



Published by Sedgefield Development Trust: Company No 4312745 Charity No 1100906

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

## July 2017

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

### Sedgefield Village Action Group - Important Information for Residents

SVAG recently attended the Public Inquiry for the development of 100 houses on the former Sedgefield Hospital site. This appeal follows the refusal to grant planning permission by DCC Councillors at the initial hearing. This is a brown field site development which was supported by Sedgefield Town Council and many residents and it is within the Built up Area Boundary agreed in the making of Sedgefield's Neighbourhood Plan, which has now been submitted by Sedgefield Town Council to DCC. The appellants have put their case and the Inspector's decision will be known by mid July.

Following a refusal by DCC, an appeal by Avant Homes for 150 houses on A689/ Stockton Road is due to be heard at a Public Inquiry commencing on June 27th at Sedgefield Racecourse. Proceedings are due to last 4 or 5 days.

SVAG will be making presentations against this development under Rule 6. DCC will also speak against this development, as will Sedgefield Town Council.

In the absence of a DCC Development Plan and because Sedgefield's Neighbourhood Plan is still emerging, legal arguments are being made using the policies from the 1996 Borough Plan. Sedgefield is extremely unprotected and remains very vulnerable to large scale housing development. It's happening right now and there doesn't seem to be much that can be done to stop it.

As you'll all be aware, work has started on 277 houses at Eden Drive. This development was granted permission by an inspector despite it being on the only designated (supposedly protected) 'green wedge' land the town has.

So, within a couple of months, if the inspectors of these appeals decide in favour of the appellants, permission could be given for a further 250 houses in addition to the 277 houses at Eden Drive; a total of 527 houses for Sedgefield. It could also be the case that a further appeal on another refused application (the development behind Sainsbury's around to The Orchard) could be submitted, which would add another 300 plus houses, totalling over 820 houses.

**If residents want to make their voice heard, it is imperative that they attend The Public Inquiry held at Sedgefield Racecourse beginning on June 27th. Contact the SVAG representative on 07523 457584 or email [SedgefieldVAG@gmail.com](mailto:SedgefieldVAG@gmail.com)**

### There's still time to enter! Sedgefield Agricultural Show is still growing in its 164th Year.

The Sedgefield and District Agricultural Show on Saturday 12th August has already attracted a large amount of interest and support and the Show Committee anticipates a **record number** of entries and attendees in 2017.

Gates open at 10am and car parking is free. Marquees open at 12 noon and attendees can enjoy a variety of activities including a full range of competitions and displays.

Anyone interested in entering should visit [www.sedgefieldshow.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldshow.co.uk) to see classes on offer. Or you can call 01740 621841 for a copy of this year's schedule. Many of the classes for children are free to enter. There really is something for everyone.

Ian Mason, Show Chairman, is excited for this year's event and hopes to increase attendees further after last year's record number. He thanks everyone involved for their kind support and commitment.



Left & below:

**A good time was had by all at  
Hopper House Farm on  
Open Farm Sunday**



## Steve's Nature Diary *The natural world month by month: July*

You never know what might turn up either in your garden or walking around one of the wildlife rich nature reserves we have in the North East. A friend and birder who was walking around Tees Valley Wildlife Trust nature reserve, Bowesfield in Stockton heard, coming from one of the reed beds, what he initially thought was either a Reed Warbler or a Sedge Warbler - both small brownish/green birds that can be found on the reserve. The sound was coming from a bird hidden in the reeds, it then changed and sounded like a blue tit, then great tit then went into a chorus which sounded like a nightingale and finished off with the mew of buzzard. It was in fact a Marsh Warbler - a very rare summer visitor to the UK with approximately 5 pairs breeding in a small part of SE England, otherwise they are widespread across middle Europe. Since the discovery, lots of people have been to hear the sounds of this birds amazing act of mimicry.



Even closer to home – a member of the public posted a picture on twitter @clevelandbirds asking what was this strange pink and black bird they had in their garden feeding in the cherry tree. It was quickly identified as a Rose-coloured Starling – it looks a bit like a starling which has been dipped in pink paint. This visitor probably from Eastern Europe had turned up in a suburban garden in Billingham. At the time of writing the bird was still there and the owners of the garden were very accommodating to the tens of people who have been to see it. Ironically, a Rose-coloured Starling was also discovered in 1973 (by the same person who found the Marsh Warbler.)



