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



#ShroveTuesday In #Sedgefield it's about a



ball Stephen Curry's brilliant 1995 photo went viral on Twitter!



View from the office Sports editor, Chris Lines caught the beginning of this year's game



Development Trust looks to the future

The good turnout for Sedgefield Development Trust's recent AGM may have been down to the attraction of the venue – the Old Court Room in the Manor House – or maybe it was simply that the last year has been a busy one. Most probably a little of both.

The Chairman's report highlighted the fact that just a few new volunteers had enabled the Trust to pursue two new projects. That extra capacity has helped it to become the only community led organisation in the country to join the Big Community Switch to get better gas and electricity prices for our residents; other areas participating are led by local Councils. The success of Sedgefield Energy Switch, as we call our initiative, has been beyond our most optimistic dreams. We have far higher sign up rates and acceptance rates of the offers made than anywhere else and we saved around £26,000 for our participating residents. That money is in your or your neighbour's bank account or purse right now!

New volunteers also enabled the Trust to take over leadership of Sedgefield Farmers' Market and they have helped transform it so that it currently offers as many stalls as it did at its historical best as well as offering customers a broader range of local produce.

The year also saw big steps forward in the use of social media to keep residents and followers far and wide, up to date and involved. Both Sedgefield News and Sedgefield Farmers' Market can be found on Twitter and Facebook. Other projects, including the News and SedgefieldWeb, continue successfully and our latest initiative, Sew Easy, will be on a community stall at the market on March 1st.

Perhaps as a reflection of the extra projects we have been able to drive, the AGM agreed to the election of two more Directors and Trustees; they are Sandy Clubley and Olwen Downs. The Trust, however would still like one or two more volunteers to help with aspects of producing Sedgefield News. The full Chairman's report can be read at **www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk**

Love gardening? Come & join us!

Pictured below are Nancy Wells, Suzanne Hopper, Chair, John Nicholls & demonstrator, Adam Prest at Sedgefield Garden Club. Article on page 2



Next news deadline Monday 16th March News & adverts: sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com 07572 502 904 55 White House Drive, TS21 3BU Diary: eventssedgefieldnews@outlook.co.uk Sport: chrisjlines@aol.com

Exciting times ahead at Sedgefield Squash Club

It has been almost 2 years since the squash club started its project to extend its facility by building a 3rd court, but a significant milestone has now been achieved, with planning permission granted by Durham County Council. The planning process took far longer than originally expected and the club had to explore a number of different building designs in order to minimise impact to the grounds and trees behind Ceddesfeld Hall.

The new court will now be constructed at the front of the existing building, designs have been drawn up, and it is hoped that works will commence over the next few months once a contractor has been appointed.

The club and committee are hugely excited by the prospect of extending the building, which will enable more squash or racketball opportunities to both members and the wider community.

The club is also keen to engage with any community groups who may like some free squash or racketball "taster" sessions putting on. Club Chairman, Gordon Peden said "We want the community to enjoy our fantastic facility and for it to cater for old & young, beginners & advanced alike, so if you are interested in trying out either sport (or even getting back into it), please get in touch via our website, www.sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.

Church Anniversary

New Generation Church started with 28 people in February 2011 and began holding services in Sedgefield in May of that year. It has steadily grown and with a membership approaching 100, has now celebrated its fourth anniversary. With services held every Sunday morning in the Parish Hall (occasionally in the Community College) the church attracts people from Sedgefield and surrounding area. The congregation is made up of all ages with an impressive number of young people.

Their mission is 'Bringing Jesus to the Hearts and Minds of People'. To Pastors Aaron and Maria Chaudhary, the Christian message is timeless but its methods need to be relevant. So the welcome to church is warm and friendly and services start with a modern and contemporary songs led by singers and musicians who wouldn't look out of place on a much bigger stage and presented with the use of multi media.



Are you a Rhododendron or a Rose? Witch Hazel or Hellebore? Sedgefield Gardening Club aims to discover more!

