



SEDFIELD NEWS

March 2019



Do we need another petrol station?

This was the question being asked at a public consultation event on 14th February by consultants appointed by BP Oil UK Ltd who want to open a petrol station on the field adjacent to Sands Hall roundabout (A689/A177 roundabout at the end of Station Road, opposite the junction with Racecourse Road). The site would include 10 petrol pumps and 2 rapid electric vehicle charging points plus an HGV refuelling pump. In addition there would be an M&S Simply Food store (190m², carrying approximately 1000 product lines) and a Wild Bean Café (60m²) which would have limited seating. Outside there would be 37 car parking spaces but no lorry parking. BP would

like to operate 24/7 but as it is near to residential properties this may have to be reduced to 6am - 10pm. The access into the site would be from A177/Station Road but there would be no right turn into it, so anyone driving to the site from Station Road or Racecourse Road would have to go round the roundabout and back onto Station Road. The exit is straight onto the A689 near to the roundabout. A footpath would need to be created so that people could walk to the shop from Station Road.

BP and M&S have developed over 280 of this type of site across the UK and have a business model to select sites based on traffic levels and population. However, it is not clear whether this takes into account the number of petrol stations in the vicinity, of which there are 4. The site will provide 19 direct jobs, plus 55 temporary jobs during the construction phase.

Attendees at the consultation event raised concerns about noise levels, light pollution, increased traffic and congestion especially at peak times, road safety issues and the impact on what is currently a green and pleasant entrance to the village. There was also disappointment for some that it wasn't an M&S Food Hall, just a small M&S retail outlet for 'top up' shopping.

A planning application will be submitted in the summer when local people will be able to make their comments for and against the proposals. SD

Citizen of the Year 2018

Do you know someone who has made a great contribution to life in Sedgefield over the last year? Then the time has come to nominate them for Citizen of the Year 2018.

The Award is made for 'exceptional contributions to Sedgefield' and there must be lots of people you can think of that fit that bill, someone helping to make Sedgefield a great place to live and work. They may be involved in sport, art and music, business, caring for the environment, our children and older folk, voluntary organisations; those looking after the fabric of our community - Churches, Hardwick Park, Ceddesfeld Hall - the list is endless.

Sedgefield Development Trust, Sedgefield Town Council and the Rotary Club of Sedgefield, are jointly responsible for this annual award. A member from each organisation plus last year's winner will form the selection panel. The award is for the 'contribution' not the length of service, so it can be anyone of any age. This award is treasured by those who have received it in past years, and makes the recipient feel valued by their community. The nomination form is enclosed in this copy of Sedgefield News, or it can be downloaded from SedgefieldWeb.

... And Sedgefield Young Citizen of the Year Award

For the first time this year, a second award will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in May. The Young Citizen of the Year Award is being introduced by Sedgefield Town Council, Sedgefield Youth Club and the Mayor of Sedgefield, Cllr Mavis Wayman, and will recognise outstanding contribution to the community by someone aged under 21.

In early March, full details of the new award, and how to nominate candidates, will be circulated to schools and youth organisations, and published on Twitter (@sedgefieldtc) and at www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk.

Why not follow us on Instagram?

Another great way for us to share news and info, but especially your photos. You can find us @TheSedgefieldNews

Now we are full colour we hope to use more photographs and less text!



SDT Annual Report

Great progress

In February, Sedgefield Development Trust (SDT) held their eighteenth AGM during which the chairman's annual report outlined the activities and progress of the community groups within SDT.

The Trust's newspaper, Sedgefield News, has been updating recently, using a lighter silk finished paper and images reproduced in full colour. This does not come without a cost of course. A modest 10% increase in advertising rates, which have not changed for ten years, will defray the costs and leave the finances of the trust in a stable condition.

The Farmers' Market continues to grow with the number of stalls reaching record levels last year. Producers are now requesting places rather than having to be persuaded to come. New equipment for stalls has been purchased and Sedgefield Farmers' Market branded, reusable bags will be on sale to help remove the need for plastic packaging and at least reduce its use at the market.

Other projects continue to thrive. DIDO's numbers have recovered from a small dip and a full programme of events is planned for this year. Energy Switch has remained a worthwhile exercise despite some 'shenanigans' from the winning company recently.

'The Bees of Hardwick' and 'The Wildlife and Woodland' groups have both grown; production of honey has been good and another tree planting programme is planned for March. The Homework Help programme and the Sew Easy Group continue to be well used.

