



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

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

## MARCH 2018



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### Oxfam looking for wedding dress donations

Is your wedding dress taking up too much space? Are you a bride looking for the perfect dress with a perfect price tag? **Oxfam Durham are asking members of the public to donate wedding dresses to their bridal boutiques.**

The dresses on offer are priced from £150 to £700 based on their original price. The value of your wedding dress will be honoured by Oxfam to benefit the charity as much as possible. You can also choose to add gift aid to your dress meaning that the government will give an extra 25p to Oxfam for every £1 your dress is worth.

The initiative started in Glasgow when a volunteer asked designers to send donations of dresses to her house, the idea was brought to Oxfam and has resulted in 12 Oxfam stores throughout the UK having their own bridal departments including dresses, shoes, accessories and outfits for both the groom and mother-of-the-bride.

Michael Ridsdale of Oxfam Durham said: "A woman on holiday from Australia decided to spontaneously get married while in Durham. With four days' notice the bride found her perfect wedding dress here at Oxfam. She spent hours trying on dresses to decide but finally found a dress. She was very happy and shared it with us on Facebook after the wedding."

Donating a dress is easy. They can be donated in any Oxfam store or collected anywhere within County Durham. Information on the dress such as original cost can also help the charity honour the true value of your beloved dress to help as much as you can.

The North East is lucky to have bridal boutiques in Durham, Darlington and York. With customers able to book an appointment to try dresses and take time over their choice for the big day, Oxfam offers the experience every bride wants. The Durham store started with public donations and recently received almost 100 brand new corporate donations from ASOS, Debenhams and even men's wedding suits from Marks and Spencer's. Items such as Oxfam Unwrapped can also be bought from Oxfam as a thoughtful wedding present.

Instead of your wedding dress sitting around unloved why not help make memories for more brides and raise money to help people in the UK and across 70 countries in the developing world?

To find out more about donating and to see the dresses available, visit:

<https://www.oxfam.org.uk/shop/bridal>.

You can contact Oxfam on [oxfamshop0406@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:oxfamshop0406@oxfam.org.uk) or @OxfamB on Twitter.

Kelly Aitkin.



**Oxfam Durham's happy bride is walked down the "aisle" by her Dad**

### Inside this issue...

*Who was James Weir Gibbon? See p 2*



*Do you recognise this happy face?  
There's more about this stranger on  
page 3, along with other church news.  
There is also information on services for  
Lent and Easter on page 12.*

*Coffee Pot Row. A little local history  
surprise on p 9*

### Events

Our Arts & Events editor is looking to broaden the range of events he reports on, so please get in touch with Tom at [sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com](mailto:sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com) if you have an event coming up this Spring or Summer that would benefit from a little extra publicity.

### Housing decision

The decision on the proposed residential development on Salters Lane is to be taken by DCC Planning Committee on 6th March. Check local press or the DCC website for the latest news.

### DEADLINE FOR APRIL EDITION Thursday 15th March

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## Steve's Nature Diary *March*

"When gorse is in blossom, kissing's in season" or "when furze is out of bloom, kissing's out of fashion" is a traditional saying that once would have been known, one way or the other, throughout Britain and Ireland. Gorse, also known as furze is a large, evergreen shrub covered in needle-like leaves and distinctive, coconut-perfumed, yellow flowers. Throughout the year it can be seen in all kinds of habitats from heaths and commons to towns and gardens. Gorse scrub occurs wherever soils are light and free draining, in areas that are relatively free from severe frosts. It is very important for birds and for invertebrates but can encroach onto otherwise valuable land and it sometimes has to be controlled to limit its extent. Large numbers of insects and other invertebrates shelter within the confines of Gorse, including multitudes of spiders whose dew-laden webs gloriously light-up misty, early mornings. Indeed, birds such as Willow Warbler habitually navigate a way through Gorse's prickly maze of branches, searching for spiders, and other insect prey, whilst Stonechats use the upper reaches as lofty perches from which to noisily "chak" territorial defiance.

When the sun is shining it is possible to find a number of insects among the masses of thorns. In fact, you can spend a good hour or two examining the Gorse bushes at Bishop Middleham Quarry looking for what you can find. One species particularly associated with Gorse is the Gorse Shield Bug. In winter they hide amongst the prickly thickets and are the colour of unopened gorse flowers, rich olive green with an eye catching yellow border to their plump bodies. It does take a while but when you get your eye in you start to see them everywhere. Later in the summer, the new generation of adults are a different colour, developing a purple red colour.

Other early insects to look out for in March include ladybirds, the Dark Bordered Bee-Fly and of course the first butterflies of the year. On sunny days in March you may be lucky enough to see a Small Tortoiseshell or Peacock, which hibernate as adult butterflies.

