



SEDGEFIELD NEWS

January 2019



Sedgefield Tree festival 'a stunning success'

Tyne Tees television personality Pam Royle described this year's Christmas Tree Festival in Sedgefield's ancient St Edmund's Church as 'a stunning success'.

She praised those who had produced the 47 'absolutely splendid' displays and commented: "I thought the first festival two years ago was really wonderful but this year you have really excelled yourselves with some truly imaginative interpretations of A Carol for Christmas".

Pam, a popular visitor to Sedgefield, officially opened the festival and headed the judging panel which included her husband, Mike, and church members Melanie and John Fordham. There was special praise from both Pam and Michael for those who sponsored the trees and also for organisers John Burrows, Anne Eyley, Audrey Flanagan, Michael King, Julie and David Latheron, Brenda Moore, Julia Rowsby and Rachel Stephenson who welcomed Pam to the festival. Lay Reader Michael King later described the free, six-day event as 'a great example of the community spirit evident in Sedgefield'.

In the voluntary organisations section, 1st place went to Sedgefield Harriers, with a much-admired display of the Twelve Days of Christmas, featuring characters and birds created from wooden clothes-pegs. Joint 2nd were 'Escape' and Sedgefield Women's Institute, with St Edmund's Choir, Sedgefield Squash Club and Sedgefield Flower Club in equal third.

In the business community section, 'Peridot' speciality gift and interiors shop took first prize with an exquisite, all-white and silver display depicting 'In the bleak mid-Winter'. Joint second were 'From Loft to Loved' and Sainsbury's Sedgefield store and Clifton Lodge Vets and 'Betty's Boudoir' shared 3rd place. Judges added an extra award for Number Four Teashop's dramatic interpretation of 'We Three Kings'.

The festival raised over £3,500 which will be shared equally between the Great North Air Ambulance and the Church Roof Appeal (to replace lead stolen from the church in 2017.) *Photos by Ron Eyeley*



Above: Paula Warwick receives the trophy on behalf of Sedgefield Harriers from Melanie Fordham & Pam Royle
Right: A few of the adorable peg dolls from the winning tree

We wish you all a very Happy New Year...

... and we hope you continue to enjoy Sedgefield News as we make a few changes. This month we hope you will notice a better quality of photos on this trial glossy paper. Next month, all being well, we go for full colour!

More on page 2.



Ellen Parry & Grace Rowe put the finishing touches to Girl Guiding Sedgefield's entry
Twins Benedict & Gerard Peacock admire the display by Number Four, which won special praise from the judges.



Santa Claus and one of his elves were joined by two reindeer for Saturday's Carol service.



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"Affordable housing" helps local lifeguard buy first home

A local lifeguard trainer has moved into her very first home, with Durham County Council's Discount Market Sale scheme enabling her to purchase a new-build property in Sedgfield.

Having lived in Sedgfield all her life, Ashley Boardman, 25, wanted to stay in the area, but move into her own home. St Edmund's Manor, just five minutes from her parents' house, proved to be the ideal location when she found that there were two-bedroom properties on offer at the Story Homes' development.

Having moved in, Ashley is delighted. "I have found a property with a high specification, on a beautiful development, very close to work and yet still affordable." And like any other young person taking this big step, there's an air of excitement about her comments! "I love the attractive exteriors and the fact that the front doors are all different colours. I'm looking forward to starting to decorate; I'll be turning the second bedroom into a dressing room. I've planned a blush pink and grey colour scheme. It's exciting to have a blank canvas to transform into my dream home."

Lyndsey Walton, sales manager for St Edmund's Manor, commented: "We are committed to helping young people to get onto the property ladder and our smaller properties are ideal for first-time buyers, particularly as the Help to Buy scheme or local Councils' affordable housing scheme can be used."

Photo: Ashley outside her new home

Durham County Council's scheme

You can get an affordable home in one of two ways - buying a home or renting. The website <https://durham.gov.uk/affordablehousing> explains everything you need to get started, but here are a few key points:

Buying a home

This is usually through our Discounted Market Sale scheme, but there are other options such as Shared Ownership or Help to Buy. Information on both schemes is on the Help to Buy website.

Discount Market Sale

Developers sell homes on their housing sites with a percentage discount. The amount of discount differs on each site to make it affordable. To be eligible to buy a discounted home, you need to meet criteria relating to your local connection and how much you earn (this information is available when you apply).

How to apply

Contact the housing developer directly for more information, and information on how to apply.