In the coming year, the SDT will assist and oversee continued development of all of these groups. The trust is also talking with the North East First Credit Union about establishing a Sedgefield Community Bank and hopes to have news on this soon.

Once again the trust will again raise funds for Sedgefield Folk Festival to put on an event specifically for housebound and elderly people who cannot ordinarily get to a show. Finally, the trust's website, sedgefieldweb.co.uk has just recently been given a fresh look and an easier to use appeal and now represents the range of the trust's activity more fully.

Thanks from the Rangers

Sedgefield Rangers would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported them with their coffee morning in January which made an amazing £346.80!

Four girls from Sedgefield Rangers were selected by Girlguiding North East to go on international trips - Abbie and Katelyn are going to an International Camp in Canada; Jenny to an International Camp marking 100 years of Girlguiding in Bermuda; and Kate to Sri Lanka helping out with community projects. The girls have to raise lots of money!



Over the last 3 months the girls have had stalls at Christmas events; played their brass instruments at Sainsbury's; sold 169 sweetie quizzes; and collected over 200 bags of clothes.

If you would like to help the girls in their fundraising or would like to get involved with Sedgefield Rangers whether as a helper or as a Ranger (girls aged 14 to 18yrs), please get in touch with Marie Walker.

Email marie.walker1992@gmail.com

Sedgefield Memory Café

In January we celebrated our first birthday, and what a fantastic year it has



been. We have hosted numerous speakers, carried out a variety of activities and held several external events including a Strawberry Tea, an Open Day and a Fashion Show. We could not have made it such a success without the generosity of businesses and individuals in the village and without the commitment of our clients, their carers and a dedicated group of volunteers. For that we thank you all.

When The Alzheimer's Society named these groups 'Memory Cafés' it was to convey the concept of a place where clients could attend with carers and together participate in activities or simply chat in a friendly environment. Clearly the cafés were never intended to be open to the general public on a casual basis; our café, therefore, is open only to those living with dementia and to their carers.

We offer a warm, friendly environment where they can come along, have a cup of tea and a piece of cake and enjoy the company of others. We also enjoy a varied programme of events including activities, entertainment and guest speakers.

Should you wish to support us you can do so by attending out external events, by buying raffles tickets and / or donating prizes. You might also bake cakes, scones and pies or donate plants for our open event to celebrate Dementia Awareness Week which is in May.

Sedgefield Local History Society

A day out to Castle Howard, one of the premier stately homes of England, on Tuesday May 14th leaving Sedgefield at 9am.

The cost of £33 includes coach, entrance to the house and gardens and tea/coffee voucher. To book a place please contact: Suzanne Hopper 01429 882250 or Alison Hodgson 01740620912.

Air Ambulance and St Edmund's benefit from Sedgfield Treefest

Following this year's highly-successful Christmas Tree Festival, the Team Rector of the Upper Skerne, the Revd. Geoffrey Short, presented a cheque for £1790 to Air Ambulance fund-raiser Joanne Murphy and a cheque for the same amount to Reader Michael King who helped lead the Church roof repair appeal. Work is expected to start in the early Spring. The presentations were made at a social evening in the church for sponsors of the 47 displays which, said the Rector, had seen St Edmund's "decorated in a marvellous way" and was "a wonderful example of the community and the church working together in partnership".



Do you recognise these men?

Mystery surrounds the identities of two men whose photograph has been discovered behind a dust-covered, framed picture in the bell-ringing chamber of St Edmund's Church. Church members are keen to try and find out who they are. Anyone with information about the photograph is asked to contact Churchwarden Brian Mutch on 622302.



Down memory lane at the Manor House

Our first day at work always lives long in the memory and this is certainly the case for Bill Young who started his career at The Manor House on 29th January 1949. To mark the occasion Bill, now 85 was invited by current owner Ean Parsons along to The Manor House with his ex-council colleague Ralph Hall of Spring Lane, now 94 who started in 1941.



Photo: Ralph, left and Bill on the right

Ralph had taken the opportunity to visit The Manor House in 2016 to attend an event and noticing the old photographs in reception offered to put names to the one taken soon after World War II which Ralph dated as being from 1950. The information was recorded in 'Hidden in Full View', the history of The Manor House written and published by Ean Parsons in 2018.

The book has stimulated a lot of memories and discussion about the building during the days of Sedgfield Rural District Council and Sedgfield Magistrates' Court last century – not the least between Bill and Ralph. Bill and Ralph came along for tea and scones in the Old Court Room along with their sons David Hall and Darren Young and discussed further reminiscences and memories as if they were yesterday – including the fire of 1947 and the names and roles of people and characters who occupied the various offices. They then took the opportunity to look around the building for the first time since the council transferred to Green Lane, Spennymoor in 1974.