English countryside and gardens, natural, flowing and inspirational. Each season brings its wondrous joy to our mind and soul. We meet at the beautiful and iconic Ceddesfeld Hall on the first Tuesday of the month, and meetings are fun and informal with presentations on a variety of garden related topics by exciting guest speakers. The AGM is in March and the first presentation of the year is by Adam Prest on Tuesday 7th April. It's set to be an evening of exuberant creativity! Adam is inviting members and guests to bring unusual, fun or challenging containers that he can fill with flowers!

In July we will visit the wonderfully exciting gardens of Martin and Jill Fish at Thirsk. Martin is an RHS judge, well known broadcaster and consultant to the Harrogate Flower Show.

Gardening Club annual membership is available to members of the SCA for just £2 and admission to the April presentation with Adam is £3 for members, £4 for non members. 7pm for 7.30pm prompt start. Join us and share our passion and enthusiasm for nature!



This is followed by a message that is relevant and encouraging. The church caters for all ages and during services children have the opportunity to 'Learn About Jesus On Their Level' by attending Kid's Church - a full programme designed with children in mind and led by a dedicated team. Youth get together every fortnight for an event called Catalyst and Ignite caters for those from year six to eleven.

Members meet fortnightly for social gatherings - Connect Groups, where friendships can be created, amid a growing sense of community.

The Church's Kilo of Kindness is an outreach programme that distributes food hampers and clothing for those facing difficult times. NGC is certainly having an impact, with numerous stories of people helped; it aims to double in the next year. We warmly invite visitors to our Sunday services. Please refer to page 6 for details.

Steve's Nature Diary

Now is the time to look for signs of spring. Snowdrops (Galanthus nivalis), one of the earliest woodland flowers, presents pendulous blooms, often distributed in masses over damp woodland floors. They are quite spectacular and visiting a garden full of snowdrops is really breath taking. Although regarded by many as a wildflower, snowdrops were not recorded growing wild in the UK until the 1770s. You can recognise a wild snowdrop with its strap like, blue green leaves, drooping white flowers with the inner segments having a green patch towards the tip and only one flower per stem. Anything else is a cultivated variety with over a thousand available for you gardeners to buy. A snowdrop plant may be said to look like three drops of milk hanging from a stem. This accounts for the Latin name Galanthus, meaning "milk white flowers".

Along with snowdrops, crocuses and winter aconites come into flower this month, and if the weather stays mild, emerging bumblebee queens, honeybees and early solitary bees will take advantage of early spring flowers, foraging for much needed nectar and pollen. Early flowering crocuses are particularly loved by bumblebee queens, often starving after their long hibernation (some have been asleep since last summer and need all the nectar they can get). A big patch of crocus flowers in a sunny corner will help a lot. Bumblebees rely on different flowers for food throughout the year. The Bee Conservation Trust's campaign, beekind, encourages gardeners to think about bees. Visit http://beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org/ and use the Beekind tool to discover whether the flowers in your garden are bee-friendly. Once you know how your garden scores, it recommends some other flowers that you may want to plant – to really get your garden buzzing!

Mother's Day at St. Edmund's Church

For most people in 20th century Britain, the celebration of Mother's Day has been an occasion to acknowledge the role that Mothers and women have in our society. However, the tradition goes back to the sixteenth century, when people returned to their mother church, the main church or cathedral of the area, for a service held on Laetare Sunday.

In later times, Mothering Sunday became a day when domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother church, usually with their own mothers and other family members. It was often the only time that whole families could gather together, since on other days they were prevented by conflicting working hours, and servants were not given free days on other occasions. Eventually, the religious tradition evolved into the Mothering Sunday secular tradition of giving gifts to mothers.

We hope that you will join us on 15th March. Full details are on page 6.

Ceddesfeld Hall

Home of Sedgefield Community Association (SCA) Burns' Supper: A very traditional celebration!

On Saturday 24th January, 62 guests gathered to commemorate 'Rabbie Burns' birth date, enjoying a traditional meal; scotch broth, haggis, neeps and tatties, braised beef and cranachan. Bruce Cunningham dramatically addressed the haggis, Phil Broomhead led the Toast to the Immortal Memory, while John Robinson toasted the lassies and Sue Broomhead delivered a robust but feminine response. Ian Sutherland declaimed some fine examples of the bard's art with his Epitaph to a Friend, William Muir and A Man's a Man for a'that. Paul Cook, the piper, played at intervals throughout. The evening concluded with Auld Lang Syne and all agreed to 'haste ye back'. A great time was had by all.