*More, top right*

## We remember James Weir Gibbin

**A hardy band of supporters came together at the war memorial on a chilly January morning, when Sedgfield LHS and the Village Veterans commemorated James Weir Gibbin, great uncle to the late Betty Amlin and her brother James Weir Jemmeson, named in his memory.**

Born in Sedgfield in 1888 to John and Jane Gibbin, James was the youngest of eight siblings – four boys, four girls. His sister Elizabeth married Richard McDonald, who was killed in action on 14 November 1916. Another sister, Minnie, married Harry Billingham, who served with the Northampton Regiment.

James Weir Gibbin enlisted in Newcastle on 1 September 1914, crossed to France within that year and served with the 88<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Field Artillery. Promoted to Bombardier in December 1915 and corporal in August 1916, he suffered a chest wound and was hospitalised again in August 1917. He came home to marry Beatrice Maria Burrell on 15 November 1917. Two months later, on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1918, he was dead, aged 29.

He is remembered at Neuville-Bourjonval British Cemetery in France, 14 km east of Bapaume, known as the site of a major battle of WWI.

**Awarded a pension of 15 shillings a week, less than £50 in today's money, James' wife Beattie never re-married. Born in 1887, she lived the rest of her life in Sedgfield, dying in 1979 aged 91.**



**Download iRecord Butterflies from**  
<https://butterfly-conservation.org/3114-5502/butterfly-recording-gets-smart.html> It's a free app to record your butterfly sightings and send them to Butterfly Conservation.

It includes photos of all butterfly species to help beginners. Butterflies tell us so much about our changing environment because we have 400 years of spotting data; so why not download the app and let them know when you see your first butterfly of 2018.



## Which health services do YOU think need to be reviewed?

### Healthwatch County Durham

exists to give everyone who uses health and social care services in the county a voice.

It gathers your views on services and shares your feedback, good and bad, with those who have the power to change how services work. Now you have the chance to decide which services it focuses on next.

A list of six priority areas has been compiled, based on information gathered over the last year, and now it would like you to choose which four it investigates in 2018-19. The six areas to choose from are:

1. Mental health support services
2. Appointment systems in GP surgeries
3. Dementia support
4. Transition support (from children to adult services)
5. Patient transport
6. Dental charges and treatment

To vote for your choices, visit [healthwatchcountydurham.co.uk](http://healthwatchcountydurham.co.uk) or call 0800 304 7039 to request a hard copy of the survey.

**The deadline for voting is 31st March.**





## Skeletons mystery probe by Sedgefield Church Friends

**Members of the Friends of Sedgefield's St Edmund's Church are turning detective to try and solve the mystery of the shrouded skeletons in the centuries-old building.**

The two skeletons, one male and one female, are depicted on brass plates displayed on the wall at St Edmund's and are popular talking points with visitors. Little, however, is known about them. Brian Mutch, parish warden and membership secretary of the Friends, is now leading a determined bid to learn more about the mysterious figures by checking out sources it is thought may have detailed information.

He said this week: "We are aware of a document held by the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle on Tyne and one old record which says that the two figures 'were formerly on one slab with a shield and ribbon above and with a border, probably with an inscription around the edge' but that is really all we know."

Brian is currently making contact with Archaeologia Aeliana in Newcastle and a London-based organisation that specialises in the history of old church brasses and hopes that this will eventually provide the information needed to allow an explanation of the skeletons to be displayed alongside the figures.

Local historian Alison Hodgson, secretary of the Friends, added: "We are asked about the origin of the skeletons on a fairly regular basis and it would be nice to have an explanation for people who visit the church."

*Why not join us for the **Mothering Sunday Family Service** on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 10am to see if you can spot them. This will be a less formal act of worship and as is our usual practice, daffodils will be distributed to members of the congregation. There will be refreshments after the service and time to continue the fellowship.*

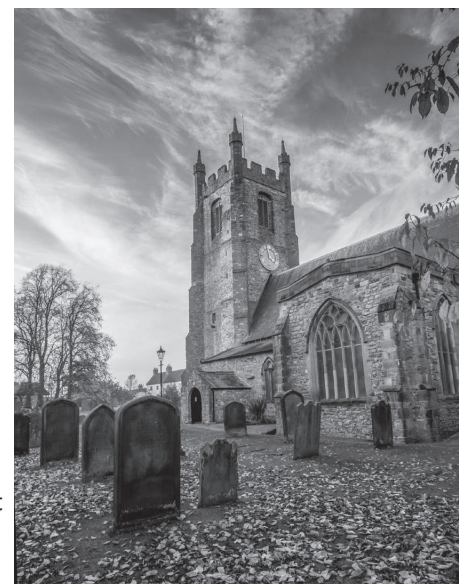


## St Edmund's Church lead thefts appeal

Members of St Edmund's ancient church have launched an appeal for funds to help repair the roof of the North Transept which was recently stripped of a large amount of lead by 'avaricious thieves'. The estimate for reparation puts the figure at around £30,000, though Parish warden Brian Mutch explained: "The actual amount will not be known until the architect has prepared plans and tenders have been received from a number of approved companies who specialise in church roof-repair work."