Sedgfield News : Team News

It's old news now - so old you might think it was long done and dusted - that as long term editor of Sedgfield News, I am ready to retire. Well, this edition marks another stage in that campaign. I will continue to manage the advertising, but this is the team now responsible for taking the News forward. Please give them your support.



Left: Sue Dobson News & features editor.

Contact Sue via email: sedgfieldnews@hotmail.com

Tony Magee Diary, Features, Police/NHW, Youth Sport. Email diary.sedgfieldnews@hotmail.com or call Tony on 07837 114 271.



Right: Tom Guest Arts & Events.

Email sedgfieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Chris Lines Sport. Email chrisjlines@aol.com

SDT Projects & Sedgfield News online can be found at sedgfieldweb.co.uk. It will be re-launched for 2019.

Why not check it out after January 1st?

And finally...

I am still responsible for our **Facebook & Twitter** feeds and, to be honest, it is a younger person's game. We have a new photo editor, **Rudolf Reichel** (*here's an example of his work*) - but we also need someone to manage posts. The need for news & up to date information is very real and the response can be very rewarding. Contact me via Sedgfield News if you would like to help. Thank you. **Sandy Clubley**



Ashley receives the keys from St Edmund's Manor site manager, Paul Thompson

Baroque officially 'golden'

Baroque Beauty Lounge, a local beauty salon on Sedgfield High Street (no 3) are proud to announce that they have been awarded the Hair and Beauty British Talent Awards **Gold Winner for Best Customer Experience**.

The judges looked at all the testimonials submitted from Baroque's clients, as well as looking at their online reviews.

Owner, Emma Duffin said 'We can't begin to explain how excited and proud we are and genuinely surprised that our small, independent local salon in Sedgfield has been recognised nationally. Beauty therapist Danielle and I work very hard to make sure our clients have the best possible experience whilst at Baroque.'

We are incredibly passionate about delivering great customer service and it feels amazing to have this acknowledged in such a wonderful way, knowing we won gold based on the feedback our clients have given.'

The salon can be contacted on 623869 or www.barokesedgfield.co.uk

Emma & Danielle proudly display their award certificate.



Expectations exceeded in college's foodbank goal



A local foodbank project was the beneficiary of a student-led appeal which saw Sedgefield Community College donate a multitude of foods and toiletry items throughout the week in the run up to Christmas.

In a similar appeal last year, around 1,000 individual items were donated, but this time, students and staff outstripped that amount, as almost 1,200 items filled the many boxes, bags and crates which were handed over to the Durham Christian Partnership, which oversees the foodbank project for Sedgefield and Trimdon.

Headteacher Dave Davies commented, "Once again the students have taken a lead on a project that is very pertinent at this time of year. Awareness of local foodbanks is something which we promote at Sedgefield Community College and the way the students have embraced the appeal is testament to them.

"This is the second year which we have supported the project, and we have built on our efforts from last year, which demonstrates the impact our awareness is having. Listening to the conversations of the students throughout the week has been very warming indeed, at a time when giving is paramount."

Last month the school handed over a cheque for almost £700 to BBC Children in Need and next week the students will vote for two charities to benefit from cash donations in lieu of a non-uniform day as the Christmas term concludes.

Sedgefield Rangers International selection



The young musicians giving their all outside Sainsbury's, are from Sedgefield Rangers. **They have won selection for Girlguiding trips to Canada, Sri Lanka and the Charnwood jamboree and they need to fundraise!** They tell us "These camps will give us fantastic team working skills and personal development as well as being the trip of a lifetime. To go on this amazing adventure, between us we have to raise around £7,000. We have played our instruments in Sainsbury's, held a fashion show with Betty's Boudoir and had stalls at the snow party and the Sedgefield Primary and Sedgefield Hardwick Christmas fairs. Many thank everyone who has helped us so far, but we still have a long way to go. Copies of our quiz are available in Jaiz for £1 (£10 M&S voucher first prize + two £5 for 2nd & 3rd) and we are doing **Bags to School!** If you have clothes, shoes in pairs, sheets/bed linen to donate they would be very gratefully received. It will be weighed & we will receive money per kg towards our goal. The deadline for bags is before the Jan 31st collection date. We hope people will continue to support us. If anyone would like to make a small donation or offer a fundraising opportunity please get in touch via Sedgefield News."