I could mention a number of examples of birds found by members of public that turned out to be real rarities, and with the onset of social media it is far easier to get these identified and shared with the people who are anxious to see them. So if you check out the Wildlife Trusts website <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife/reserves> and put in your post code, you can find your nearest nature reserve. If you do see something interesting in your garden share it on twitter with @teeswildlife or @durhamwildlife you never know, it might be real rarity – and even if not, we still like to see your pictures of wildlife in your garden.

## New Sedgfield Youth Club

Sedgfield Town Council is starting up a new youth club, to run on Monday evenings in the refurbished Fletcher Room in the Parish Hall. The first sessions will be held on Monday 3rd July, from 6:00-7:00pm for children from school years 3 to 6 and from 7:00-8:30pm for school years 7 to 11.

Run by qualified and experienced youth workers (who also run Fishburn Youth Club), entry to the club will be on a first come first served basis. The first session will be free to attend and entry in the future will be 50p for years 3 to 6 and £1 for years 7 to 11.

The town council hopes that the youth club can soon become a well-established and successful feature of community life, but that will depend on the input of young people. During the first session, the team running the club will talk to young people about plans for facilities that can be provided, or might be considered, in the future.

The new club is one element of the wider youth provision programme that the town council is continuing to develop. For more information about Sedgfield Youth Club, contact Natalie Chowns-Smith at the town council office on 01740 621273 or email [natalie@sedgfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:natalie@sedgfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk).

## Miners remembered

**Fifty years after the closure of the Deaf Hill Colliery, the men who lost their lives underground or died from the dust they inhaled during their days at the coalface, have been remembered in a special prayer of hope.**



Families still battling the effects of pit closures were also remembered at a Knottingley Silver Band concert held in Trimdon Colliery and Deaf Hill Working Men's Club to mark the 50th anniversary of the day the pit wheels finally stopped turning.

Local church member, Panny Pighills scripted the prayer as a tribute to the men who 'kept our homes warm, our bellies full, and the wheels of industry turning' and those still living with the effects of coal mining. Her prayer also offered up hope for 'new beginnings and fulfilling jobs for those seeking permanent employment'.

As part of the 2017 'Thy Kingdom Come' global prayer movement, launched last year by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and now an international and ecumenical call to prayer, Panny also visited the Friday morning 'Grumpy Old Men (and Women's) Club' at St Catherine's Church Café in Fishburn. The prayers were appreciated at both venues. Panny was one of a team from the Upper Skerne parish who produced prayers for events in the week leading up to Pentecost.

## Jewellery appeal

St Edmund's church would very much like to use any unwanted pieces of old or broken gold and silver jewellery, to help in acquiring a much-needed new sound system.

Donations will be sold to a reputable dealer and the money put towards replacing the present system, which is now well past its sell-by-date. Even small items would be a great help.

Items can be handed to Church Wardens, Brian Mutch (01740 622302), or Brenda Moore (620758) or to any member of the Church Council.



## The Dashing Vicar

Sedgefield Day on June 10 saw the official opening at Ceddesfeld Hall of a major Sedgefield in Bloom project, the Stepping Through Time Garden. Volunteer Bloomers, with help from local contractors, artists and generous donors, have transformed a large overgrown area into a stunning woodland garden.

Pride of place goes to the Dashing Vicar, a life size willow statue, created by Victoria Conner of Blakeston Hall near Thorpe Thewles. Before an appreciative crowd, Michael King, lay preacher at St Edmund's, declared the garden open, presenting the Dashing Vicar with a carved oak bible made by local man Garry Jacobs. The wall of the former rectory bears a wooden gate, leading to the side entrance of St Edmund's church, so the vicar could dash to worship without getting wet or bumping into parishioners. Hence the name.

Living willow tunnels linked by a winding path have already proved a big hit with children, who also love hunting for willow creatures in the trees.

Northumbria in Bloom judges are sure to be impressed on their summer visit to Sedgefield on Wednesday July 19th.

The gardens in Ceddesfeld Hall grounds are open to the public at all times and will feature in Sedgefield in Bloom Open Gardens Day on Sunday July 9. See diary page for details.

*Pictured L - R : Artist, Victoria Conner, Garry Jacobs & Michael King.*



## NETPark Development Update

Development is underway at NETPark for the new access route from the A177, and new buildings are in construction as part of the Explorer buildings phase. The new development, on green field sites alongside the original project, is set to be completed before Christmas, with the £5m road providing opportunity over the next 10-15 years for further building and more businesses on 13 hectares of land in the science park.