Although the North Transept has been made temporarily waterproof (*below right*) organisers are anxious to make a start on a permanent repair as soon as possible to protect vulnerable 13<sup>th</sup> century roof timbers. A decision has already been taken not to re-clad the roof in lead. Instead, subject to the necessary approvals, the timbers will be covered in a special type of stainless steel which looks much like lead but is not as attractive to thieves. Mr. Mutch said that the £30,000 repair estimate is based on repair costs to the South Transept roof when lead was stolen in a raid nine years ago. Because of that and the subsequent insurance claim for £23,000, insurers placed a £10000 payout ceiling on any future lead-theft from the building. In the latest twice-in-a-week raids in December, thieves stole all the lead from one side of the North Transept roof. The remaining lead was then removed as a precaution against further theft and more damage to the church.

Michael King, who is chairing the appeal campaign, commented: "We are confident we shall get support from people all over the county and much further afield, who appreciate the need to preserve St Edmund's, as it is such an iconic and much-loved building." Donations to the appeal have already been received from several local individuals and groups. Further offers of financial help can be sent to the Church Treasurer: **Chris Rowsby, 36 Beaumont Court, Sedgefield, Stockton on Tees, TS21 3AH. Telephone 01740 621125.** Cheques should be made payable to 'St Edmund's Church' and marked 'Roof Appeal' on the back. The bank sort code and account number for anyone wishing to make an online payment are 20 82 18 and 90121630 (enter 'Roof Appeal' in the reference field). For more information about the appeal, call Michael King on 01740 620910 or Brian Mutch on 01740 622302.



## Co-op cash to help with conservation

Friends of Sedgefield's St Edmund's Church thank everyone who supported them in the recent Co-operative Community Fund project. The charity was awarded £1367.48 to help safeguard the future of the ancient building. The money was raised by Co-op members who nominated the Friends of St Edmund's to benefit from spending on Co-op branded goods and services. Chairman Ron Eyeley said St. Edmund's Church is entirely self-funded and the congregation has to work hard to raise enough money to ensure that St. Edmund's will be here for future generations to use and enjoy."



*Coop staff, Hayley Gilbert, Hayley Gibson, Sam Burkill & Katie Rutter are pictured presenting a cheque to Brian Mutch, centre.*

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## The Friends of Hardwick are looking for a dog!

**Have you an obedient dog and willing to help with a very different project?**

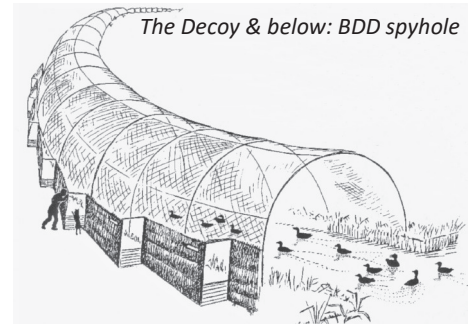
The Friends of Hardwick are looking for someone with an obedient dog to help in re-creating how the recently restored duck decoy in Hardwick Park was used, from the 1750s to at least the 1890s, to catch duck for the table. The duck decoy is one of only about five left in England, and the only one in the North East; in 1800 there were over 200. Decoys are now used to ring the duck's legs for identification, rather than wringing their necks.

Ducks are naturally curious and when they see a predator, such as a fox, they will apparently keep it at a distance, but tend to follow it. The decoyman would train a dog to lure the ducks along the pipe (as the netted tunnel is known). The dog appears between a gap or 'dog-jump' in the screens and the ducks approach it. The dog then appears at the next gap further along the pipe, and so on.

The dog needs to be extremely obedient, able to respond to silent commands and carry out its duties without taking notice of the ducks. Dogs used in the decoys tended to be small, reddish, and fox-like with a bushy tail - though we are not going to insist on all these features! You, if you wished, could act as the decoyman ("full training would be given") or simply direct your dog from behind the screens.

Interested? Come along and see our duck decoy, with or without your dog (on a lead please - Park rules), and learn more about what is involved. Contact John Fitzpatrick on 01740 621431 or email [friendsofhardwick@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhardwick@gmail.com).

*Let's hope Sedgefield News can help sniff out that very special friend for them! Ed.*



*The Decoy & below: BDD spyhole*



## Make a splash at your local fire station!

Let's face it, washing the car is nobody's favourite job. So why not take the hassle out of it and head down to our local fire station for the National Car Wash League? You'll be helping to raise vital funds for The Fire Fighters Charity and you'll put Sedgefield's fire fighters in the mix to win a national fundraising award. It's all happening at

**Sedgefield Fire Station: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 10 am - 4 pm**

Fire fighting can be dangerous, stressful and traumatic. When fire fighters are injured, they can be in pain and unable to work for months. Dealing with life or death situations every day often takes its toll emotionally too. The National Car Wash League provides a vital source of income for the Fire Fighters Charity, as well as being a fun and popular event. It costs £8.5million a year to keep the Fire Fighters Charity running, and with no regular government funding, we rely completely on your donations and goodwill. You can show your support to our firefighting heroes on Saturday 3 March – then drive away safely, in a clean car!