Fashion show with star quality



Star of BBC Strictly Come Dancing and CBBC's Tracy Beaker, Dani Harmer wore a Betty's Boudoir dress to the BAFTA's Children's Awards. Boutique owner Lily, and the designers at House of Zana, worked together to create the dress exclusively for Dani.

Flushed with success, the girls at Betty's put on a catwalk of their own, hosting a Fashion Show to raise funds for the Sedgefield Rangers, who hope to send girls worldwide next year.

The night included previews of Betty's Boudoir's current collections, including garments from local designer 'House of Zana'. Guests were entertained by local musicians - Chloe Plays Clarinet and the outstanding vocal talents of Kieron Boston really set the tone.

Over 10 Local businesses and crafters attended the evening, with a selection of stalls allowing guests to buy from some of Sedgefield's small independent businesses all under one roof.

The Fashion show was a massive success with over 100 people attending; a great start to the fundraising for 4 Sedgefield Rangers.

Below: Dani Harmer in "that dress"

Betty's
Boudoir





This Christmas Night

On the 14th and 15th December the Lyric Singers, Lirica and SLYC performed their annual Christmas Concert in the Parish Hall, Sedgefield. The three choirs sang to sold out audiences each night, performing a wide variety of Christmas carols, pop songs, and festive favourites. The Senior Lyrics performed 2 sets of music that included Bob Chilcott's 'Christmas Tide', stunning new versions of Christina Rossetti's 'In the Bleak Midwinter' and the traditional 'Away in a Manger' as well as choral favourite 'Iona'. The Youth Choir took on the challenges of 'Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer' alongside more challenging songs like Malcolm Hawkins' 'The Riders', the upbeat 'Reindeer on the Roof' and Slade's well loved Christmas number 'Merry Christmas, Everybody'.

Lirica performed a set of challenging music that included Pentatonix version of 'Mary did you know?', a difficult version of 'Gaudete!' again by Bob Chilcott and 'Bethlehem' from Boubil & Schonberg's musical, Martin Guerre. The Lyric singers were joined in the final song 'A Holiday Sing-Along' an arrangement of popular songs, by the audiences each night, ending what made a fantastic two evenings of entertainment. As usual the Lyrics and the Youth Choirs will be starting back in January and would welcome new members to their ranks. The Youth Choir rehearses on Friday evenings from 6.00 to 7.15, while the Senior Lyrics run from 7.30 to 9.00. A warm welcome awaits from both choirs; no previous experience is necessary.

What a year!

2018 has been another spectacular year for the Sedgefield Arts scene. There have been a variety of performances from local groups, including the Sedgefield Players and SPYS, the Lyrics Choirs as well as from individuals at the Open Mic nights in Ceddesfeld. The Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club has had another outstanding year as did the annual Folk and Drama Festivals and the regular folk nights at the Cricket Club. A new comedy club started in Sedgefield and we very much hope to see it go from strength to strength and build up audiences. There have been exhibitions at Ceddesfeld and the Manor House, and one of the highlights for me this year was the Sedgefield Show (I was a first-timer). Thanks as ever must go to the hundreds of people who volunteer their time and effort into making Sedgefield such a wonderful place to live, with so much to offer.



Looking to get fit in January?

A new Yoga class will be starting in January 2019. The classes are for people of all abilities, and will take place at Mordon Village Hall, on Wednesdays at 5.30pm. Places must be pre-booked with Amy (07595 223061) or anvesakayoga@gmail.com.

MAYOR'S CHARITY FUNDRAISING DANCE

Sedgefield Parish Hall
Saturday January 12 2019



Supporting Prostate Cancer UK
and Diabetes UK
and other local groups and organisations

£10.00 includes pie and pea supper
(Vegetarian option available)
Please bring your own drinks.

Raffle
7.15 - 11.00pm
Fancy Dress optional
Tickets available from Council Offices



Call out for Information

If you have any events coming up, please email me at the above address for inclusion on the Sedgefield News Arts & Events Page.