Fortunately, The Manor House is very recognisable as the building where Bill and Ralph began work in the 1940's. Bill went on to work in the finance office for Sedgfield District Council formed in 1974 while Ralph worked as Assistant to the Clerk to the Council of Sedgfield Rural District Council then Chief Administrative Officer for Sedgfield District Council. It was a visit enjoyed by everyone and the information provided by Bill and Ralph will be used to update the record of The Manor House.

Hidden in Full View is available from Ean Parsons at The Manor House by contacting 629264 or enquiries@manorhousesedgfield.co.uk.

APRIL EDITION DEADLINE : Friday 15th March

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Sage Choir Concert at St. Edmunds Church

Sage Gateshead Chamber Choir (above) is to present 'an evening of beautiful and varied choral music' at St Edmund's Church, on Saturday March 30th, to raise money for repairs to the church roof and redecoration of the interior of the North Transept after raids by lead thieves.

'The Call of the Heavens' programme will feature pieces by Bach, Rutter, Parry and Haydn and some not so well-known names such as Eric Whitacre, Eriks Esenvalds and Harold Arden. The performance begins at 7pm. Tickets cost £10, including refreshments and are available from church members or on the door. "We are delighted that a choir with such a great reputation has agreed to help with our fund-raising campaign. Although we have enough money to repair the roof, we still need to redecorate the interior of the church where water leaked through and stained the walls", said the Revd. Geoff Short, Team Rector of the Parish of the Upper Skerne, this week. Churchwarden Brian Mutch says that work on the roof will begin in the early Spring.

Poetry

Following the retirement of our Unknown Poet, we were contacted by a new poet. We have only managed to print the first part, but the full poem is on SedgefieldWeb. I'm sure many parents will relate to the sentiments.

No.1. Mam

We don't yet know how tough it can be,
It's exciting, the planning, guessing what will it be?
And then they announce the sex of your child,
So cute and cuddly, so quiet and mild.
You arrive home as a strong new team,
With plans to be perfect, your faces still beam.
Your baby won't want for anything at all,
And will be strong, intelligent, healthy and tall.
But the first night arrives and you're put to the test...
This baby won't sleep, something's not right,
You've kissed it and fed it and cuddled it tight.
This is not what it looked like in those books you have read,
With Mammy and Daddy peaceful in bed.
Instead you are pacing until four in the morning,
And finally they sleep but you can't stop yawning.
Settled at last, you lay them in their cot,
Which cost you a fortune because they needed the lot—
The bumper, the sides, the duvet to match.
It all looks adorable but there is one little catch....
The baby, they hate it and won't sleep alone,
You're tired; they are grumpy and have started to moan.
How can it cry anymore in one night?
Is it hungry or tired? Is it too dark or too light? ...
Rachel Lewis, Sedgefield

Players to Perform Charlotte Jones' 'Humble Boy'

On March the 14th to the 16th, the Sedgefield Players will present their production of Charlotte Jones' play, 'Humble Boy'. The story, loosely based on Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' follows Felix Humble (Tom Guest) as he comes back to his family home for his father's funeral.

His relationship with his mother Flora (Viv Jacobs) is strained at best and the pair struggle to come to terms with their loss and with each other. Confusions arise when Flora announces she will be marrying George Pye (Geoff Clifford-Brown) who happens to be the father of Felix's ex-girlfriend Rosie (Sarah Legender).

Flora's friend Mercy Lott (Jean Hewling) has her own secrets to share and mysterious gardener Jim (Terry West) seems to be holding something back. Comedy and touching moments abound in this heart warming and beautifully written comedy which will be directed by Sarah Atkinson. The play is set in Flora's garden and the Players are creating a wonderful summer English Country garden in the middle of March. Tickets are available from the usual places. Make sure you get them soon so as not to miss out on this exciting and intricate production.