## Letter from PC Todd

Sadly I must report on the increasing number of Lead Flashing thefts which Sedgefield has been experiencing. Homes in Rowan Oval, The Lane, The Gables and North End have fallen victim to nocturnal thieves. Some CCTV footage is being examined to try to identify the offenders. Can I ask that residents check their own property and remove any items which might assist the offenders climbing onto the outhouse/garage roof (ladders/bins etc). Please contact police if you see anything suspicious during the night.

We have also seen an increase in damage to vehicles; wing mirrors damaged in St Edmund's Green, Hardwick Hall & Eden Drive; a vehicle driving along Front Street damaged by an egg thrown at it; and the door handles of two vehicles parked at Winterton Cottages damaged by persons attempting to force entry.

Other crimes reported include, in Cross Street, the same window damaged on two separate occasions and a wheelie bin set on fire behind Front Street.

**Pub Watch:** At a meeting held recently in Ceddesfeld Hall, no issues were raised which required further action by members.

*Until next time, Keith*

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### Call 101 to contact Local Police

to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information. It is advisable to keep notes of the conversation & obtain an incident number.

**To contact PCLO Faye Callan**

Call 101 - extension 742317 email [faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk)



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Fishburn Primary School site

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**01740 620683**

## Ceddesfeld Hall



### Home of Sedgefield Community Association (SCA)

On 27<sup>th</sup> January, SCA held their annual Burns Supper, a sell out event and a great evening of good food, tradition, fun and friendship. A Scottish piper provided the usual welcome and guests enjoyed a delicious 5 course meal. Special thanks to Bruce Cunningham, for his dramatic 'Address to the Haggis', to Jim Sutherland for his 'Toast to the Immortal Memory' and to Maxine Crallan for her very humorous 'Response from the Lassies'. Maxine and Lol went on to perform two songs from the man himself. Thanks to organisers Ian and Sheila Sutherland and Pat Buckley Atkins and to others who helped on the day.

The next family event at Ceddesfeld Hall is the Easter Egg Hunt on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Children under 12 are invited to join in the hunt for Easter eggs hidden in the grounds. There are prizes galore for different age groups and families are welcome to bring along a picnic if the day is fine, to enjoy on the lawns. There is also an Easter bonnet competition. It begins at 1.45 pm in the main hall with the selection of the Mediaeval Fayre May Queen and her attendants (raffle ticket draw). The egg hunt begins at 2 pm. This is a free family event, sponsored by SCA and the Mediaeval Fayre committee. The bar is also open.

As mentioned before, SCA were successful in the current round of the Co-op Community Fund initiative. With this support, we aim to provide more events for younger families and to purchase a range of good quality garden toys and games, for use at organised, weekend events in summer on the lawns at Ceddesfeld. Please support us by becoming a Co-op member (just £1) and selecting SCA as your chosen charity. Ceddesfeld Hall is a fantastic asset to the town. Long may it continue. The numbers using the hall, as part of a section, group or as a visitor, is growing. Annual membership fees (£8 adult, £7 Senior, £4 child/full time student) are vital in sustaining SCA and Ceddesfeld Hall for the community. This entitles individuals to reduced rates for room hire with free committee meetings, charitable status and insurance protection for registered sections. We strongly encourage regular users to become members, so that SCA can continue to develop, grow, maintain the hall and offer very reasonable room hire and bar prices. Future events include St George Dinner and Mediaeval Fayre (more next month.)

**For more information, contact Wendy:**  
01740 620206, Pat: 620607, Sarah: 622185  
or visit [www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk)

## SDT Projects

News from Sedgefield Development



### Sedgefield Farmers' Market Sunday 4th March

Spring is on the way (*Music at the Market starts next month*) and all around the country, the trading season is picking up. Sedgefield is no exception and to reinforce the point, **Albion Grilled Cheese** joins us for the first time this month. Mark Johnson from Trimdon uses locally baked sourdough bread mixed with a blend of delicious melted cheeses (from our very own Parlour Made) with local meats, to make his own version of the American classic grilled cheese sandwich. Yum! For more stall news, keep your eye on the Farmers' Market Facebook page and on Twitter @sedgyfarmmarket.

The charity stall will be Sedgefield Area Churches Together (SACT), who will be offering free Hot Cross Buns and drinks, craft activities for children, information on the churches in the area and events during Lent and around Easter, as well as a Foodbank collection point for non-perishable goods, to help feed people in need in the county (numbers have risen since recent changes in the benefits system). Do come and say hello, share a smile and have a chat!