DIARY: January 2019

Submit your events to diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Date	Event
Fri 4 th	Veterans Coffee Morning: Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am to noon. U3A: 2pm in the Parish Hall. Malcolm Bell "Smart Motorways - The Future". Members free, visitors welcome; £3 at the door.
Sat 5 th	Drop in Surgeries: Cllr John Robinson. 9 – 9.45am Bradbury & 12 pm Mordon Village Hall; 10 – Sedgefield Library; 11.15 – Fishburn Community Centre. 11am
Sun 6 th	Sedgefield Farmers' Market: On the Village Green from 8.30am. New Generation Church: Sedgefield Parish Hall @10.30am.
Mon 7 th	Sew Easy: Parish Hall Boardroom from 6.30 to 9.30pm. Local History Society: Ceddesfeld Hall. 7.45pm. "A History of Joseph Spencer, Designer of Ceddesfeld hall Gardens." By Martin Roberts Methodist Wives and Friends: Methodist Church Hall @ 7.30pm. Carrier Bag Sale.
Tue 8 th	Ladies Club: Ceddesfeld Hall, 8pm. A Quiz by Judith
Wed 9 th	Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch Meeting: 7pm in The Social Club (upstairs room) - open to all residents. Sedgefield WI: 7.15pm at Sedgefield Parish Hall. "An Introduction to Chalk Painting" by Kim, of 'From Loft to Loved'. Ginger wine and mince pies. Members' Competition; A Foreign Holiday Souvenir.
Jan 11 th	Cricket Club Quiz: 8.30pm start
Sat 12 th	Mayor's Charity Fundraising Dance: 7.15 to 11pm at Sedgefield Parish Hall. Dance to Rock & Roll and Country Music from Tumbledown. Tickets available from STC offices. See right hand column for details.
Sun 13 th	New Generation Church: Sedgefield Parish Hall @10.30am.
Mon 14 th	Sew Easy: Parish Hall Boardroom from 6.30 to 9.30pm.
Tue 15 th	Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club: AGM- 2pm in The Fletcher Room, Parish Hall, Sedgefield. Willowdene Care Home: New Year Afternoon Tea. Befriending afternoon with complimentary refreshments and cakes. For more details contact Angela on 01740 771310.
Wed 16 th	Sew Easy: Parish Hall Boardroom from 10.30am to 1.30pm.
Thu 17 th	Memory Café: 10.30am to 12 noon @ Sedgefield Fire Station.
Fri 18 th	Live Music Night at Sedgefield Cricket Club: 7.30 pm. Main guest: Jester B. Also featuring Robson Field and John Wrightson Band. Admission £10 (no buffet). Tel 621347
Sat 19 th	Methodist Wives and Friends: Methodist Church Hall @ 7.30pm. Janet Titterton. Sedgefield in Bloom Dance: Dance to music from Rootin Tootin from 7.30 pm at Sedgefield Parish Hall. Tickets (available from the council offices) are £10 and include a pie and peas supper. Bring your own drink.
Sun 20 th	New Generation Church: Sedgefield Parish Hall @10.30am.
Mon 21 st	Sew Easy: Parish Hall Boardroom from 6.30 to 9.30pm.
Tue 22 nd	Ladies Club: An Evening Out. Details to be arranged. Bradbury and Mordon Ladies Circle: 7.30pm @ Mordon & Bradbury Village Hall. A talk on Handicrafts by Becky Sunter
Wed 23 rd	Sew Easy: Parish Hall Boardroom from 10.30am to 1.30pm.
Fri 25 th	Sedgefield Blues Club: A night with 24 Pesos + Midnite Blue. Doors 7pm. Tickets £15. Info @ www.sedgefieldblues.com & club's Facebook page.
Sun 27 th	New Generation Church: Sedgefield Parish Hall @10.30am.
Wed 30 th	Sew Easy: Parish Hall Boardroom from 10.30am to 1.30pm.

St John Fisher Catholic Church, Sedgefield

Mass is held in term time on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9.45am and on Sunday at 10.45am. **Children's Liturgy Adoration** is on Thursday Evenings at 7pm.

A weekly **Legion of Mary** meeting takes place after Friday Mass.

To contact **The Parish Office** use the following email address:

parishsecretary1961@btconnect.com

Sedgefield Library

Tel: 03000 269521 Opening Hours:

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

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

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

Craft Group: 1.30pm 2nd & 4th Fridays

Book Circle: 2pm 3rd Friday.

New members welcome

@The Hub

at Sedgefield Community College

New Dance Generation - Monday

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

Clubercise - Tue Start 6.00pm

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

Call 01740 617882 for all enquiries.

Sedgefield Social Club

Sat 5th Jan Kara Morgan
Sat 12th Jan Alec Blackwood
Sat 19th Jan Julia Robinson
Mon 21st Jan. Country Night
Sat 26th Jan Lisa Lee
Telephone Number: 01740 620591

Sedgefield Tea Dance

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

The Mayor's Charity Fundraising Dance

Saturday, January 12th January

See poster opposite for details.

