.com/event/341439

Want to play bridge at home with friends, or at a bridge club with new friends? "Really Easy Bridge" lessons start on Monday 11th January, 1.30-4pm at Ceddesfeld Hall. Cost is around £3 per week. Participants will also need a copy of the English Bridge Union complete learn & play programme handbook, costing £20. This is a balanced theory and practice course and all play cards from day 1. Please call Pat Buckley on 01740 620607 for further information.

Looking ahead to February ...

Saturday 13th 'Strictly Come Sedgefield'. Dance to the Little Big Band. Tickets £10 inc buffet supper from STC Office or call 622447. Look out for posters around the village.

Wednesday 10th Sedgefield Players & SPYS. 'I never saw another butterfly' by Celeste Raspanti & 'The night before Christmas' by Anthony Nielson; entered in Round 1 of the All England Theatre Festival at Richmond.

Monday 15th Sedgefield Development Trust AGM. 7.45pm at the Manor House

Saturday February 20th Sedgefield in Bloom Dance to Rootin Tootin. Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets £10, including pie & peas, from council offices. BYO drinks & glasses.

Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the Publisher or the Editor. 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

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Saturday 16th: Rose

Mon 18th: Country Music Night, Billy Davies

Saturday 23rd : Chris De Verne

Saturday 30th: John Conlon

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Feed the Robin this winter, take him under your wing / So in the coming New Year he will continue to sing.

Happy New Year.