### Woodland & Wildlife Big Planting Day!

**The Woodland Trust will deliver our 840 trees during the first two weeks of March, and the planting should take place the weekend after they arrive - so now the real work begins!**



We do need a few extra volunteers, so that we can make the day a real success. Some of the first to sign up for tree planting have been able to familiarise themselves with the site at a walk around. If you would like to do the same, please feel free to ask. Contact Roger Clubley on 07803 269956, and if you text rather than call, please include your name and email address.

### Homework Help

The project continues to grow, with more helpers and more students getting involved (our thanks to all concerned!) So far, Sedgefield library has welcomed us on Thursday and Friday evenings, and the calm atmosphere, room layout and internet access are helpful. If you'd like further information, to offer help or ask for assistance with homework, please contact us. In particular, if you are able to offer help with German at GCSE level, we'd love to hear from you in order to be able to respond to an enquiry. You can now find us on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/homeworkhelpedsedgefield/> as well as reaching us at [homeworkhelpedsedgefield@gmail.com](mailto:homeworkhelpedsedgefield@gmail.com).

### Sedgefield Energy Switch

Energy Switch is between Auctions at present, but if you would like information or need any assistance, please call the Sedgefield Development Trust's Energy Switch Helpline on **07980 134 594** and we will be more than happy to help.

### Snippets from Sedgefield Development Trust's AGM

The last year has been a real success on many fronts. All projects have been able to expand their activities and some have attracted new volunteers, helping them to thrive. We have two new projects, Homework Help and Woodland & Wildlife, and last September were involved in enabling Sedgefield Folk Festival to provide a wonderful free show for people who would not normally be able to get along to such events.

Financially, thanks mainly to the local businesses who advertise in Sedgefield News, the Trust is in a strong enough position to support all of these projects; in fact we are currently in talks about two further rather exciting developments. New ideas come along on a fairly regular basis and though it might take a year, maybe more, to get them off the ground, they are launching as properly researched and well supported ventures.

We have an active board, with a good gender balance, of 9 Trustees plus a small number of Executive members. Anyone with a real interest in our work is very welcome. There's nothing to lose and we can ease you in gently!

**You can contact SDT via individual project phone numbers & email addresses, or email us at [sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk)**



### Sedgefield's Red Carpet Event

On February 4th the Players hosted a Red Carpet Film Premiere at Ceddesfeld Hall to present Almond Productions latest short film 'Sceptic'. The film, made with support from the Players, and starring several of its members, was directed by Carl B Harrison and Walter Howell, after Carl approached Walter with the idea of taking on a different kind of project for the group. It tells a dark and thrilling tale of a young investigator who meets with three students who are suffering from paranormal activity and decide to hold a séance. The resulting occurrences provide the audience with plenty of shocking, 'jump out of your skin' moments. The evening was very well attended by local people as well as members of the production team, who all volunteered time and effort in to developing this wonderful short film. Almond Kellacher, the producer, commended the hard work of Carl and his team, who put an enormous amount of effort into the film, Carl and Walter also gave presentations, thanking the audience and the efforts of Viv Jacobs in organising such a wonderful event. The film has been submitted to the Newcastle International Film Festival 2018, Almond said 'We are going to send the film to as many appropriate festivals as we can afford and hope it will get shown far and wide.' John Finlayson's photographs of the evening, include pictures of the writers Jonathan Frank and Clive Tongue, who now live in Hollywood and have recently worked on the upcoming horror film Mara, while Jonathan wrote the screenplay for action film 'Final Score', starring Pierce Brosnan.




### Players get Bothered and Bewildered

From the 8th to 10th March the Sedgefield Players present their production of Gail Young's 'Bothered and Bewildered'. This beautifully poignant play tells the story of Irene, an elderly widow suffering from Alzheimer's, who has visions of Barbara Cartland. Her daughters Beth and Louise struggle to deal with their mother's deteriorating health and increasingly difficult behaviour. In a world where dementia and managing the effects of mental health are becoming a part of day to day lives, the play looks at this difficult subject with pathos, humour and a touch of class (and Barbara Cartland!) Tickets are available from the usual places or can be booked through the Players website [www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk).

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AND  
BEWILDERED**  
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With Kind Permission of Samuel French  
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Winter seems to be reluctant to let go of the UK this year, but although the chilly weather persists, it has been put into perspective by some of the conditions at the Winter Olympics in Korea. There haven't been any Sedgefield athletes in action in PyeongChang, but the North East has been represented. Probably the most remarkable story from our region is that of bobsleigher Mica McNeill, whose dream of representing her country at the Olympics seemed to be over when the British Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association withdrew her team's funding in favour of the male athletes. However, Mica refused to give up on her ambition and set up a crowdfunding campaign, which raised enough to get her to Korea, assuming that she and her teammate Mica Moore could qualify. That they did, and as I type this, they are preparing to make their Team GB Olympics debut. Well done to both for simply getting to the starting line – here's hoping that by the time you read this, they will have delivered the performances of their careers.