The new £7.4m Explorer development will create space for research and development companies, enabling them to prototype and manufacture on site. Ibex Innovations are planned to be the first tenants into the development, and other enquiries are being received.

Peter McDowell, Business Property Director at Business Durham, said, "The work for the new access route is going well, especially with recent good weather. "The Sedgefield Development Trust are also helping to create a new wildlife corridor at NETpark to try to make up for the loss of countryside from the development."

NETPark, which currently employs 400 people, was officially opened in 2004, transforming the old Winterton Hospital site into the science park it is today. The current expansion into surrounding green field sites is made possible with funding from the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, as part of the Government's Local Growth Fund.

Further developments are planned along the new access route. Planning applications for these developments and will be available on the Durham County Council website when they are announced. *By Kelly Aitkin.*

## Getting the news to you

One of our trusty deliverers is giving up after many years of service, so we are looking for someone new to take on the delivery of Sedgefield News to Lilac Avenue, Maple Road, Beech Oval and Hawthorn Road (that's 90 copies in total). The lady who has been doing it up to now has given us detailed instructions of the most efficient route, so it shouldn't be too much of a challenge!

If you would like to help, please call Judith Edgoose on **07899 984 464** or email [mail@toddshousearm.co.uk](mailto:mail@toddshousearm.co.uk)

## The Bees at Hardwick are "expanding"

No, we're not producing giant bees, but over the past two months we have grown from just 3 colonies to 9. This has been done by buying in two colonies, splitting existing colonies and retrieving swarms – twice so far!

There are six beekeepers working together to promote the health and expansion of bees in the Sedgefield area. Some of our colonies are quite small and need a bit of nurturing with extra food and observations. So these past six weeks have been very busy.

We have needed to build hives and prepare frames for the bees to be adequately housed. This has been quite a challenge. Bee keeping is actually heavy work with a lot of lifting and standing about outside. You might think we wish for bright sunshine, but try standing in a bee suit with boots and rubber gloves in 25 degrees of sun. We have found it a challenge to keep up with the carpentry as hives and frames are built from 'flat pack' – a bit like Ikea for bees!

We have now gained experience in gathering in swarms. Our two were quite straightforward but exciting at the same time. It seems that the bees like the posts in the raspberry canes in the garden and have made a bee line for them each time, so no climbing involved. *(See photo on Page 12).*

Let's hope that we can gather some honey from the more established colonies.

*Clare Midgley, SDT Beekeeping Group*

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## Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

At the April N/H/Watch meeting, members once again reported strong dissatisfaction with current Police communication, which is now via the nationally used internet based system, **Alert – Keep in the Know**. The panel's secretary has written to Crime Commissioner, Ron Hogg, to record our concerns on this matter.

Consequently, it is intended that our local Police Inspector will attend the next meeting on Tuesday 11th July, to hear members concerns directly and discuss the matter. Please come along and give your views in person on this aspect or any other that you may have.

**To contact Local Police & report any concerns, seek advice or pass on information to them, call 101. NB:** it may be prudent to keep a note of details of any conversation & also obtain an incident number. **For advice or assistance, contact Police Community Liaison Officer Faye Callan.**

**Call 101 Extension 742317. Email [Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk)**

## Healthwatch County Durham celebrates - with cake and cooperation!

We launched our first annual report at a fantastic showcase event on Wednesday 14th June in Durham, with high profile guest speakers, a highly competitive quiz, the premiere of our 'Volunteer Vlogs' and a delicious afternoon tea.

Healthwatch County Durham has been delivered by a partnership of Pioneering Care Partnership, Citizens Advice County Durham and Durham Community Action since July 2016. It has had a very successful year and the celebration event showcased some of this work. This has included speaking to 100 people with learning disabilities about barriers to their annual health check; the comments cards we have sent to every new recipient of a care package in Co Durham; and the 34 residents of eight care homes for people with learning disabilities we spoke to as part of Durham County Council's (DCC) review process.

Guest speakers showcased four great projects in more detail. Gail Linstead spoke about the contribution HWCD staff and volunteers made to their Urgent Care consultation in 2016. Dr Jonathan Smith shared what a great experience Silverdale Family Practice had had during our Enter and View visit, saying that the visits are a great way to break down barriers, give practices an independent view on the success of their service and help them highlight areas for improvement.