Tickets from Sedgefield Town Council offices or Councillor Mavis Wayman on 01740 620337. Payment by cheque should be made by Thursday, January 3rd, payable to "Sedgefield Town Council Mayor's Charity Account".

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01740 620683

Community Safety

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

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

Police Community Cohesion Officer Faye Callan. 101 Extension 742317.
Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk

Confidential email address.
John.lamb@durham.pnn.police.uk
 Any information we receive will be developed and acted upon.

Sedgefield Car Thefts

Following recent episodes of serious car crime, Sedgefield police are keen to remind people of precautions that can be taken by every household to make the theft of vehicles more difficult for would-be thieves. These include not leaving car keys where they can be easily found (such as in open view or a hallway drawer) and ensuring that doors and windows are locked at night. In addition, Police urge everyone to remain vigilant and consider participating in the newly reconstituted Neighbourhood Watch scheme, either by joining as a member or attending the monthly meetings.

Though the Police are aware that events have proven deeply distressing to those affected, they are not yet in a position to release detailed information about the progress of specific investigations. They would like to reassure the public that there is a dedicated team working hard to bring those responsible for these crimes to justice.

NOTICE to ADVERTISERS

First, we want to thank you for your business, which in some cases is very longstanding. Our charges have not risen for over a decade, but from April, in order to pay for rising printing costs, we will need to ask you to pay a little more. We will keep the increase as low as possible, and current contracts which run beyond April will be honoured at the agreed price. In future the News will be published in full colour. Some of your adverts already have some colour, which will show up in future. If the simple black & white text suits your purpose, that's fine, it still makes no less impact. Lastly, colour will make no difference to the cost - it's the space on the page that you pay for.

We always aim to support local business

Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch

A new Committee was elected at an Extraordinary General Meeting of Neighbourhood Watch on 4th December 2018. The newly Elected Members would like to thank all Members of the outgoing Committee for their support and helpfulness during this transition and for all their great work over the years to maintain this important initiative.

We are ordinary people from various backgrounds who have volunteered to do whatever we can to help maintain and improve the safe and pleasant environment which we all enjoy here in Sedgefield. However, if we are to address the things that matter to you then we need to know your views.

You can do this in one of two ways:

- * At our next meeting: this will be held on Wed 9th January 2019 at 7pm in the Social Club (upstairs room). It is open to all residents, so please come along and give us your views.
- * Return our survey: we will be issuing a survey sheet in the New Year to every household so that every resident has the opportunity to tell us what should be our priorities going forward.

In the meantime, the Festive Season is upon us. We all enjoy it, but criminals also enjoy this time of year. In early December we have already had reports of burglaries, car thefts and bogus calls from fraudsters claiming to represent HMRC and asking to be paid money to avoid a further 'fine'.

Please note that HMRC will write if they need to contact you and remember: never give any personal or bank details to anyone over the phone. The perception is that fraudsters mainly target the elderly but new figures reveal that there is a 24% increase in cases of under-21-year-olds falling victim to impersonation fraud in the first nine months of this year.

Living as we do in an attractive area also makes it a target so please be extra vigilant during this period. Most burglaries are opportunistic so taking some simple steps can keep you safe. We recommend using the WIDE principle when securing your home:

- * W – Window locks on every window
- * I – Interior lights on a timer when you are out
- * D – Double or dead locks fitted on all doors
- * E – Exterior lights on a sensor, to illuminate anyone approaching

Best Wishes from everyone at Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch for a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Extra news from the Sports Update.

Sedgefield Cricket Club membership

One of the key benefits of being a member is the entitlement to reduced bar prices via a swipe card. The New Year is the time when membership renewal is needed in order to continue enjoying these benefits, and the club is introducing a new online membership system in January.

This will allow existing and new members to pay their annual subs online, and with the process using the secure PayPal system, it means the club won't have to ask for bank or credit card details. Cash payments can still be accepted at the bar and more information about this new scheme should by now have been received by existing members, but you can send any queries to sccmemberships@outlook.com.

Social membership costs only £10, or family memberships for two adults plus children is only £35, which for families with keen cricketing children is fantastic value. Membership subscriptions help enormously towards the cost of running the club and the volunteers would like to take this opportunity to thank all members and visitors for their fantastic support during 2018, and they hope to see you all again in 2019.