Are the long winter nights getting you down? Well, if you are you a 'crafty'

person and enjoy activities such as sewing, knitting, crochet and embroidery, as well as meeting new friends and learning new skills, please come along to the SCA Craft Club, in the Swinhoe Room every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 7.30pm to 10 pm. Please contact Jean on 620656 for further details. And for more information on any SCA activities, contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 01740 620607 or visit our website on www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk



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Level 3 childcare qualification or experience of working with children an advantage.
For information contact Sue Bell, 01740 623565 or send CV to Sedgefield Out of
School Fun Club, Rectory Row Sedgefield TS21 2BJ; email as below.

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Affordable, flexible, friendly care for children aged 3-14 years in Sedgefield and surrounding areas. Planned adult lead activities for your child to join in with or they can choose from a wide range of activities both indoors and out for a fun filled day. To book please call **01740 623565** or email **sedgefieldfunclub@tiscali.co.uk**



The Sedgefield Plan

Shaping the future of our area

We commenced this project in September 2013 and here we are in February 2015 with an almost complete document, prior to its submission to Durham County Council, where it will hopefully proceed through independent inspection, community referendum and approval. So far we calculate that the team has invested over 3500 voluntary hours into the project, which represents our strong commitment to produce a document that will provide for the protection of Sedgefield's heritage and green spaces by controlling development till 2030; it also represents a considerable cost saving on professional fees.

It has been crucial to the project that we have kept the community engaged with our work, and we have been pleased with the commitment you have made to our public meetings, our surveys and questionnaires that have produced many lively discussions, suggestions and good ideas that we have used to develop our assertions and policies, which you can see in the 'consultation pre-submission draft' on the home page of The Sedgefield Plan website <u>www.thesedgefieldplan.co.uk</u>. Do have a look at the site; it is full of information that you may find interesting.

As you can imagine we have amassed a very large amount of correspondence, notes and minutes of meetings, maps and guidance manuals and a number of approved plans produced by other communities around the country that have been useful in our work. All of this has been digitised in an archive and evidence database that will eventually be available in the town council archives.

It is a shame that the impetus that the plan has created as it moves to inspection will be disrupted by the general election in May; as many of you will know, the dreaded 'purdah' will bring local and national government decision making to a halt. It commences on March 31st, so we believe that although we will keep the pressure on it is unlikely that we will know the outcome of our inspection before mid-summer. We will keep you informed of events

The Sedgefield Plan steering group, February 2015

Final Forum Jottings

The Forum met on January 5th. Unfortunately no volunteers have come forward to take on the running of the group so it was agreed that the Forum be closed down. In line with the requirements of the constitution any remaining funds after payment of outstanding bills (it will be less than £100) will be passed to an appropriate other group, it was agreed that this should be the Neighbourhood Plan group as that work is in the interests of the residents and community.

The Forum has been greatly valued by residents and it is sad that facility for open discussion, support and action will no longer be there. It has been suggested that residents should attend the Neighbourhood Watch Group (NHW) as an alternative since the PACT meeting (Police and Communities Together) takes place there and PC Todd has said he can help and advice residents on many issues and 'point them in the right direction'. The next NHW and PACT meetings take place at 7.00pm on Tuesday 10th February, try to get along and see what is there.

If at any point in the future someone would like to re-establish a residents' group, we do have a constitution that could be used as an example for a new group if anyone is interested at any time get in touch with the Town Council or Development Trust. Of course residents can attend Town Council meetings and can put forward issues etc at the point where Public Participation is shown on the agenda. There is obviously not the opportunity for lengthy discussion and debate at those meetings as we had at the Forum but again get along to the meetings and keep up to date with what is happening in our community.

Most importantly please attend any further meetings regarding our Neighbourhood Plan, the Plan is almost complete but your continued input to the process is essential for it to be successful and become a document that will help protect the character of our village.