Tony Bentley, a Healthwatch research volunteer talked passionately about his experience of putting himself in the shoes of a relative looking for information about one of the 134 care homes in Co Durham, the challenges he faced and the suggestions we have made to providers and Durham County Council to make this process easier for people. We launched our survey looking at people's awareness and experience of pharmacy services at the event and Greg Burke, Chief Officer of the Local Pharmaceutical Committee spoke about how much he is looking forward to working with Healthwatch and the importance of getting, and learning from, the views of service users.

Our volunteers had the last word, when we premiered their film at the end of the event during 'Afternoon tea at the Healthwatch Movies', talking about the great work they have done this year, giving 620 hours in just six months! Brian Jackson, Chair of HWCD said 'what a fantastic event, I can't wait till next year!'

## Letter from PC Todd

The warm summer weather has not stopped criminals from targeting shops, and Sainsbury's and the Co-op have become victims of shoplifting. Other crimes reported this month include damage to the cover on the cricket pitch, damage to a fence in Durham Road, damage to building materials at the Hope Inn and finally, damage to a window in North End.

I want to appeal to owners and drivers of works vehicles. Recently, four transit type vans have become victims of crime. On each occasion the owner has reported the vehicle was secure, and on each occasion there is no forced entry made. Yet a large amount of electric tools and other specialised equipment has been stolen from the vehicles. We believe a TIBBE key may have been used. A quick search on Google brings up all the information and I'm sure the criminal fraternity will use it to their advantage. If you are a tradesman and store tools in your vehicle overnight, please consider your security. Other makes of vehicles will have similar ways to entry which can be exploited by nocturnal thieves.

Please report suspicious vehicles or persons and don't become a victim.

*Until next time, Keith.*

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## Sedgefield Energy Switch

### Additional Chance to REGISTER for the MAY AUCTION

The results of the May Auction see good savings, an average of £215 against what people would pay if they stayed with their existing supplier for another year.

**To give residents the chance to take advantage of these potential savings, we have arranged an extension to the registration period, until 11th July.**

In general, electricity costs seem to have remained at the level they were in February but gas prices offered by the winner of the May Auction, Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) have seen reasonable reductions. So if your gas usage is that of a medium user, 12500 Kwh/year, or higher and your existing tariff is coming to an end fairly soon, it could well be worthwhile completing a registration to get a comparison against your costs for the next year.

Note: For people who are already a part of our scheme and your contracts come to an end toward the end of the year we will be taking part again in the October Auction. Registration dates will be provided in the August issue of Sedgefield News. Our scheme continues to be well supported. Registrations for the May auction saw a 20% increase on the same period last year. In increasing numbers, residents of Sedgefield seem to share our view that our scheme provides the best opportunity of gaining the most competitive tariffs available at the time of the auction.

### Registration can be achieved in one of two ways:

If you are happy to register online yourself, go to [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk) & open the ENERGY SWITCH section. Click on the **GREEN 'REGISTER NOW'** button, then the 'SIGN UP TODAY' button and simply fill out your details.

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

**Registering for the scheme commits you to nothing and you will not receive any of those pestering phone calls (guaranteed).**

**Including savings from the February auction, total savings since the start of the scheme are now £120,000.**

## Sedgefield Farmers' Market

We're expecting a good turnout of traders at the market on Sunday 2nd July, all bringing excellent food from our local area. Our meat, poultry, sausage, fish and pastry stalls have a growing reputation around the region for the superb quality of their produce.

Just to mention two others, Proper Patisserie will be back with their luxury treats, and Rosalind has been busy with new lines for sale in her Larder! Hope I'm not giving away any secrets here, but I do keep track on social media!

**Durham Deafened Support**, featured in the News last month, will be on our Community Stall to raise awareness of their work, and music will be provided by Lol & Maxine with the **Ceddesfeld Ukulele Group**.

## SedgefieldWeb

You might be in for a surprise if you've never had reason to visit our website, [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk). As well as being Sedgefield News online, has a lot of local information too. However there is enormous potential to give more, and if you need to promote your group to a wider audience than possible in Sedgefield News, it's an ideal place to do that.

Also, if you want to advertise goods or services, you will find the prices very reasonable - it's great value. Of course, space is not at a premium online, as it is on these pages. Why not have a look and see for yourself? Or contact the website manager by emailing [sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk).

*In future editions of the Trusty, look out for news of a Parliament Week in November, in which the Speaker, John Bercow hopes that communities will become involved; and for updates on potential SDT projects, possibly tree planting and other environmental issues.*

**There's great value online advertising at [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk)**

## Home of Sedgefield Community Association (SCA)

Well it rained and rained but despite the weather, Sedgefield Day at Ceddesfeld Hall was all it promised to be; a really good community day, showcasing various local interest and sports groups, organisations and a wide range of performers.