Call out for information. If you have an event or artistic project in the offing, please get in touch via Instagram @TheSedgefieldNews or sedgefieldartsandevents@hotmail.com

DIARY: March 2019

Submit your events to diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

- Fri 1st** **Veterans Coffee Morning:** Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am to noon.
U3A: 2pm in the Parish Hall. Gordon Henderson "Binchester Roman Fort - From the Beginning". Members free, visitors welcome; £3 at the door
- Sat 2nd** **Drop in Surgeries:** Cllr John Robinson. 9 - 9.45am Bradbury & Mordon Village Hall. 10 - 11am Sedgefield Library. 11.15 - 12pm Fishburn CC.
- Sun 3rd** **Sedgefield Farmers' Market:** On the Village Green from 8.30am.
- Mon 4th** **Wives and Friends:** Methodist Hall: 7.30pm. Alex Clark: *Cards & Gifts*.
Local History Society: Ceddesfeld Hall. 7.45pm. A Talk by John Moreels; "Nostalgic Views of the North"
- Tue 5th** **Sedgefield Tea Dance:** @ Sedgefield Parish Hall. All welcome. 1pm to 3pm. £2.50, incl. refreshments. Info call Joyce 622601 or Ann 629070.
- Wed 6th** **Sedgefield WI:** 7.15pm at Sedgefield Parish Hall. **Members' Night:** Fairtrade Fortnight Display. Members' Competition – A Pretty Cup or Mug.
- Thu 7th** **Sedgefield Show Meeting:** 8pm in Sedgefield Social Club
- Fri 8th** **Sedgefield Country Market:** Parish Hall 10am to 11.30am. Home baked produce, Crafts, Jams, Cards, Plants, Refreshments. For info call 629441.
Sedgefield Cricket Club Quiz : Starts 8:30 pm. Presented by John Bryant.
Sedgefield Blues Club: Sari Schorr and The Lewis Hamilton Band. Doors 7pm
- Tue 12th** **Ladies Club:** Ceddesfeld Hall, 8pm. Medieval Fayre Fundraiser.
- Wed 13th** **Neighbourhood Watch Meeting:** 7pm in the Social Club upstairs room.
- Fri 15th** **Sedgefield In Bloom Coffee Morning:** 10to 11.30am in The Parish Hall. Refreshments, homemade cakes and scones, book stall, tombola, raffle.
Live Music Night at Sedgefield Cricket Club: 7.30 pm. Main guest: *Real Time*. Also featuring : *Jack Burness, John Weighell* and *John Wrightson Band*. Admission £10. Tel 621347 for further details.
- Sat 16th** **Friends of St Edmund's Quiz:** 7.30pm Ceddesfeld Hall. Tickets £9 per team.
- Mon 18th** **Sedgefield Family History Group:** Methodist Church Hall @ 7.15pm. A talk by Geraldine Straker on "Remaking Beamish".
Methodist Wives and Friends: Methodist Church Hall @ 7.30pm. Project Halo: Supporting Women in the North East.
- Tue 19th** **Sedgefield Tea Dance:** @ Sedgefield Parish Hall. All welcome. 1pm to 3pm. £2.50, incl. refreshments. Info call Joyce 622601 or Ann 629070.
Sedgefield, Ferryhill & District Flower Club: 7.30pm @ Sedgefield Parish Hall. Katie-Jane Hermes - "Blooming Lovely". Non members-£5.
- Thu 21st** **Sedgefield Memory Café:** 10.30 – 12pm @ Sedgefield Fire Station.
For Dementia Clients and their Carers Only.
- Fri 22nd** **Sedgefield Area Churches Together Coffee Morning:** Parish Hall, 10 am to 12 noon. Pay what you wish for refreshments; profits donated to the Food Bank. Collection bin available for donations of non-perishable food.
- Tue 26th** **Bradbury and Mordon Ladies Circle:** 7.30pm @ Mordon & Bradbury Village Hall. A talk by one of The Friends of Hardwick Hall. - "A History of John Burdon" (Founder of Hardwick Hall).
Ladies Club: Ceddesfeld Hall, 8pm. Dr Alan Pearson. A talk on "Mountains and Plants of Northern Spain".
- Fri 29th** **Sedgefield WI Coffee Morning:** @ Sedgefield Parish Hall. 10am until 11:30am. Cake stall and raffle. All Welcome.

St John Fisher Catholic Church Weekly Mass Times

Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9.45am. Sunday Mass 10.45am.

Children's Liturgy runs during this mass in term time only.

Adoration Thursday Evening 7pm.

Legion of Mary meeting every Friday morning after Mass.

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

parishsecretary1961@btconnect.com

Sedgefield Library

Tel: 03000 269521 Opening Hours:

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

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

Thursdays 2:15pm: 'Boogie Beat' Pre-school session. Booking reqd.

Craft Group: 1:30pm 2nd & 4th Friday

Book Circle: 2pm 3rd Friday.

New members welcome

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at Sedgefield Community College

New Dance Generation - Monday

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

Clubbercise - Tue 6.00pm

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

Call 01740 617882 for all enquiries.