The completion of the bar refurbishment has seen an immediate return with a number of private function bookings. The clubhouse can be hired by members and non-members – see the Facebook page for details of how to make booking enquiries.

You can easily keep up to date with everything going on by liking the club's Facebook page or following the Twitter feed.

WOODLAND & WILDLIFE

2018 has been an astonishing year for a small group of enthusiasts who came together with the ambition to create a new piece of Woodland and to increase the bio-diversity of a very rough patch of ground to the north of NETpark.

We have experienced elation, setbacks, sunshine, arctic conditions, and intense hard work interspersed with fascinating learning and many new friendships.



Progress has been recorded by most of us, but no one has been quite so thorough as keen photographer, Rudolf Reichel, who has provided us with much photographic evidence of the diverse wildlife we already have on the patch. The young oak above is among his latest updates to the group page. Little signs of life are everywhere.

In brief, the story so far is that almost 900 trees have been planted, an expert botanical survey has been undertaken, numerous hard sessions done to try to keep the trees clear of aggressive weeds and equally aggressive litter! Displays have been mounted to let people see what we are doing, and lately, the group applied for and was granted AAP funding to help buy tools and storage.

The next big tree planting will be in the spring, when another 400 trees by our partners, the Woodland Trust will be delivered and we hope to have our new storage facility ready before planting starts again. Our other partners, NETPark & Business Durham will help with further work on securing the site.

One of the most optimistic happenings of the year has been the enthusiastic participation of our schools. Children and staff have taken the project to their hearts, planting seeds to grow many more trees, which they will look after and then plant when they are ready. We hope this will be ongoing, so that new generations will carry on the wonderful task of creating a Woodland and Wildlife area for all to enjoy.

Steve's Nature Diary for January

I am writing this at my desk on a cold but bright frosty December morning, after an interview about the new recycling campaign for a popular make of crisps and the problem with plastic on beaches. It made me think about whether recycling more should be on my New Year's resolution list. Of course recycling more should be on everyone's list, but I think more importantly we should all consider the other 2 R's – **Reduce and Reuse** before we even think about Recycling. Of course rather than being in the office I would rather be out and about - even in winter there is lots to see. At this time of year, when the trees are bare it's a good time to have a closer look at what is growing on them; you may see flashes of a yellow lichen. This lichen is related to the yellow lichen you often see on tiled roofs and belongs to a genus called *Xanthoria*. In common with all lichens they are a symbiotic partnership between a fungus and an alga: the alga makes food from sunlight for the fungus, which provides the alga with a stable substrate. *Xanthoria* lichens are one of the crustose lichen, so called because they form bright yellow crusts on flat surfaces or encase the twigs of well lit trees and shrubs including Hawthorn and Elder.

If you go for a walk in the woods at this time of the year you often don't see many birds then all of a sudden you come across a mixed flock. These mixed flocks seem to move through areas very quickly with various species represented including Blue and Great Tit and Chaffinch. It is well worth having a closer look and you may be rewarded with others species such a Long Tailed Tit, Redpoll or even Brambling. Cold weather can be bad for birds but good for bird watchers especially if you feed them in your garden. Not only do more birds visit gardens, but different species are forced to visit as well. So keep your eyes open for winter visitors such as Fieldfare and Redwing and if you have a bush laden with berries you may even fortunate enough to get a visiting waxwing.

Different birds prefer different types of food and some of our own food can be good for birds – for example, fruit cake or mince pies, dried fruit, unsalted nuts, or apples and pears past their best. Try sprinkling grated mild cheese under trees and bushes for more timid birds like wren and dunnock. Birds need to drink regularly, whether the weather is hot or cold. They'll even bathe in the depths of winter. In freezing conditions, bird baths and garden ponds become even more important since many natural sources of water are frozen over. It can be difficult to stop a bird bath from freezing, but you could try putting a light ball floating in the water which will be moved by even a gentle breeze, and will keep a small amount of water ice-free or pour on hot water to melt the ice or line the bath with a polythene sheet that you can lift out along with the ice.

Happy New Year!



Taking stock at the end of the session

The most recent session in the woodland was to plant two new batches of trees from different sources. When Tamzin, a founder member of the group, left her job at NETPark, her leaving present was a number of young beeches to be planted in our wood.

The other was a parcel of saplings from The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy. The trees were awarded to Ray Carmichael. Commonwealth citizens are leading the world in efforts to protect & renew the forest that communities and the whole planet depend upon.

Ray Carmichael joins the gang.