The combined choir featuring children from both primary schools got the day off to a fabulous start. There was much to find out about, lots to watch, listen to and enjoy and of course, homemade, delicious food provided by Sedgefield Twinning Association. Performances from Lol and Maxine, Ceddesfeld Ukulele Group, Sedgefield Hand Bell Ringers, WD 60s and Sedgefield Lyric Singers entertained audiences with a very varied programme. Thanks to all of the organisations who took part and to SCA and individual helpers on the day.



The 25<sup>th</sup> Ceddesfeld Beer Festival takes place on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July, and this year it's our silver anniversary! Doors open at 7pm on Friday and 6pm on Saturday and there's entertainment on Saturday from Lol and Maxine. Come along for a great weekend, with a wide range of beers (and some ciders) plus BBQ both evenings.

The first weekend in September brings Sedgefield Folk festival to Ceddesfeld Hall. As usual, lots of events and workshops are planned. On the Friday night we have an evening with Stockton to Darlington Ukulele Express and Lol and Maxine Crallan (£5 entry) and on Saturday evening an Open Mic featuring the Old Age Travellers; just two of the many events at the hall and across the village. Please check websites below for more details. Ceddesfeld bar will be open Sunday to Friday, with real ale at very reasonable prices.

For more information contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 620607, Sarah on 622185 or visit the SCA website:

[www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk)

For Sedgefield Folk Festival 2017 see [www.sedgefieldfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldfolkfestival.co.uk)

### 'Ladies in Lavender' - and other Players' news.

Regular supporters of the Sedgefield Players may have noticed that our June production of 'Ladies in Lavender', sadly, didn't happen as planned. It will however be performed in 2018, as our March production. The reason for the delay has been cast commitments of work (mine I'm afraid) and changing the date became the best option for the performance. Huge apologies to anyone who didn't get the message.

The Players are now hard at work on the annual Drama Festival of One Act Plays, which will take place from the 11th - 16th September in the Parish Hall. Groups from all over the region will come to compete and be adjudicated. The Players and SPYS will enter 3 productions which will be revealed very soon.

Before that, on the 21st and 22nd July, the SPYS present their summer production, this year an adaptation by Adrian Mitchell of C. S. Lewis's **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**. After the huge successes of The Snow Queen and The Jungle Book, the show is sure to be a sell out performance and we very much hope to see you all there. Tickets available from the usual places, Tickety Boo, 07763 257846 and [www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk) TG



### Art at The Manor House

The Manor House will host a third annual summer art exhibition starting Wednesday 12th July continuing until Saturday 15th July. Local artist Jane Spink will exhibit her latest work inspired by the beauty of the North East, featuring The North Yorkshire Moors and Northumberland Coast as well as local scenes. Jane will be painting in the Manor House throughout the exhibition with the challenge of completing a new picture each day.

Last year Toshach's Tea shop served lunches at the exhibition and were a tasty success. They will be served this year and can be booked in advance.

Entry to the art exhibition is free and all are welcome; tea and coffee will be served throughout the day. Also there will be an opportunity for visitors to unleash their creativity, playing their part by adding to the community art project.

The Manor House will be open Wed 12th to Fri 14th July, 10am - 4pm and Saturday 15th, 11am - 3pm. Further information, including daily updates throughout the exhibition, can be found on the Facebook page 'Jane Spink - Art'. You can also email [janespink2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janespink2001@yahoo.co.uk) or visit [www.janespink.co.uk](http://www.janespink.co.uk)

### 12th Annual Sedgefield Folk Festival: 1st - 3rd September

Time is running out for the purchase of tickets for the concerts in the Parish Hall. At the time of writing, tickets for the Friday and Saturday evening concerts are virtually sold out but there are still some available for the Saturday afternoon performance featuring the Stockton to Darlington Ukulele Express, Leonard Brown, Brothers Gillespie and the main guest Anthony John Clarke, Belfast singer/songwriter. There is however an alternative concert in Ceddesfeld Hall on Friday evening, hosted by Maxine and Lol Crallan featuring the Stockton to Darlington Ukulele Express and other ukulele groups.

As usual, singarounds will take place in the Social Club on Friday night, hosted by the Pot & Glass Folk Club, and on Saturday in Ceddesfeld Hall there will be all the usual free workshops in the morning, the World Spoons championship during the afternoon as well as the traditional song writing competition.