Sedgefield Social Club

Sat 2nd Mar: Mark Thomas

Sat 9th Mar: Dave Walker

Sat 16th Mar: Alan Stevens

Mon 18th Mar: Country Night

Jim Clarke

Sat 23rd Mar: Max Peters

Sat 30th Mar: Rose

Sew Easy

March's sessions are as follows:

Mon 4, 11 & 18th: 6.30 - 9pm.

Wed 13, 20 & 27th: 10.30am - 1pm

Sessions in Parish Hall Boardroom.

Mayor's Civic Ball

1st March at The Hardwick Hall

Hotel. Reception drink, 3 course

meal and dancing to 'Mosaic'.

Tickets £30. Further Information

from Town Council Offices,

01740 621273 or email

jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk

Ceddesfeld Acoustic Group

First Friday & last Wednesday of

every month. All acoustic

instruments welcome.

Friday March 1st - 8 pm

Wednesday March 27th - 8 pm

Friends of St. Edmunds Quiz

The Friends are gearing up for their

latest brain teaser where teams will

be tested on Local Knowledge,

Current Events and Picture Posers

while having fun and raising money

to help maintain the fabric of the

church. Tickets from Alison

Hodgson (620912), Brian Mutch

(622302) and Anne Eyley (645854).

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Advertisers, please read the note at the top of page 7
It details an increase in advertising prices from next month.

With spring around the corner why not consider taking up a new sport? Fishburn Bowls Club invites you to attend its Spring Meeting to meet the 20 plus members who keep this Club going, 61 years after it was formed.

The club has members from Fishburn, Sedgfield, Trimdon Grange and Thorpe Larches and welcomes everyone who enjoys outdoor bowling. The annual membership fee provides access to the green and clubhouse every day of the week from the end of April to the beginning of September.

The 2018 season was notable for the fact that the club fielded full teams in every game, made possible by attracting new members and further strengthening the membership. **And most importantly the Club maintained its reputation as "The Friendly Club".**

The start of the outdoor season is usually celebrated with an Opening Day where refreshments are available and the opportunity is there for all to try their hand at this intriguing game at no cost, with some friendly coaching thrown in. Fishburn Bowls Club will hold its Spring Meeting on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 at 6.30pm (location to be announced). At the meeting members will be informed of the League Fixtures for the 2019 outdoor bowls season and they will be brought up to date with the news from the 3 leagues in which the Club participates.

Please contact George Robson, Secretary on 621328 or Terry Graham, Treasurer on 621627.

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

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

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

Confidential email address.

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

Sedgfield Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Resident Survey

Thank you to all who took the time to return our survey, telling us what concerns you most and we should prioritise at Neighbourhood Watch. 2500+ leaflets were printed and distributed to every household in Sedgfield at no cost thanks to our volunteers. We are still assessing the feedback which ranges from burglaries to too many ducks but initial indications are that your concerns are:

- **Resolving/controlling anti-social behaviour.**
- **Speeding through the village.**
- **Inconsiderate and illegal parking.**
- **Burglaries**
- **Drug use**
- **Littering and dog fouling**

Our initial priority is to increase and improve the NHW Signage throughout the village and we are currently applying for funding to achieve this.

NHW representatives attended the Durham and Darlington Area NHW AGM and we registered with the National NHW movement (which provides support and advice). It was clear that NHW are strongly supported by Durham Constabulary, who were represented by Crime Prevention Officer Rona Stocks.

Due to concerns raised by residents, we flagged the slow response on the 101 helpline to the AGM. The advice is to use the **Crimestoppers helpline 0800 555 111** as an alternative. (in emergencies always use 999).

Neighbourhood Watch Website

Sedgfield NHW are setting up a website to allow residents to raise concerns. This will be monitored by NHW and issues flagged directly to our Police contacts for investigation. We expect this to be up and running soon – more detail next time.

Cyber Security

NHW is arranging a presentation on Cyber Security for the benefit of residents. The session will be run by Durham Police and attendance will be free. More details next time. Further to previous notes about

HMRC and TV Licence scams, we thought it worth offering some simple checks:

1) Often, scammers will take the real emails and amend them. Look out for changes in the wording used, especially if:

- * it's too casual or familiar, or unusually formal;
- * odd words are used together in sentences which are hard to understand;
- * there are spelling mistakes and missing full stops;
- * there are mistakes with capitals or other grammatical errors.

2) Fraudulent emails try to catch you off your guard by panicking you into taking action immediately.