Ceddesfeld Hall

Home of Sedgefield Community Association

SCA would like to wish all members and friends of Ceddesfeld Hall a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 2018 has been a very busy and successful year for SCA. We have welcomed two new members on to the executive committee, new community groups and members. Large annual events such as the Mediaeval Fayre, Sedgefield Day and Book Ends have been well supported and continue to attract large numbers of local people and visitors to Sedgefield. Themed dinner nights continue to be very popular as are the various music nights and concerts which take place. SCA are pleased to continue supporting Sedgefield Town Council at the snow party and fireworks display. The committee work hard to ensure events and activities are well planned and that all safeguards are put in place. Practical help (in the run up and on the day) from local people and organisations, as well as sponsorship and from local businesses at the big events, is crucial to success and to sustaining the events for the future.

On Friday 21st December, after STC 'Carols on the Green', there's mulled wine and mince pies (£2.50) at Ceddesfeld, followed by a night of live music with Ceddesfeld's ukulele group. The bar is open & the event is free.

A Christmas eve quiz night begins at 8 pm. There will be prizes for the winning team as well as mince pies and nibbles. This is another free event and everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

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

An Open Mic night is scheduled for Saturday 23rd February. More next month. Also, the SCA Facebook page which posts lots of event information.

Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre is on Saturday 18th May 2019

Get in touch if you're interested in applying for a craft stall

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

Sedgefield Development Trust Projects

Working for the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Fishburn

RECORD NUMBERS REGISTER FOR OCTOBER 2018 AUCTION

After a slow start to registration numbers, the SDT are very pleased to announce that, the final of people who registered for the October 2018

Auction was the highest since we started in

October of 2014. We like to think that our residents have a growing confidence in the scheme and that they have now an acceptance of how easy and hassle free the switching process really is.

If we have one disappointment it is that we know that some people miss out because they forget that they have to register each year to continue to be a part of the scheme. If you switch with the scheme, the contracts are only for 12 months and you need to register again for the auction just before your current contract comes to an end. People might think this to be a bit of a hassle, but just ask any of the hundreds of people who have joined, to find out how easy it is. If you have any concerns just call our helpline - 07980 134 594 - or come to talk to us at the Farmers Market.

Energy costs have continued to rise, so generally people are now paying in excess of 30% more for their gas and electricity than they did 2 years ago. We do not make any claims that if you have been part of our scheme you would have avoided those increases, but what we do claim is that, at the time of each auction, the winning tariffs have been market leading, hence you could have minimised those increases.

We have enclosed a letter with this issue of the News which will give you more in-depth information about the scheme. So, if you are interested in joining, or if you have been a part of the scheme and your contract comes to an end before the end of April, now is the time to act. Registration is now open and will be until 11th February.



Sunday 6th January, 8.30 am - 12.30pm

We will brave whatever the weather throws at us to welcome in the New Year. There's nothing like some lovely fresh local produce to counteract the excesses of the festive season! A grand display of vegetables from those lovely people at Mellanby's will always tempt us to a bit of warm, healthy, winter cooking!

One or two stallholders may have trouble meeting this date because of seasonal closures, but we still expect a decent turnout. A market trader is amongst the hardiest of creatures and it takes a lot to put them off.

On the back of a record breaking year for "sedgy market" we hope to continue that success through 2019.

We also want another big push on sustainability at the market, reducing packaging and plastics, and moving towards re-usable or compostable materials. Helping to keep plastic carriers in check is high on the agenda - look for an announcement next month!

Of course in winter we need to be aware of the weather, so please check the Facebook page or Twitter feed for the latest announcements.



Homework Help continues, and there is room for more students as well as more helpers! **We are also looking to set up sessions in Fishburn.** If you would like to volunteer, or to request help with homework or careers guidance, email homeworkhelpsedgefield@gmail.com or find us on Facebook - search for **homeworkhelpsedgefield.**

Your Letters

Lest We Forget

A word of thanks to all the people who knitted or crocheted poppies for the Remembrance Garden on the Green. They looked absolutely splendid, as did those on the garden seat. Thank you. *Jean Easson.*

Writing to Sedgefield News

We welcome your input on these pages - as long as the tone and topic is civil! At times, controversy has raged for months, over a number of issues. This is the place to reach fellow residents.

Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor. We strive to be impartial & independent. We reserve the right to edit copy & will not publish letters of unknown authorship. Please send name, address & telephone number with correspondence.