This will be the last Forum jottings, many thanks for all praise and good wishes from people for our work over the years it has been a pleasure to help enable residents' 'voices' to be heard and thanks to everyone who has attended the meeting over the years.

We apologise to readers and to the Residents' Forum for omitting this item from our February edition. Editor.

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place to work

Citizen of the Year

There is still time to nominate someone who you think has made an outstanding contribution to the life of our town. Nomination forms came in your February edition of Sedgefield news, but if you need another, you can get one from Sedgefield Town Council Offices or by contacting John Fitzpatrick of Sedgefield Development Trust, at 7 Melgrove Way, Sedgefield, TS21 2JN This is an award which is treasured by those who have received it in past years, and makes the recipient feel that they are valued by the community. Well worth the effort of filling in the form!

Befrienders wanted

The Pioneering Care Partnership is looking for volunteers for the Health Buddy scheme. As a Health Buddy you will develop a trusting relationship with clients, help with shopping or attending medical appointments, encourage them with social activities or groups and to access services, or simply take the time to listen over a cup of tea. A full training and support package will be provided by PCP and volunteers can give a minimum of 2 hours a week.

If you are interested, please contact Fiona Chrichard on 01325 321234 or email healthbuddy@pcp.uk.net.

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

We apologise to Janet Spalding for last month's mistake. We omitted to name her as the "long serving secretary" for the Resident's Forum.

Please note: The minutes of February's Neighbourhood Watch meeting are posted on the notice boards outside the Police Station & the Library

Police numbers

Local Police	101
CPO Duncan Gill	01325 742714
Parking Shop	0191 3846633



sedgefield@cooperandbarr.co.uk

From a mobile: 0300 330 06 50 TYPETALK users: 08444 111 445 For information telephone FREE 0800 19 333 90

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH?

Sunday 1st

Sedgefield Farmers' Market on the village green, from 8.30am to 12.30pm.

Monday 2nd

Sedgefield Local History Society Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45 pm. Chris Lloyd, speaking about 'WT Stead and the Titanic'

Tuesday 3rd

Sedgefield Gardening Club 7.30pm Ceddesfeld Hall. AGM and pie & peas

Wednesday 4th

Sedgefield WI Parish Hall at 8pm."Style Steps with Elena" of Jayne's, Fairtrade Fortnight Display. Competition: Images of County Durham. Visitors always welcome.

Friday 6th

Sedgefield & District U3A Parish Hall at 2pm. Bernard Hope: Mallory and Everest. Members Free, Guests £3 at the door Brenda on 01740 629574

Saturday 7th

Cricket Club Quiz Night 8pm. Hosted by Pippa McMahon. Quiz Night season ends with quiz by John Bryant on Easter Saturday

Monday 9th

Methodist Wives & Friends 7.30pm. Jim O'Connor - Dorothy's Well Project

Tuesday 10th

Ladies' Club Ceddesfeld Hall. Tabby Textiles: Talk on Spinning etc.

Thursday 12th

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

Friday 13th

Sedgefield Country Market Parish Hall 10-11.30am. Cakes, produce, crafts, cards, plants and a perfect opportunity to enjoy a tea, coffee & cake with friends. A warm welcome awaits everyone.

Monday 16th

Sedgefield Family History Group (Branch of Cleveland FHS) 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall. Bernard Hope: The Great Escape - the True Story". For more information go to www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk or tel: 620367. New Members always welcome.

Tuesday 17th

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club Parish Hall at 7.30pm. "Anything will do" with Vanessa Wellock, North East Demonstrator

Friday 20th

Macmillian Cancer Support Coffee Morning 9.30-11.30am in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. Meet friends and enjoy refreshments and fresh scones **Live Music Night** 7.45 pm Sedgefield Cricket Club. Main guest Jez Lowe plus, Old Age Travellers, John Weighell and John Wrightson Band. Admission £10 inc. buffet

Monday 23rd

Methodist Wives & Friends 7.30pm W.F. Project

Tuesday 24th

Ladies' Club Lillipad Jewellery - Laura Vayro

Friday 27th

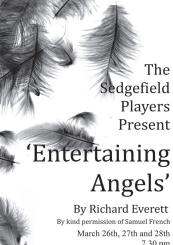
Sedgefield in Bloom Coffee Morning 10 - 11.30 am in the Parish Hall. Delicious home-made cakes, gifts, crafts, books, tombola and raffle.