Emails from genuine companies will never do the following:

- * email you to tell you that you're entitled to a refund;
- * ask you to pay additional money for services, e.g. when you're buying a TV licence or changing your details.
- * You will never be asked for your mother's maiden name or your date of birth

3) Check how scammers address you - it's hardly ever by title and name:

* Does it say: 'Dear Customer...'

* Does it say: 'Dear Sandia9097@hotmail.com...'

If you spot any of the above, delete it immediately and stay vigilant.

Oops. What if you think you have already put your personal details on a fake site? Report it to the Action Fraud Helpline or call them on 0300 123 2040. If this included card or bank account details, talk to your bank.

We need your support, so... why not attend our next meeting, on Wed 13th March 2019 at 7pm in the relaxed atmosphere of the Social Club (upstairs)? All residents are welcome. Remember, crime isn't as common as you think... but don't be a victim. Please lock up, stay safe and sleep well.

Steve's Nature Diary for March

If you go for an early walk in March, you may be rewarded by the sight of the fastest land mammal in the UK; the Brown Hare.

With their incredibly powerful hind legs, Brown Hares can travel at speeds of up to 45mph. Similar to Rabbits, they are much bigger, 52–60 cm compared to 30–40cm. Brown Hares also have much longer ears with black tips. They are usually a russet-brown colour with a white underside and the tail is white underneath and black on top.

Brown Hares prefer open areas such as grassland and arable habitats where they forage nocturnally, but they will use nearby woodlands and hedgerows to provide cover during the day. You can see them locally in Bishop Middleham and at Saltholme where they have been seen to plough through shallow water and to swim. They do not use burrows like Rabbits but shallow depressions called 'forms', to provide cover while they rest.

Brown Hares are most active during the early morning and at dusk, but in March they can be seen more regularly during the day as they conduct their traditional **"mad March hare" boxing matches**. For a long time, it was assumed that it was rival hares fighting it out for a chance to mate with the watching females. But we now know that it is a female fighting off the amorous intentions of a sexually charged male. These signal the start of their breeding season.

Females produce up to 4 litters each year and because the young (known as leverets) are born in the forms rather than in safe burrows like Rabbits, they are born with fur, with eyes open and active almost immediately so they can escape from predators, such as foxes.

Hares figure prominently in mythology across the world as animals of great guile and are often associated with the supernatural. There is a widespread notion that they can disappear into thin air,

because of their ability to crouch low to the ground and thus seem to vanish. Their familiarity is reflected in several place name references in the North East, such as Harelaw, Hareshaw Common, Harehope and Harewalls.

So why not plan an early walk and see if you can catch the mad March hare boxing! Some of the information for this month's diary was taken from an article by Rhia McBain and Ian Bond in the book *Mammals, Amphibians and Reptiles of the North East* produced by the Northumbria Mammal group.



Grandpa's letter

I had never intended to be part of the Twinning experience, but when I served as Mayor of Sedgefield we decided to take the plunge, and are very glad that we did.

I often write long, illustrated letters to our grandchildren, and after one of our visits to Germany my grandson Ben received one about how, too often, people don't do new things because they think it might be difficult or they won't enjoy them. Well, I suspect that twinning might be one of those things, but Sedgefield has been connected with Hamminkeln for more than 30 years, and during that time many exchanges between individuals, families and groups like the Youth Choir, Scouts and Guides have been enjoyed. Now Sedgefield Harriers have joined the fun.

You can read my letter at www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk and if you are interested in having a go at twinning, contact Judith Edgoose on 01740 320342 or 07899984464

Your Letters

Parking pressure

I was just wondering when did Sedgefield become a car park for commuters from outlying areas? It's bad enough that in the village during the day parking space is at a premium. The same vehicles are there every day, all day, regardless of the parking signs saying there is a limit of 2 hours.

But we now have vehicles being parked on the roadside going down towards Cunningham Court and on housing estates. I personally watched a vehicle being parked on the Winterton estate and then saw the gentleman stood at the bus stop outside the Community Hospital. Where are the traffic wardens that we used to witness occasionally around the village? or maybe we could have some double yellow lines in the appropriate areas (the road going down towards Cunningham Court is not the widest of roads).

Sue Congreve

Congratulations on 40 years!

Our Playgroup has been running in the Methodist Hall since 1966, with the help of local mothers, to provide a place for 2-3 year olds to socialise, learn and play.



One of our members of staff, Barbara Smith, has just reached the milestone of having worked for Sedgefield Playgroup for 40 years!