## Football

Huge congratulations to the Sedgefield Youth FC Under 8 team, pictured right, who in only their first season, have been crowned champions of the Russel Foster Youth League. During their campaign, the team scored an amazing 62 goals and conceded just 15. The final game of the season against NSG Sports from South Shields was a winner takes all match, with NSG unbeaten and sitting second in the league on goal difference. A tense game eventually saw Sedgefield run out 7-3 victors. Well done to all of the young playing stars - Benj, Zac, Max, James, Ben, Fraser, Will and Dan.

## Rugby Union

The Sedgefield District RUFC first team's post-Christmas blues looked to be extending well into 2018, with a losing bonus point the only reward for a long trip to Ashington at the end of January, that resulted in a 27-21 defeat. The unveiling of new shirts the following week, kindly sponsored by Youngs RPS, could not inspire victory at home against an in-form Ryton with the match ending 7-23.

These two fixtures were followed by the eagerly anticipated local derby against Newton Aycliffe. Both teams had been struggling in recent weeks, and the first half was a fairly even contest, with Sedgefield leading 18-12 at the break, thanks to tries from Adam Grieve and Andy Shepherd. Sedgefield then dominated the second half with further tries from Josh Hetherington, Will Johnson and Phil Dawson. A total of 15 points from the boot of Owen Robinson also contributed to a final score of 40-19. Sedgefield will be looking to build on this upturn in fortunes in the coming weeks to climb the table. The Sedgefield Saxons have had limited action in recent weeks, but still put in a good performance in a 24-11 defeat to an impressive Northallerton side who are riding high in the Tees Valley Social League.

**March home fixtures:** 1st team: 10<sup>th</sup> vs Winlaton Vulcans; 31<sup>st</sup> vs Darlington. Saxons: 17<sup>th</sup> vs Wensleydale II; 31<sup>st</sup> vs Acklam Hustlers.



## Bowls

Fishburn Bowls Club is preparing for the 2018 outdoor bowls season and is encouraging new players to get involved. The club charges around £1 per week for membership, which gives access to the green seven days a week, and welcomes participants of all ages and abilities. All that players are required to do is wear a pair of flat soled shoes to participate.

Known as "The Friendly Club", Fishburn Bowls Club competes in three regional leagues, with the season due to start in April. If you would like to find out more, call the club secretary on 07930 592929 or the club treasurer on 07989 201342 for more details.



## Athletics

The winter cross country season is drawing to a close. As well as fielding athletes in the North East, Northern and National Championships, junior and senior Sedgefield Harriers have been competing in the well-established Harrier League, which involves clubs from throughout the region and takes place between September and March. Last season, the senior men's team performed well consistently to earn promotion to Division 2, and the squad has worked hard this time around to consolidate a place in that league. Competition has been tough, with Sedgefield jostling for position with some big clubs, but a great team performance at the penultimate fixture in Thornley means that securing safety is within their grasp. The final race is in Alnwick on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and the Harriers are aiming to guarantee that they also start next season in Division 2. Meanwhile, at Thornley, the senior ladies offered a glimpse of their own potential to climb the divisions. For the first time this season, Sedgefield fielded a full team, comprising Lisa Darby, Christine Hearmon, Tracy Henderson and Jane Spink. They finished an excellent second in their division and although it's too late for them to bid for promotion this season, the performance gave an indication of what could be achieved next term.

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



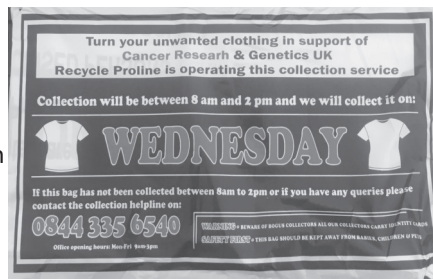
## Letters & thanks

I would like to record my grateful thanks to those who kindly helped when I suffered a fall outside the old Hope Inn during the snowfall of Thursday 18th January. First, to the two contractors who got me to my feet and those friends who walked me home afterwards; especially to the thoughtful lady (who unfortunately did not leave her name) who found my handbag and took it straight to the Police Station; and finally to the police, who got in touch and delivered the bag to my home address immediately. No bones broken - no financial loss - just immense relief all round!

*Audrey Lofthouse*

**Residents should think carefully** before donating clothes etc to some doorstep charities. One or two collectors are under investigation from the Charities commission for acting as 'Commercial operators' who then donate some of the funds generated to certain Charities. Cancer Research & Genetics UK, for example, is under investigation. Moreover, it comes to something when they cannot even spell 'Research' properly on their collection bags.