The weekend ends on Sunday with a big singaround and free buffet for everyone in Ceddesfeld Hall. For further information contact Joan Edmundson on 621347 or visit the festival's website [www.sedgefieldfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldfolkfestival.co.uk).

### If you like music maybe you really could play in an orchestra!

Maybe you used to play an instrument but haven't practiced so much in recent years. Maybe you have more time now and have decided to learn to play. If you like playing music, playing with other people will help you learn and build your confidence. Being part of an orchestra is a great way to start playing with others. Cobweb Orchestra believes that welcoming all players and giving them the chance to develop and learn is the best way to run a Community Orchestra. There are no auditions. Yes you do need to have some basics - to be able to count and read music. But you don't have to be a virtuoso (let that come with time!). You just need to be keen to play. Cobweb Teesside rehearse at St Aidan's Church, Billingham, on Monday evenings, 7.30 - 9.30 pm. We will be holding a concert on Monday 17th July. Everyone welcome. Even if you do not have an instrument, you may be able to borrow one from Cobweb's instrument library.

If you think you might be interested in playing with us, or would just like to talk about what we do please contact us (details below.) Blow the cobwebs away - start playing! Phone 01740 629522 Email [iss.hinton@gmail.com](mailto:iss.hinton@gmail.com)

### Open mic night

The next opportunity to show off your talent is on September 2nd as part of Sedgefield Folk Festival. Always a good night, there's sure to be an extra buzz with festival visitors in the room. One for your diary!





One of the great aspects of sport in Sedgefield is the large number of people who participate in a multitude of activities. Of course, young and old tend to specialise in the sports that they like best, or are most suited to, but that doesn't stop folk from trying others and there are plenty of opportunities to do so in Sedgefield. Many focus on one winter or one summer sport, depending on the time of the year, but a good number will get involved in various sports at any time. So, it's no surprise that our community produces loads of multi-eventers, and this is a big theme of this month's update, with news from all generations.

## Athletics

Junior athletes from Sedgefield Harriers have been competing in the North East Youth Development League (NEYDL) over the last few months. NEYDL is a track and field competition; two events have taken place so far, with another two ahead to complete the season. There have been some great results so far for Sedgefield, with plenty of youngsters participating in an athletics competition for the very first time.

Sedgefield Harriers boasts some very versatile and talented young athletes. Competing in the first two events were:

**Boys** - Callum Darby: 100m, 200m, long jump, 75m hurdles, 800m.

Kwesi Attauah: 100m, 75m hurdles

Thomas Rowe: 1500m, javelin, shot

Ciaran Lines: 800m, long jump

Max Howell: 1500m

Robbie Till: 100m, high jump.

**Girls** - Ella Robinson: 100m, 200m, long jump, high jump, javelin

Ellie Spink: 200m, 800m, long jump, shot, javelin

Mollie Presho: 100m, 75m hurdles

Laura Wallace: 100m, 800m

Aimee Graham: 800m, shot

Eryn Upton: 800m, long jump

Amelia Martin: shot, high jump, 800m

Heba Naan: 100m, 800m, 1500m, shot

Sophie Glaister: 300m, 800m, 1500m, long jump

Abbie Walker: 300m, 800m, 1500m, javelin

Jess Hall: 1500m, shot, high jump

Peta Collins: 100m, 800m, 1500m

Jenny Walker: long jump, javelin, discus

Kate Wallace: javelin, discus, shot

Felicity Golightly: shot, long jump

Aimee Barlow: 80m hurdles, 200m, 800m, long jump, shot, high jump.

There was more success for Sedgefield's junior athletes at the Durham School Track & Field Championships, when four competitors qualified to represent the county at the Inter Counties Track and Field event in Hexham. Kate Carmichael (shot), Aimee Barlow (hurdles), Liam Welsh (discus) and Joseph Dredge (discus) picked up county honours in their respective events.

*More athletics and a squash club report are on the opposite page.*

## Duathlon

As mentioned briefly last month, Sedgefield athlete James Oldfield has qualified for the 2017 Duathlon (run-bike-run) World Championships, which will take place in Penticton, Canada, in August. He qualified as a Team GB age group competitor by finishing high up the field in the sprint distance at Stockton Duathlon Festival in April.

James (*pictured in action, right*) has been a member of Sedgefield Harriers for three years and is one of the club's most successful runners. As an amateur athlete, James has to self-fund his travel to Canada to compete. Being a full-time teacher with a young daughter makes training hard to fit in, but support from his wife Kate is allowing James to pursue his dream.