Barbara first started working at Playgroup in January 1979, after her children had attended. Barbara originally trained as a teacher before having children, so immediately took to the job. Barbara has seen many children come through the doors at Playgroup and in recent years, their children too! Barbara still has great enthusiasm for the job and always has fantastic craft ideas and skills for the children to learn. Congratulations Barbara!

Jane Jones (Playgroup Chairman)

Ceddesfeld Hall

Home of Sedgfield Community Association

Activities for 2019 are in full swing at Ceddesfeld Hall. We are fortunate to have such a variety of interest groups who meet regularly. There really is something for everyone!

A new 'Spiritual' group has recently been set up and is proving very popular. Meetings take place every Sunday evening from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm in the main hall and the cost is £3. The meetings include: Tarot Cards, Dowsing Crystals & Rods, Reading Tea Leaves, See, Measure and Feel Auras and Talk with Spirits. For further information contact Jason Smith (Medium & Psychic) on 07422 504745.

Ceddesfeld Hall now has a Facebook page: facebook.com/ceddesfeld. Posts about activities, group meetings and events feature regularly, which include photographs and videos. It's an easy way to find out about what is going on, share events with friends and to keep in touch. Recent posts feature Ceddesfeld Art group (Thursday morning 10 am to 12 pm), Sedgfield Lyric Singers (Friday evening – 7.30 pm to 9 pm) and Ceddesfeld Bowls Club, who meet Monday, Tuesday, Thursday afternoons – 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm and Thursday evenings for matches or internal competitions. Sedgfield Local History Society are very proactive in promoting what they do, so their schedule often leads the way! It is a community page, so feel free to 'Like' Share' and 'Comment'. The FB page is also streamed to the SCA website which provides further information.

SCA are looking forward to upcoming events. The very popular Ceddesfeld Ukulele Band have a concert on Saturday 23rd March at 7.30 pm. The event is free and it's an evening of popular songs and happy music; always great fun and very entertaining. More on the Easter Picnic (Monday 21st April) in next month's article.

SCA are very keen to attract increased sponsorship for SCA's biggest event, Mediaeval Fayre. We would love to hear from local firms & businesses, pubs and restaurants, who have much to gain from getting involved.

For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, call Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 01740 620607, Sarah on 01740 622185. Visit us on Facebook or www.sedgfieldsca.org.uk

Sedgfield Development Trust Projects

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

Sedgfield Farmers' Market

Sunday 3rd March

In line with our push to make the market as green as possible, we'll have our new, eco-friendly shopping bags on the SDT stall from this month. Beautifully designed by Neil Edmundson, we are pleased to offer them at £4.50. The small surplus we make will go towards supporting the market and our other projects. The more the bags are used, the fewer plastic carriers will be needed, and after all, that's everyone's target in these dangerous days of plastic pollution.

Newcomers Screaming Chimp, specialising in all things chilli, should warm things up! Dog owners also have something to look forward to - Evie's Pupcakes, with handmade dog woofins and biscuits!

The Great North Air Ambulance will be on our community stall on 3rd March. Do come along and support them - and of course, explore our Farmers' Market! Send enquiries to farmersmarket@sedgfieldweb.co.uk



Woodland & Wildlife Group

Wow! Here we are 1 year on. How did we get here and what's next?

The idea of a conservation project in the area originally came from Tamzin Lafford and Roger Clubley. With support from Sedgfield Development Trust, NetPark, Durham County Council and local volunteers, the idea became a reality. This time last year the first packs of native trees, given to us from The Woodland Trust, were being planted on site by a group of hardy volunteers. The continuing support from all involved is very much appreciated and allows the project to grow and develop.

At the end of March we will be receiving another 'wildlife' pack of 420 trees. Planting will possibly happen on 23/24th March, a more definite date and time will be advertised on Facebook and there will be posters up in the village. Hopefully the weather will be more favourable than last year! We will also do a litter pick during the planting days and volunteers will be on hand to talk about the project should anyone new wish to know more.

During the winter we have welcomed many new volunteers, who range in age, talent, knowledge and the time they can give. As the weather warms up and spring activity starts on site we look forward to meeting and working with everyone who has expressed a recent interest. So, what else does the future hold for the project?

As well as weed clearing, we will carry out another botanical survey to measure our impact; we also hope to carry out a wildlife survey, which may involve installing motion sensor cameras. Continuing to build wildlife habitats is also in our plans, so do get in touch if you have ideas of how to support and develop the ecology of the site.