Sport in Sedgfield

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

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

And so the year has flown by. It has been another amazing 12 months of sporting endeavour here in Sedgfield. Scanning back through the monthly updates for Sedgfield News, I am once again taken aback by the breadth and depth of activities and achievements by people of all ages within our community. As I sit typing this, thanks to some of the work that I do in my day job, I am acutely aware that there is an inactivity epidemic sweeping across Europe and that the UK is facing an obesity crisis, particularly among the younger generations. And of course, Sedgfield is not immune from that, but we also have a core culture on our little patch of the planet that encourages and inspires young people to get active from a very young age. As a community, we provide countless opportunities for folk to participate, making it so easy and welcoming for anyone to have a go, at whatever level suits them. And then Sedgfield's many coaches nurture talent and strive to help those with aptitude and ambitions achieve their potential (in some cases, despite a chronic lack of facilities). Thanks to this cocktail, Sedgfield is abuzz with sport in some form pretty much every day of the year (yes, I'm looking at you, Christmas Day parkrunners!)

All of this is underpinned by volunteers – coaches, marshals, referees, caterers, 'taxis', club administrators and any number of other roles that are essential for grass roots sport to exist, let alone thrive. If you are a volunteer, then thank you. Believe me, your hard work is hugely appreciated by those who benefit from it and it's thanks to you that we never have any difficulty finding content to fill this monthly sports update.

Sedgfield Youth Football Club Under 9s

Thirteen months ago, SYFC U9s came about quite by accident and in very quick time.

At a child's birthday party a parent remarked about how many good footballers there were in one class at Sedgfield primary school. This set Mal Dickenson thinking. Within hours he had texted SYFC secretary, David Ryder, seeking permission to form a new junior team at the U8s level.



Permission granted, Mal and Chris McGirr had to work quickly; it was mid October and The Russell Foster winter league started just two weeks later. "We had no kit, no sponsor and even less clue!" says Mal. "Luckily, the village of Sedgfield stepped up. The Co-op bought us a strip, Right Lines Communication some training equipment, and Marc Stanley some training kit. Since then, the progress (the primary aim) and the success, which wasn't even thought about initially, have been remarkable. The first training session was on Friday 3rd November 2017, and the next morning the team played their very first match, beating Swalwell 7-0. They were off and running. The results and the trophies kept coming, but that wasn't the point. The lads were playing properly, passing out from the back, making correct decisions, expressing themselves, but most of all having fun.

During the summer the squad graduated to U9 football, After winning the league and cup double, Sedgfield's only ever Olympian stepped in as the team's sponsor. Two more lads from the village were signed and the progress continued. The philosophy of the team is that, at this stage, results are just a bonus; it's the way they play matters. It seems to work. After just 13 months the lads have been promoted up 5 divisions and, at the midway point of this Winter league, are again sitting in a promotion spot with a game in hand and the top team to play. Several (*cont'd right.*)

Squash

The morning after world champion Nick Matthew's December visit and exhibition play at Sedgfield Squash Club, the club's juniors enthusiastically took part in the annual Junior Team Handicap. This pitted 24 youngsters into teams of six, all kept sustained by the ready supply of mince pies, biscuits and snacks brought by the coaching team. The results couldn't beat the print deadline for this issue, but we'll bring confirmation of the victorious team next time, along with news of how the juniors fared when they entered the club's overall individual handicap competition.

Sedgfield's senior teams will all begin the second half of their league campaigns looking for more victories, after the autumn matches left a couple of the sides looking up from the wrong half of their divisions. The most successful team so far has been the men's 4th team, sitting comfortably in a promotion spot at this time.

The rest of the teams will be keen to ensure that they also have something to shout about at the end of March, if for no other reason than to keep the members of the 4th team quiet!

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

High Fliers

Sedgfield St Edmunds FC are currently sitting on top of the Durham Premier League after a ten game league and cup winning spree. They are also in the last sixteen of the county cup and hope to progress further, ahead of their next tie away to Consett in the new year. All connected with the club feel that if current form and standards are maintained for the rest of the season, anything is possible.

local villages seem to have junior football teams in abundance yet SYFC has team at U9, U10 and U14 levels only. Hopefully the success of these lads might inspire one or two other potential coaches to step up and take on a team at a new age group? Anyone interested can contact SYFC club secretary on **07515 020766**.

That's all for this month, and this year. We look forward to sharing news of more sporting endeavour and success during 2019. As ever, please send sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com