*Leo McCormack*



### House building in Sedgfield

A welcome article in Steve's Nature diary last month, highlighting the need to protect our environment and wildlife and highlighting the work that Wildlife Trusts carry out to influence housing development. There are many reasons we need to continue our fight to protect the character of Sedgfield and if we are to have new housing it needs to be the 'Right homes in the Right Place'. Our infrastructure and services are at breaking point. The 'Right Homes in the Right Place' is not happening in Sedgfield as is demonstrated by the Storey and Wimpey development on Eden Drive. That development causes great upset to the majority of residents; it is an absolutely disgusting 'blot on the landscape' on what were lovely open fields with a very pleasant country walk. Wildlife from that area has been devastated. The prospect of accidents at the 689 roundabout when the through road is operational is terrifying. The few who promoted and supported the Eden Drive development should be ashamed. Developers who have planning permissions in Sedgfield aren't even building the type of accommodation residents have identified as needed. There is only one thing driving developers and that is profit; communities are treated with contempt in the entire process. Never doubt that developers will continue to 'attack' our community and I urge all residents to get involved and protect the Sedgfield that we value. If we had wanted to live in a town we would have moved there – these people have no right to have such an impact on our chosen way of life.

*Julia Bowles*

## Saying Goodbye to Coffee Pot Row

**At their February meeting, Sedgfield Local History Society was delighted to receive a historical newsletter from the other side of the world highlighting a very special connection with our neck of the woods.** Sedgfield resident Olwen Evans kindly brought along a copy of the Louisville Historian, recently spotted by her son when he was working in the USA. The headline 'Saying Goodbye to Coffee Pot Row' may strike a chord, especially with Trimdon residents.

Louisville, Colorado can trace many of its residents to Wingate, Deaf Hill and the Trimdons, attracted by the prospects of the developing mining industry in America. Three immigrant families came from the same street - Trimdon Colliery's Coffee Pot Row. Census records from 1881 and 1891 (see Ancestry.com) specifically document the families of Barker, Dixon and Wardle/Kimber, names which may still ring a bell in Trimdon today. A splendid family photo in front of their house in Louisville's Kimbertown, shows about a dozen members of the Wardle/Kimber family, looking very prosperous.

Other local names include Thirlaway, Lawrence, Smith, Carlton, Ashburn, Mitchell, Liddell, Nixon, Bowes, Harris, Carveth, Dalby, Thomas, Duffy, Atkin, Simpson, Palmer and Hilton. Many may have been impelled to emigrate by the Trimdon Grange mining explosion of 1882 and the poor housing conditions prevailing at home. The article includes a photograph of Rosa Street in Trimdon Grange, showing the terrace (or row) of houses characteristic of the time. Literally a world away from the single-family, free-standing homes with gardens the emigrants were able to build in Louisville, under the Colorado sun.

**Named after a huge sign hanging outside a business owned by John Michael Walker, Coffee Pot Row is still remembered in the Trimdons, the name used in various situations.** If you would like a copy of the Louisville Historian or have any further information on the Colorado emigrants, please ring 01740 620091 or email [norma@neal.myzen.co.uk](mailto:norma@neal.myzen.co.uk). Sedgfield Local History Society meets on the first Monday of every month at 7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Visitors and new members are always very welcome. See Diary for details of our March speaker and WWI commemoration.

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## Fishburn Art Group

**is looking for new members.**

The group meets every Monday from 9.30 to 12noon in Fishburn Community Centre. If you are interested, do visit on any Monday to see what goes on and meet existing members.

For more information contact Julie Underwood on 07770 972 988 or email [underlogs@talktalk.net](mailto:underlogs@talktalk.net).



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# DIARY: March 2018

Submit your events to [diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com](mailto:diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com)