We are now on twitter and already have many followers. It is comforting to see we are among others trying to make a positive difference by making space and time for nature. *"When it comes to wildlife, caring is no longer enough, we've got to take action. Getting out, getting connected and getting involved in good citizen science is one great way of doing this."* Chris Packham, Naturalist & Winterwatch presenter. If you are interested in joining in our activities, or have suggestions for future developments, please email - sdtwwcontact@gmail.com. If you are on Facebook or Twitter please search for 'Woodland and Wildlife - Sedgfield'. MH



On site a nest box is installed

Sport in Sedgfield

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

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

2019 is already shaping up to be another very busy sporting year.

Cricket

Sedgfield Cricket Club's preparations have been boosted following the agreement of Ashley Thorp to provide specialised coaching to both seniors and juniors. Ash, an Australian, played for Western Australia at Under 17 and 19 level, before moving to the UK in 1997 where he played for Durham. Now a Level 3 coach, Ash will spend each coaching session working with a different team. The club used some funds to have the square 'deep drilled' which will allow better grass root growth, and lead to an ever better playing surface. Keep up to date by liking the club's Facebook page or Twitter feed.

Squash

Sedgfield Squash Club continues to offer coaching to local youngsters. Saturday mornings during term time see 4 hour-long sessions with coaches providing a safe and fun environment for children to learn. There are currently slots available in the 12:00 session, – so if you have a youngster aged 5-8-years old, get in touch. On Sundays, there are free additional coaching sessions on a one-to-one or mini-group basis. Sign up via the club noticeboard.

Entries are open for the annual Club Championships: members can sign up on the noticeboard. The club runs its overall Closed Championships, along with veteran categories at over 40, 50 and 60 age groups, and junior categories from under 11 upwards. All matches lead towards the finals at the end of April.

Membership enquiries to Sue Smith at curlietailz@aol.com.

Athletics

Junior Sedgfield Harriers have recently competed in the County Durham Athletics Network annual Sportshall competition, which involves standing long jump, standing triple jump, vertical jump, shot put, speed bounce and an indoor race.

A small team of 5 Sedgfield Harriers (Ellie Spink, Katie Wilson, Eryn Upton, Abbie Walker and Thomas Rowe) took part in the combined under 13 and 15 event in Stanley. Despite being low on numbers (for once!) the Harriers claimed third place and 4 of the team have since been selected to represent County Durham in the regional championships in March. A week later, Sedgfield Harriers hosted the under 11 competition at the community college, and 18 juniors were in the home team. Eight teams competed and Sedgfield again came third, not far behind joint winners, Derwentside A.C. and Durham City Harriers. Subsequently, 7 athletes from Sedgfield have been selected to join the County Durham team at the regional finals in March.

Both Sportshall events were only possible thanks to the contributions of people from the respective communities. As can be seen from the photograph, the children were really enthusiastic.

The senior Sedgfield Harriers have fielded some big teams in the men's and women's events in the Harrier League, a series of cross country races that take place over the winter. Conditions have generally been pretty benign this season, without too much mud. The most recent fixture was close to home at Thornley and a large contingent of 11 men and 7 women from Sedgfield took on a challenging course. Sedgfield's women's team finished 7th on the day in Division 3 of the league and now lie eighth overall. The men claimed sixth on the day in Division 2, a result that took them out of the relegation zone. The final fixture of the season will be in Alnwick on 2nd March, where the men will be aiming to secure their status in the division, while the women hope to make up a few more places with another strong performance.



Above. Fun for the Junior Harriers

Football

Sedgfield St. Edmund's kept their nerve to overcome a strong Witton Park side to win their rescheduled Durham County Sunday Cup quarter final tie in a closely contested game. St Edmund's began the game impressively, going into a 2-0 lead with goals from Calum Johnson and Simon Ord. Witton, however, were not done and came back to level the scores at 2-2. Glen Donaldson looked to have won the game for St Edmund's when he restored Sedgfield's lead, only for them to be pegged back by a late Whitton equaliser to take the game to a penalty shoot-out. After such an exciting, roller coaster ride of a game Sedgfield kept their nerve to win the shoot-out 3-0 and progress to the semi-final.

St Edmund's opponents on Sunday March 17th will be Boldon Shack. Peterlee Catholic Club had beaten Boldon Shack 4-1 in a penalty shoot out after the teams were level 2-2 after 90 minutes. However an appeal was lodged and Peterlee were removed from the competition, to be replaced by Boldon.

Meanwhile, at the time of writing, St. Edmund's are in second place in the top flight of the Durham & District Sunday League.

For news about Fishburn Bowls Club see page 9.

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