The opportunity to compete on the world stage marks quite a change in fortunes for James.

In January 2013, just before his 28th birthday, he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of cancer. This put his sporting life on hold for 12 months, while he went through treatment. Four years on and clear of the disease, James is ready to take on a life changing chance to compete for Team GB. James is still raising funds to be able to compete represent his country (and Sedgefield!) in Canada. If you would like to support James get in touch with him on 07973 830487, on Facebook or email [James\\_oldfield\\_is@hotmail.com](mailto:James_oldfield_is@hotmail.com).



## Ironman Triathlon

Sedgefield Harrier Ean Parsons is making his final preparations for one of the biggest sporting challenges of his life. On Sunday 2nd July, Ean, who now competes in the vet 55 category, will take part in his first ironman triathlon event in Klagenfurt, Austria. He will tackle the small matter of a 2.4-mile swim followed by 112 miles on the bike, finishing off by running a marathon.

Ean explains his motivation: "With nearly 500 races behind me as a runner, including a few marathons, it seems the right time to turn my attention to an ironman triathlon. It's not a matter of being too old, more the case that I've been training for 36 years for this moment. My triathlon career goes back to 1992, but when bikes started getting a bit more technical than an old Raleigh I thought better of it and stuck to running. An operation in 2015 and a chance to refocus, plus seeing someone I know do the Austria ironman, gave me the impetus to come back stronger and take the plunge. So, the target is Klagenfurt and the mental approach is to enjoy a day out doing things I enjoy, followed by pizza." News of how Ean gets on next month.

## Football

St Edmund's FC finished a respectable fourth in the Durham Sunday premier league last season, but the feeling around the club is that of a missed opportunity. For a large part of the season, the side was leading the division, taking points off all of the top teams, but there was also the disappointment of going out of three cup competitions on penalty shoot outs. Everyone involved with St. Edmund's believes that the club is capable of better next season. At the club's presentation night, Louis Brown won the players' player award, John Maddison won player of the year, Callum Johnson was crowned young player, while Steve Flockett and Andrew Beamson were joint leading goal scorers. Brian Fairhurst was presented with an outstanding service award.



## Athletics continued

Sedgefield Harriers' next event is the Gerry Kearsley Summer Handicap on Thursday 20th July. This undulating, scenic multi-terrain run of about six miles starts and finishes just outside Fishburn, and follows trails and old railway lines around Bishop Middleham. Handicaps are based on a runner's best 10k time, leading to an exciting conclusion with most participants finishing within a few minutes of each other. Entry is free and registration opens at Fishburn Club at 5:30pm. The event is suitable for runners of all ages and ability – everyone is welcome. For more information, visit [www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/gerry-kearsley-handicap](http://www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/gerry-kearsley-handicap).

As I type this, sad news has just reached me of the passing of Eamonn Murtagh. For many years, Eamonn sponsored prizes at the summer handicap mentioned above, one of the numerous ways that he backed Sedgefield Harriers from the club's early days. As a younger man, Eamonn had been an active and talented runner himself with Middlesbrough and Cleveland Harriers, but became a very enthusiastic supporter of Sedgefield Harriers once the club was founded. I will provide a more detailed tribute to Eamonn next month.



## Squash

First things first, an apology for an error last month. The report should have stated that, in the Sedgefield Squash Club annual awards, the ladies' player of the season was Sharron Brown.

There was also a brief mention last month that the club had been crowned Durham & Cleveland County Squash Club of the Year for the 2016-17 season. This is an achievement for which Sedgefield Squash Club can be justifiably proud, after a year which has seen unprecedented success for the teams on court, increased membership numbers and an ever-burgeoning junior section.

Members attending the county presentation evening only found out on the evening, which probably explains the extra beam in their smiles in the photograph above!

Between now and the end of July, the main activities at the club are junior coaching on Saturday mornings and club night on Thursday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm. Both are open to non-members or aspiring members, so get in touch if you or your children are interested.

Check out the club website [www.sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk) for more details.

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



## Your Letters

### Christian Aid Week 2017

Thanks to the generosity of people here in Sedgefield, Bradbury, & Mordon, we are delighted to report that a final total of £3,768.80 was collected. This will be increased by approximately £354 as a result of the completed Gift Aid declarations, and by a further £140.41 given at the Good Friday Procession of Witness. As a result, a grand total of just over £4,263 will go towards helping to improve the lives of some of the world's poorest people.