Looking ahead

Afternoon Tea in memory of Joyce Lowe Wednesday 15th April at 2.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Proceeds to the British Red Cross North East. Tickets are £10 pp from Ann Carr 01740 629070 or Sedgefield Post Office.

On Sundays at 11am

New Generation Church 1st & 8th in Sedgefield Parish Hall. 15th, 22nd & 29th at Sedgefield Community College. All welcome



March 26th, 27th and 28th 7.30 pm Sedgefield Parish Hall Tickets: £6/£5 Available from Tickety Boo 01740 621771 www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk

Ray's Charity Night

Alzheimer's Society

Friday 27th March 7.30pm till late at the Coxhoe Active Life Centre

Tickets £5 (at the door or see below) Raffle, Tombola, Alcoholic Tombola, Buffet, Live Band, Disco

Every penny you raise - £5, £500 or £5000 - will help us to help people with dementia. Donate by text RAYG76 amount to **70070**. Every penny helps!

Tickets can be bought direct from the venue, at the door on the night or contact Jackie Gee **07964058213**

Mother's Day Famíly Servíce

Sunday 15th at 10 am The congregation of St. Edmund's Church looks forward to welcoming you to share the celebration of Mothering Sunday at the family service, which will last about 45 minutes. It will be child and family friendly, with children and young people helping to deliver the worship. It has become the tradition to give a small posy of flowers to all women who attend the service, and there will be cake and coffee/tea/squash afterwards.

with Events Editor, Paul Anderson

Sedgefield Library Opening Hours

Wed 9.30am-12.30pm Thurs 10am-6pm Fri 1pm - 7pm Sat 9.30am-12.30pm Easter Times: Closed Friday 3rd April until re-opening on Wednesday 8th Telephone 03000 269521

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

The market is held on the first Sunday of every month, and free Community Stalls are available for local groups, clubs, charities and other organisations who wish to promote themselves to the market customers.

Durham Deafened Support will be in attendance on **Sunday 1st March** between 8.30am and 12.30pm. For anyone with a hearing problem, or living with someone that has, come along and find out how DDS can help. You will be surprised at the help they can give and the activities they arrange.

The other community stall this month is **Sew Easy** - the latest venture from Sedgefield Development Trust. Gloria Wills will be on the stall to tell you all about the new sewing group. If **you** would like to take up the offer of a stall, please call Olwen Downs on 077 177 21874.

Paul's pick of the month ...

My aim as Events Editor is to attend at least one event a month in the village and write a small 'blog' type article about the experience I gain. So, last month I checked out the Acoustic Night at Ceddesfeld Hall. An invite from a friend and an acoustic bass in hand, I ventured out in the snow for a night of singing and guitar playing. Unfortunately, the weather had hindered the arrival of most, well, all of the 'musos' I was hoping to meet but after an excellent pint of real ale (as always) from the friendly bar, my friend Mr Darnton started singing and strumming. The only other arrival was a Mr Parsons (of The Manor House,1707, Sedgefield) who played and sang some delightful traditional songs which we all jammed along to. The lack of people didn't tarnish the evening but only made me look forward to the next time when hopefully more 'musos' will attend. Come on Sedgefield acoustic players - let's 'Jam'! **1st Friday & 4th Wednesday @ Ceddesfeld Hall. Starts at 8.30pm.** Check out their Facebook page too - 'Sedgefield Acoustic Nights'

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 ✓ Call 620434 CAB Fortnightly Advice Sessions Wed 10am-3pm 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, Friam: Children 2+vears, 620934 Community College Bowls Mon 4-8pm. Carpet/Short Mat, Coaching, 623198 Craft Club Swinhoe Room, Ceddesfeld Hall, 2nd & 4th Tues 7.30-10pm Tel: 620656 Eddies@4 Sundays For 2-6 year olds. 4pm, Welcome Room, St Edmund's. 621125 Fishburn Art Group Youth & Community Centre, Butterwick rd. Monday 9.30am-12 Fishburn Taekwondo Tues & Thurs 6pm, Youth & Community Centre. 07743455065 Lyrics Choirs Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall. SLYC 6pm Adults 7.30pm. All welcome. NECP Concertina Workshop 2nd & 4th Sun1pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. 01642 588197 Rotary Club of Sedgefield Wed 7.30pm Bob 07831270892 / 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 Carpet Bowls Tues & Thurs 8.30am-12 Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners ✓ 622532 S'field Handbell Ringers Weds 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall or 1st Mon of month 621292 S'field Mags 1st Monday of the month at the Nag's Head, 8pm. Tel: 07966029434 S'field Players Parish Hall, 7.30, Sunday & Wednesday. SPYS Sunday 6.30. 620091 S'field Playgroup Methodist Hall, Mon, Wed & Thursday 9.15-11:30. 620893 S'field Pop In Club for elderly & disabled. C'feld Hall on the following days -Tuesday 9.30am - 2pm, Wednesday 10am - 2.30pm, Thursday 1pm - 3.30pm. Sing for Health 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 1 - 2pm, Methodist Church Hall Tai Chi Tuesdays, Parish Hall, 10 -11am

Toddler Club Wed term time 1.15 - 3pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Tel: Joan Brennan, 622385 **Youth Café** at Toshach's every Friday from 7 - 9pm

Sedgefield Social Club

Saturday 7th John Conlan Saturday 14th Ryan King Saturday 21st Terry James Saturday 28th Rose Members & Guests welcome £1.50p Cover Charge To book concert/function room call 01740 620591

Do U like to Dance?

Tuesdays 3rd, 17th & 31st March Ballroom & Sequence dancing at the Parish Hall from 1 - 3pm. £2.50 including refreshments Call Ann - 629070 Joyce - 622601 or just turn up!

Hardwick Hall Hotel Friday 13th March Night Fever at the 70's Disco

7 for 7.30pm. £11.95 pp: 2 course buffet

Sunday 15th March

Mothering Sunday Lunch Four course lunch with music from our excellent pianist, & a small gift for Mum £24.95 per Adult & £12.95 per Child

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Sports UPDATE

with Sports Editor, Chris Lines Email: chrisjlines@aol.com

Winter hasn't quite released its grip on us yet, so throughout Sedgefield, households continue to have to deal with the muddier than usual fallout of various sporting endeavours. Footballers, rugby players, runners, cyclists and more all seem to return home caked in half of the UK's muck. For the vast majority, there's no brass with this muck, as we all do what we do for the love of our sport. However, in among those many Sedgefield folk (and the equally large number whose sports are indoors), there may well be a few talented youngsters emerging who could go on to make a career out of all of this rushing around. Here's hoping.

Sedgefield Village Games

Founded in 2012 to help create a legacy for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games here in Sedgefield, the Sedgefield Village Games organisation is still going strong. Over the last couple of years it has hosted two successful family fun and games afternoons, awarded several bursaries to talented youngsters, and helped secure a community defibrillator for Sedgefield (installed on the outside wall of the surgery).

SVG is now making plans for 2015, which will include a major involvement in Sedgefield Day on Saturday 20th June. Beyond that, thoughts are already turning to 2016, the next Olympics year, and the idea of holding another larger festival of sport in Sedgefield. SVG will hold its annual meeting on **Thursday 5th March**, at 7:30pm in the Oldham Room in Ceddesfeld Hall. As well as being an opportunity for anyone who is interested to get involved in the committee, the meeting will also be a chance for people to discuss ideas of what the village games organisation could do in the future.

The current SVG committee is keen for as many clubs and organisations (and individuals!) to be represented at the meeting as possible, as the more support the initiative has, the more it can do. There's no need to let SVG know in advance, but everyone will be welcome on 5th March. You can find out more about the Sedgefield Village Games at **www.sedgefieldgames.com**.

Squash

The British National Squash Championships were held at Manchester's Sports City complex in mid-February, and this year, Sedgefield Squash Club had two members competing in the men's over 35s competition. Chris Gillespie and Matt Marshall, both county players at senior level, competed against the country's best in the youngest of the senior age categories. Both put in very creditable performances, Matt exiting the competition in the second round to Hertfordshire's Alistair Coker, while Chris made it through to the quarter finals before going out to Warwickshire's James Bowden. Other players from this county also put in noteworthy performances with Bannatyne's Gareth Lumsdon (current county champion) making the semi-final of the Over 35s, and Yarm's Andy Cross and Yawar Abbas contesting an all Durham & Cleveland over 45s final, with Yawar taking the title from last year's winner Andy. At the end of January, Durham & Cleveland's boys under 17s team travelled to the brand new University of Cambridge Sports Centre to compete in the finals of the Inter-County Trophy, having made their way through the qualifying rounds at the end of 2014. The team included three representatives from Sedgefield Squash Club, filling the top three positions in the team - Oliver Walls, George Peden and Dan Toas. In the semi-final they beat a useful Oxfordshire side 3-2. Marching into the final against Dorset, a fantastic 4-1 performance saw the team crowned as winners of the competition - not only an excellent result for the county, but also for Sedgefield. On the same weekend the Durham & Cleveland's boys under 15s team under the astute and inspiring management of Sedgefield's Stephen Rowsby, travelled to Cheshire and matched the U17s result to win the Inter-County Trophy against the home Cheshire team.



Football

Sedgefield St. Edmund's FC have reached the halfway point of the season in fifth position in the Durham District League Premier Division, with 17 points from 10 games. The club also reached the quarter-final stage of the County Cup, losing to South Shields Rose & Crown by the odd goal in a game where home advantage was a major factor, as the pitch was so poor that playing football was a lottery. On a more positive note. St. Edmund's have reached the semi-final of the Heart Foundation Cup with a victory over Houghton Comrades on penalties. I'll bring you news of the outcome of the semi-final in a future update. Unfortunately, Sedgefield NETPark FC lost their semi-final of the Durham County Trophy (when it was eventually played). The team continues to play through a tough league programme and is currently facing a series of tricky away fixtures. The club remains optimistic of a good finish to its first season in the Durham Alliance League.

Cricket

Sedgefield Cricket Club's preparations for the 2015 season are well advanced. The senior teams will be captained by local lads Jonathan Clark and Colin Hartshorn and will be backed up by both experienced players and very talented juniors. On Saturday 7th March there will be an open day at the club with an opportunity to talk about

Left: Part of the victorious Durham & Cleveland U17s team: Oliver Walls, left, George Peden, centre and Dan Toas, 2nd from right

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Sports update continued

playing or coaching, arrange memberships, and order new kit, as well as a chance to socialise with players, coaches and committee members. Alternatively, for more information or to get involved, email sedgefieldcricketclub@hotmail.com or use the online contact form at http://goo.gl/44FLjC.

From a junior view point, as well as currently running five junior teams from under 11s to under 19s, this year the club will be adding coaching for school Years 2 and 3 (ages six to eight years). Please contact the club for further information.

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

Local History Society

We hope to commemorate all 42 WW1 men whose names appear on the Sedgefield war memorial by marking the 100th anniversary of the date of each death. The first known date is 25th April 1915, when Robert Ruddick lost his life. Commemorated at the Menin Gate, Robert went off to France with his brother Christopher and their friend Bertie Bateman, whose photograph adorned our WW1 exhibition poster last year. Only Christopher returned from the battlefields. We know that R McDonald was killed in action on 10th January 1916, as noted in St Edmund's Church magazine at the time, but have no further details on him, as yet. We are also still seeking information on Alfred Coates, James Weir Gibbon, William Henry Todd, Robert William Acomb, Reginald Wheeler Hines and Richard Rainbird. **If you can help out in any way, even with the smallest detail, please get in touch on 01740 620091 or e mail norma@neal.myzen.co.uk.**

More of Your letters

Footpath problems

Is it possible to do something with the footpath that goes from the junction into Sedgefield from the A177 (near Knotty Hill Golf Club) and goes all the way up to Hardwick Park? It is in terrible condition and with a pram it is impossible to pass in parts. This is the ONLY path you can take to the park with a pram and it is very narrow, overgrown, full of pot holes, and the trees and bushes overlap the path. The only other path is at the end of Station Road and this is just a muddy mess and again, impossible with a pram .

I think that Sedgefield has a problem with footpaths, as there are lots of other paths in a very poor condition eg. Old Durham Road up to NetPark. *Mr.Martin Smith. (Letter copied to Sedgefield Town Council)*

Gratitude to our firefighters

My wife and I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Sedgefield fire fighters who were called upon to deal with a fire in our home on the evening of the 14th February.

Their prompt and efficient management of the situation and the follow up attention we were given was outstanding. Apologies to the wives and girlfriends of the volunteers for spoiling their Valentine's evening.

The Sedgefield community is certainly blessed to have such a service on the doorstep *Mr and Mrs C.McGowan*

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More letters appear on page 11

Winterton search

If you worked at Lambton Ward, Winterton Hospital, between 1977 and 1980, or you know someone who did, I would be grateful for a call on 07541014214. Thank you. Name & address supplied

Sponsorship thanks

Sedgefield Cricket Club would like to offer their thanks to local firm, Ed Lowe Accountants for their sponsorship for 2015. Ed has shown us continued support and loyalty for a number of years and we at the club are extremely grateful for this. David Iceton, Chairman

Designs on Christmas

The Christmas cards produced by the Friends of St Edmund's this Christmas were a great success and raised over £600 towards the Church lighting fund. We would like to thank all who bought them, with particular thanks going to Angela Simpson, the Town Council Projects Officer, who allowed us to use her lovely pictures. We would now like to invite submissions from anyone at all for next Christmas's card. It could be amusing, like that of 2013 or a view of the village. All will be considered. Please hand entries to any member of the Friends of St Edmund's or to me at 18 Hardwick Rd. Alison Hodgson (secretary of the Friends of St Edmund's)

The power of prayer

'I believe in the power of prayer. We do not need to understand how it works, just that it does. When we intercede for ourselves or for someone (or indeed somewhere), we are asking God to do the right thing for us or that person (or place). I am forming a prayer chain on Friday 20th March. My hope is that there will be an unbroken chain of prayer lasting from 9 am to 4 pm or later, around the whole parish. Each 'link' in the chain will last 20-minutes; there will be an option to pray for specific items, but the choice will be yours. I have taken part in one, and it was a moving experience for me. Please contact me for further details. Panny Pighills APA 01740620909 / 07443423114 /pandppighills@btinternet.

Keeping it safe

Have you heard of Sage? No, not sage & onions, nor Sage Accountancy Systems, but SAGE: Safer driving with AGE, a Government initiative being administered by Durham County Council. Available to anyone, but particularly aimed at the over 70s, this is a driving assessment in which the assessor comes to you. You use your own car and you choose the route. The drive lasts approx 40 minutes and the assessor will discuss areas in which you may need to change your habits. The Assessment costs £15.00 and at the end you receive a completed form of assessment and later, a certificate. This is all aimed at the elderly, ensuring and being aware, that their driving is up to the standard necessary to keep them and other road users safe.

Just ring Durham County Council on 03000 268 172 and ask for a form to start the process. Although, the Association of Motor Insurers states that the over 70s group are the 2nd safest group of drivers on the roads, after the 30-50 age group, those of us in this age bracket mustn't get complacent - we must show an example. I've done it - so can you! So don't it put off; it could save a life (yours, perhaps?) David Hillerby

A big thank you from Vee

May I please take up a little space to say a big THANK YOU to Sedgefield Walkers and Bloomers, The Players and my Monday night Dun Cow quiz team for the cards, text messages, gifts, letters and e-mails after my recent shoulder replacement operation. All of which were much appreciated and enjoyed throughout my recovery. I hope to be seeing you all in the very near future.

A grateful and pain free Vee Cooper

Pantomime letter correction

Re: February letters. The part of Belle was played by Lucy Atkinson. Eamonn Murtagh

& sealed

or 07814 982 101

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