Date	Event
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Sedgefield Veterans' Coffee Morning:</b> Parish Hall, 10am to noon. <b>U3A:</b> Parish Hall 2pm. "An Introduction to Japanese Art" by Rachel Barclay. Members free. Visitors welcome £3 at the door. <b>Sedgefield Methodist Church:</b> 2pm. Women's World Day of Prayer - Service prepared by the Christian Women of Surinam. <b>The Manor House:</b> 6.30pm. An evening with Miranda Sykes; multi-talented and versatile singer, double bassist and guitarist.
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Drop in Surgeries:</b> Cllr John Robinson. 9 – 9.45am Bradbury & Mordon Village Hall; 10 – 11am Sedgefield Library; 11.15 – 12 pm Fishburn Community Centre.
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sedgefield Farmers' Market:</b> On the village green from 8.30am . <b>New Generation Church:</b> Sedgefield Community College @ 10.30am.
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Methodist Wives and Friends:</b> Methodist Church Hall 7.30pm. "Uganda Orphanage" Talk by Christine Steppe. <b>Sedgefield Local History Society:</b> Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm. "Mining Memories" by Gareth Wilkes.
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sedgefield Gardening Club:</b> AGM. Ceddesfeld, 7.30pm. Pie and Peas Supper
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sedgefield WI:</b> Parish Hall 7.15pm. "Patons & Baldwin's" by Chris Lloyd of the Northern Echo. Fairtrade Fortnight Display. Member's Competition: A knitted toy.
Thu 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sedgefield Show Meeting:</b> Sedgefield Social Club @ 8pm.
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>New Generation Church:</b> Sedgefield Community College @ 10.30am.
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ladies' Club:</b> Ceddesfeld Hall, 8pm. Medieval Fayre Fundraiser
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>St Edmund's Church Coffee Morning:</b> Parish Hall. 10am-12pm in the Main Hall. <b>Sedgefield Blues Club:</b> A night with Trevor Sewell + DC Blues. Doors open 7pm. Tickets £15. Visit <a href="http://www.sedgefieldblues.com">www.sedgefieldblues.com</a> for contact details and further info. <b>Live Music Night at Sedgefield Cricket Club.</b> 7.30pm. Main guest Jester B. Also featuring Old Age Travellers, Nest and John Wrightson Band. Admission £11, inc
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>New Generation Church:</b> Sedgefield Parish Hall @10.30am.
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sedgefield Family History Group:</b> Ceddesfeld Hall @ 7.15pm. Speaker, Francis Wilson; "It Started with an Old Painting". <b>Wives and Friends:</b> Methodist Church Hall 7.30pm. Card Sale by Linda Nolan.
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sedgefield, Ferryhill &amp; District Flower Club:</b> 7.30pm @ Sedgefield Parish Hall. Demonstrator Ros Harrison. "Floral Rhapsody". Members free. Non Members £5.
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Sedgefield Memory Café:</b> 10.30 - 12. @ Sedgefield Fire Station.
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Sedgefield in Bloom Coffee Morning:</b> 10am to 11.30am in The Parish Hall. Refreshments, stalls, raffle and tombola.
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>New Generation Church:</b> Sedgefield Parish Hall @10.30am.
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ladies' Club:</b> Ceddesfeld Hall, 8pm. Auckland Castle / Kynren by Lee Brownson. <b>Mordon and District Ladies Circle:</b> 7.30 @ Mordon & Bradbury Village Hall. "Jewels of Imperial China" by Lesley and Suzanne.
Thu 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sedgefield Local History Society and The Village Veterans:</b> World War 1 commemoration – John Wellford DLI. 10.45am at The War Memorial.
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sedgefield WI Coffee Morning:</b> Parish Hall (Fletcher Room), 10am till 11.30.

## Lent & Easter Church services & activities in Sedgefield area

**Ecumenical Lent discussion groups.** All welcome:

Tuesdays in Lent: "York course", St. Catherine's Church Hall, Fishburn, 7pm

Thursdays in Lent: "How we make decisions as Christians" Methodist Church, 7:30pm

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>: Maundy Thursday service. St. Edmund's Church, 7.30pm. All welcome

**Stations of the Cross** (Ecumenical services – all welcome):

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm, St. John Fisher Catholic Church.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 10am. St. Mary Magdalene, Trimdon, moving on to St. William's.

**Good Friday Procession.** Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 10am. From St Edmund's > St John Fisher > Methodist Church. Hot cross buns & drinks served afterwards. Everyone welcome.

## Sedgefield Library

**Tel: 03000 269521 Opening Hours:**

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

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**Craft Group: 1.30pm** 2nd & 4th Fridays

**Book Circle: 2pm** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday

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**Chi Taekwondo** Sat 10.30am - 11.30

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## Sedgefield Social Club

### Entertainment in March

Saturday 3rd: Ray

Saturday 10th: Becca.

Saturday 17th: Alan Stevens.

Mon19th: Country Night, Jim Clarke.

Saturday 24th: Ryan King.

Saturday 31st March: Danny Ocean

Telephone Number: 01740 620591

## Sedgefield Tea Dance

Tuesdays 6th & 20th

1pm - 3pm in the Parish Hall

Ring Ann, 629070 or Joyce, 622601.

## Youth Club

### Monday Evenings in Term Time

Parish Hall. Juniors (50p) 6-7pm,

Seniors (£1) 7-8:30pm.

Table tennis, Xbox, Playstation, tuck shop and more. For info, email

[natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Sew Easy

Every Thursday this month in the Parish

Hall Boardroom, from 7pm to 9pm.

For more information please call

01740 622447

## Sedgefield Playgroup

Sedgefield Playgroup is a non profit making organisation based in the Methodist Hall. It runs every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday in term time and is open from 9.30am till 11.30. Contact Barbara Smith (01740 620923) or Jane Jones (01740 620893) for further information.

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