Thank you also to our team of dedicated collectors, who gave their time and effort to this very worthy cause. After delivering the envelopes our collectors endeavour to call back twice, however it is not always possible to catch everyone when they are at home. We are sorry if your envelope was not collected. Lastly, thanks to those who brought their envelopes to one of our churches, or to their collector's address and to our home afterwards.

*Margaret & David Glass*

### It was a Red Letter Day

*for Sedgefield resident, Nidia Callin, when she was both baptized and then confirmed by the Bishop of Jarrow, the Right Revd. Mark Bryant, during a special evening service at St Edmund's. Nidia's husband Philip was confirmed too, along with Matthew Thompson of St Alban's, Trimdon Grange, and Joe Vaulks from St Michael's Church at Bishop Middleham.*

*Pictured below after the service are (l-r) Joe Vaulks, Matthew Thompson, Fr. Michael Thompson, Bishop Mark, Nidia Callin and her husband, Philip.*

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# July 2017 DIARY

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Date	Event
Sat 1st	<b>Drop in Surgeries, Cllr John Robinson.</b> 9 - 9.45 am Bradbury & Mordon Village Hall; 10 - 11am Sedgefield Library; 11.15 - 12 Fishburn Community Centre <b>Sedgefield Lyric Singers &amp; Lirica Summer Concert</b> , "Music in the Air". Parish Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets from Tickety Boo or members of the choir. <b>(Also June 1st)</b>
Sun 2nd	<b>Sedgefield Farmers' Market.</b> on the Village Green from 8.30 am
Mon 3rd	<b>Local History Society.</b> Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm: My Great Great Grandma by Margret Hedley
Tue 4th	<b>Sedgefield Energy Switch.</b> Last day for 'Offer Acceptance'.
Wed 5th	<b>Sedgefield WI.</b> Parish Hall, 7.15pm. The Blood Bikes. Members' competition - any heart-shaped item. All welcome.
Thu 6th	<b>Sew Easy.</b> Parish Hall Boardroom 7pm - 9pm. Call 622447 for information.
Fri 7th	<b>U3A Parish Hall, 2pm. AGM and Cream Tea.</b> Members free. Guests welcome, £3 at the door. Further details from 01740 629276 <b>Sedgefield Village Veterans Coffee Morning.</b> Parish Hall 10am to Noon.
Sun 9th	<b>Sedgefield in Bloom Open Gardens Day.</b> 1pm - 5pm. £4 (children free). Tickets and maps from the gazebo on the green.
Tue 11th	<b>Neighbourhood Watch Panel Meeting.</b> The Fletcher Room, Parish Hall @ 8pm
Fri 14th	<b>Sedgefield Country Market.</b> Parish Hall 10am to 11.30am. Home baked produce, Crafts, Jams, Cards, Plants, Refreshments. For info call 01740 629441.
Tue 18th	<b>Bright Water Walk.</b> Hardwick Park to Bishop Middleham. Three mile walk. Meet at Hardwick Park Visitor Centre (Parking Charge in force) @ 10.30am. For further information visit <a href="http://www.discoverbrightwater.org">www.discoverbrightwater.org</a> <b>Sedgefield, Ferryhill &amp; District Flower Club.</b> Parish Hall, 7.30pm. Members free; Non Members £5
Thu 20th	<b>Sew Easy.</b> Parish Hall Boardroom 7pm to 9pm. Gloria Wills 622447 for info.
Fri 21st & Sat 22nd	<b>SPYS. Sedgefield Young Players Present:</b> "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" 7pm. Tickets from Tickety Boo, at <a href="http://www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk">www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk</a> or the ticket hotline: 07763257846.
Wed 26th	<b>Sedgefield Gardening Club.</b> Members' Outing to Martin Fish's garden at Thirsk.
Thu 27th	<b>Sedgefield Show Meeting.</b> Social Club, 8pm.
Sat 29th	<b>Willowdene Care Home, Lizard Lane.</b> Summer Fair from 2pm to 4pm. Featuring Pony Rides, Various Stalls and Barbecue. Free Entry.

## Boxing a Swarm

Just one of the ways that our Bees at Hardwick group are building up their numbers. Read all about it on page 3.



## Sedgefield Library

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**Sedgefield News is published by Sedgefield Development Trust and printed by The Print Factory: 01429 264777**

SDT Company Secretary, John Fitzpatrick, 7 Melgrove Way, Sedgefield, TS21 2JN, email [sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk)