

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

October 2014



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The deadline for the November edition is Wednesday 15th October

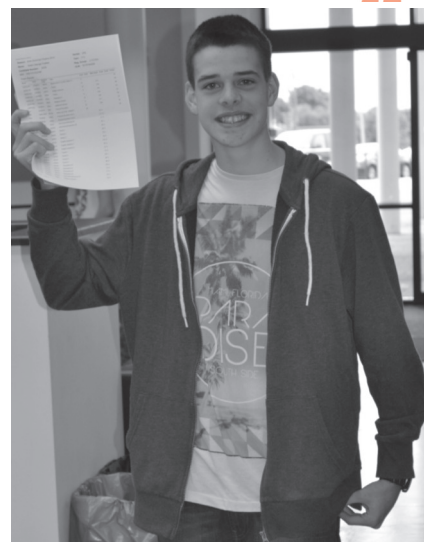


Top of the league!

After consecutive years of dramatically improving GCSE results at Sedgefield Community College, this year's results saw the college achieve the accolade of being County Durham's highest attaining secondary school for the first time in its history. In a year when there has been much change in the education sector and a well publicised drive to reverse the so called 'dumbing down' of GCSEs, the GCSE results show the already impressive standards at Sedgefield Community College have risen yet again. In recent years, student performance at Sedgefield has led the school to be grouped amongst the highest achieving schools in the country, yet this year's GCSE results prove that there are no signs of complacency, as the school goes from strength to strength.

Headteacher Dave Davies is absolutely delighted for students and staff, who have worked so hard to produce this stunning performance. "Being top of the performance league table is a fantastic achievement at any time, but it is all the more satisfying in a year that has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging for schools for many years." He went on to explain that the reputation of the college now stretches beyond the local community. "In September we started the new school year with the biggest year seven intake the college has ever seen, and if there had been enough space we could have easily taken significantly more students such was the demand for places!" Asked why he thought Sedgefield was now so popular, Mr Davies said he believes that parents realise that the school now delivers consistently, not just in terms of examination performance, but in the way it cares for students and of course the quality of teaching. "It is this consistency which provides parents with the confidence that they are making the right choice for their children."

Mr Davies reassured parents that in spite of reaching the top of the performance tables, the school is still focussed upon the next step. "We know that if we are to continue to provide an outstanding experience for our students we must continue to measure our performance with the best schools nationally not locally. Parents and future parents of students attending Sedgefield Community College, can be reassured that this attitude won't change."



Adam Foakes, Leah Ball & Emma Robson-Cross with their results



Easy-access defibrillator installed

When someone goes into cardiac arrest, every minute without cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation reduces their chance of survival by 10%. The first few minutes are absolutely crucial and immediate access to a defibrillator can be the difference between life and death.

Next time you pass Sedgefield Surgery, you may spot a large yellow box on the outside wall to the right of the entrance. That box holds a defibrillator, which has been secured for the community by Sedgefield Village Games (SVG). When the team behind SVG decided to continue to work on a range of projects in Sedgefield, one of the first ideas they decided to pursue was that of providing an easy to access defibrillator, situated in the centre of the village.

Funding for the equipment has come from SVG with Sedgefield Rotary, Sedgefield Escape, Right Lines Communications, Sedgefield Squash Club, Sedgefield Harriers and Sedgefield Surgery. Thanks to the support of the surgery, the defibrillator has now been installed and together with the North East Ambulance Service, SVG is in the process of arranging awareness and training events in Sedgefield. Look out for details of those events in next month's Sedgefield News. Of course, we hope that the defibrillator doesn't have to be used, but its presence adds to Sedgefield's healthcare resilience.

Congratulations to Sedgefield in Bloom!

Sedgefield has won gold and **Best Small Town** in Northumbria in Bloom again! Gold awards also went to the Dun Cow, the Golden Lion, Hardwick Park and the garden of Tom Kay & Margaret Galley. Further details in November, along with Britain in Bloom results.

The smiling faces of park volunteers See p.11



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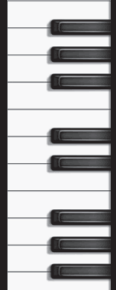
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Do you play the piano?

Would you like to be the new accompanist for our choir? Sedgefield Lyric Singers is a four part choir of about 40 members. Its objectives are to gain pleasure and companionship from singing together, and to give enjoyment to others through its performances. We are currently seeking a pianist to accompany our rehearsals at Ceddesfeld Hall each Friday from 7.30 to 9pm, and our regular two concerts in Sedgefield at Christmas and in the summer. When invited, we also give occasional concerts elsewhere during the year. We offer a small annual honorarium in recompense. If you are interested, and would like further details, please contact Kay Quinn, Music Director on 07885 202642 or Avril Hannon, Secretary on 01740 622512, email avrilhannon@btinternet.com.

Sedgefield residents represent Great Britain at the Strakonice International Bagpipe Festival



Anthony & Heather Robb, with friends Alice Burn, Paul Knox and Neil Smith, joined international pipers from 16 countries at this wonderful festival in The Czech Republic. The large bronze statue of Strakonice's famous son, Schwanda the Bagpiper and its brewery named Dudak (bagpiper) which is the last one in the Czech Republic to be owned by a town, attest to the importance of bagpipes (and beer) to these townspeople. Their enthusiasm was demonstrated by 6-deep crowds lining the 1km route for opening and closing processions and their House of Culture, equivalent to our Ceddesfeld Hall, hosting dancing, singing and piping sessions well beyond dawn; us cautious Brits, however, were abed by 4:30! Much of the action took place in the 16th-century castle courtyard and the huge open-air cinema, these venues used simultaneously to accommodate 2000+ audiences with performers moving from one venue to the other to deliver their programmes. Equally impressive were the superb sound systems and stage crews which ensured that our small sweet Northumbrian pipes more than filled the venues whilst retaining their purity of tone. Less formal concerts took place at smaller stages around the town and we were also privileged to play in the main square of stunning Cesky Krumlov. It is not hard to see why the Strakonice Festival has UNESCO recognition and support. Here's hoping they won't have heard the last from Sedgefield!

Another successful Folk Festival

The ninth annual Sedgefield Folk Festival turned out to be the most successful to date with huge crowds attending all the concerts, singarounds and workshops. The Festival started on Thursday with a highly entertaining Music Hall and continued throughout the weekend with the main concerts, all of which were sell outs. The Festival goes from strength to strength and is now a well established feature on both the local and national folk scene. There were so many highlights over the weekend but mention must be made of a most wonderful performance from Kieron Goss and his wife Annie from Ireland who won the hearts of everyone in Sedgefield.

I would like to thank everyone for their magnificent support and hope to see you all next year at the 10th Annual Festival. *Joan Edmundson*

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39th Sedgefield Drama Festival of One Act Plays



At another highly successful Festival, Sedgefield Players 'Primrose Way' won Best Production, Best Director (Thomas Guest) and Best Actress (Viv Jacobs). The play, 'Philip and Rowena', also by Sedgefield Players, won the award for Technical Presentation, while our youth section SPYS won the Ensemble Award for 'The Princess and the Wolf', written and directed by Tom Guest.

Individual youth awards went to 17 year olds Noah Harrison and Natasha Graham of Saltburn '53 for outstanding performances in 'The Edge'. Their production also won the Audience Award, the Peter Young Quaich for Youth and the Best 30 Seconds for a jaw-dropping fall from the roof.

Scarborough group Bananadrama were runners up with their hard-hitting play set in a prison. The two protagonists Chris Parrinder and John Dennis won the Adjudicator's Award for their contrasted performances. Nunthorpe Players, returning to Sedgefield Festival after many years, won Best Set for their World War I play, 'Incorporeal Corporal'. Sarah Robinson won the Cameo Award for her gently touching performance as the wife.

Leyburn ADS won awards in each of their productions. The 1920s outfits in 'A Jolly Sinister Jape' won Jayne's Award for Costume, while Michael Waldman won Best Supporting Actor as John Shakespeare, father of the bard, in 'Gentlemen and Players'. Best Supporting Actress Annette Morris of Matchbox Theatre played two roles in 'Sanctuary', one at a week's notice. Best Actor David Irwin of Scarborough's Cresta ADS, played multiple roles in WLTm, a salutary, but very entertaining piece about blind dating, written and directed by Sue Wilding, who won the Endeavour Award for her original writing. Six of the twelve plays presented this year were written by members of the groups.

Adjudicator Colin Dolley was impressed by the wealth of original material, the scope and variety of the plays, the high standard of performance and the friendly, supportive spirit of the festival. Sedgefield Drama Festival is highly respected nationally, always held during the second week in September. We already have some good ideas for next year - our 40th! Don't miss the chance to see some really great theatre - right here on your doorstep.



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*Pictured left are Jessica Sadler,
Viv Jacobs & Norma Neal, the cast of the
winning production at the Festival*

Coop funds SPYS trip

Sedgefield Players are very grateful to the Coop Community Fund for their funding of a recent trip to Edinburgh Festival by a dozen teenage members of our youth section, SPYS.

In one action-packed day, they saw a professional musical production, a reduced cast Midsummer Night's Dream and a very powerful two-hander plus a great deal of street theatre.

Travelling by train from Darlington, they had a very early start and returned home on the latest train available. SPYS coaches Thomas Guest and Sarah Atkinson said the trip had been a wonderful experience for all concerned and they look forward to repeating the trip next year.

SPYS meet every Sunday in the parish hall and take a very active part in productions on their own and with the adult group.

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Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

Flask in the Fridge: Please remember to update your data sheet inside the flask, **following any change** to either your medication or to your health. If the Emergency Services are called it is vital that the information is accurate & up to date. A simple method is to put your most recent medication script in the flask (make sure it has all your current medication listed).

Nights drawing in: now is the time to get those light timers out again and set them to keep your property looking occupied even with curtains drawn.

Good neighbour: Keep an eye out when your neighbours are away; report to the Police (use 101) any suspicious persons or vehicles also any concerns you have for others' personal safety. Remember in today's world the Police / Local authorities need issues and concerns to be recorded before they can recognise a problem exists.

Next N/H/Watch Panel meeting: Tuesday October 14th at 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. This meeting will follow immediately after our Annual General Meeting; as ever all are welcome.



Residents' Forum Jottings from Sept 1st meeting.

There were the usual updates about ongoing issues but discussions were predominantly on two issues: 1. The ever increasing planning applications for houses in Sedgefield (currently in excess of 1000 new homes) at this meeting the application for housing on the '3 cornered field' was discussed. 2. The 'horse fair' held in the village over the Bank Holiday weekend.

After much discussion on each issue it was agreed that the Forum would submit an objection to any building on the '3 cornered field' and everyone was encouraged to submit their own objections.

In regard to the horse fair it was agreed the Forum submit freedom of Information requests to both Durham County Council (DCC) and the Police to establish how much the event had cost tax payers. It is particularly annoying that any events organised by our communities have strict regulations, time scales and costs attributed to them but the horse fair did not seem to have to abide by any such constraints even after an illegal entrance onto private land. It was also agreed that a letter of complaint be sent to DCC and Phil Wilson MP seeking assurance that the event would not take place in Sedgefield again.

DCC and the Police have attended a Town Council meeting to give an explanation of issues about the horse fair, they will also be attending the PACT meeting at the Neighbourhood Watch meeting on October 14th where residents will be able to ask questions.

The Examination in Public of the County Durham Plan will start on October 1st; (the Plan includes what development DCC say should happen in Sedgefield) The Forum have put in a lot of work to submit residents' views to the Inspector and will be attending several of the sessions to make verbal representation. The Forum had asked for one co-ordinated response to go forward on behalf of our community but this does not seem to be happening, the Town Council, Neighbourhood Plan group, Residents' Forum and individuals all have separate representation to the hearing.

What is really important is that we have a Neighbourhood Plan 'on paper' as soon as possible, so do attend any public meetings held by the Neighbourhood Plan Group to show support for the Plan residents want for Sedgefield..

One final word; congratulations to our schools. The Community College pupils and staff have excelled themselves with excellent results for another year. Our primary schools also have excellent results and continue to provide our young people with the grounding they need to succeed. Well done and thank you to all.

Next Forum meeting: November 3rd, 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. The AGM will also be held that night. Everyone is welcome.

From PC Keith Todd

A male from Darlington has been charged with 2 burglaries of remote outbuildings at Sedgefield & Mordon. He appeared before the court and is subject to electronic curfew prior to his appearance at Teesside Crown Court at the end of September.

Recently we have suffered from two commercial burglaries at the Cricket Club and Bolam's Foods and a dwelling house burglary in Station Road. Another crime reported is an attempted theft where two males were arrested at Sainsbury's for trying to walk away with a Dyson vacuum cleaner.

Concerns were also raised regarding the recent visit of the Traveller community to a nearby site.

Pub Watch

At a meeting held recently in the Golden Lion, no issues were raised requiring further action by members.

P.A.C.T.

The next meeting will be held on 14th October. There are no current pact priorities but the neighbourhood team continues to conduct patrols in previous areas of concern regarding anti social behaviour.

Until next time, Keith

Local Police - 101

CPO Duncan Gill 01325 742714

Neil Langthorne 01325 742755

Parking Shop 0191 3846633

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from a land line 08444 111 444

From a mobile 0300 330 06 50

TYPETALK users 08444 111 445

The Sedgefield Plan

Sedgefield is a town under siege from the ambitions of landowners, developers and house builders who, if successful with their multiple applications, will build over a 1000 houses around our community.

The Sedgefield Plan is the only way to curtail these ambitions and the adoption of a built-up area boundary is core to our strategy. In August, the community of Cuckfield in West Sussex adopted such a strategy, and it passed into law with a majority of 96% in their referendum. Since we started to work on The Sedgefield Plan we have struggled to find a way to be compliant with Durham County Council's core strategy and protect our village, a built-up area boundary is the only way.

We now have an application to build 47 houses on the Three Cornered field on Stockton road, an intrinsic part of our heritage. This is designated 'green wedge' which incidentally also includes the Eden Drive site. The county's own landscape report on the three

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cornered field acknowledges the green wedge and does not support building on it. The Council for the protection of rural England have also taken up our cause by including the Sedgefield green wedge in their submissions to the County Council's local plan examination in public, which begins on October 1st at the Riverside Cricket Ground, Chester le Street.

We are making good progress with writing The Sedgefield Plan and although there is still much to do we are targeting late October to mid-November to submit it to DCC, where it will begin its journey to inspection and approval. We will publish a consultation draft in late October for which we will need your approval before we send our submission draft to the county; it will be published at www.thesedgefieldplan.co.uk and we will let you know where you can see a copy. We need you to indicate your support so watch out for the announcement.

David Bowles OBE. Chairman.

Dr Jones & Partners - Flu Campaign 2014

Our first flu drop in clinic was a great success - thanks to everyone who attended. But don't worry if you missed it. You have a second chance from 9am-11:30am on **Saturday 11th October** at Harbinson House, Sedgefield and Beveridge House, Fishburn. No appointment is needed and we aim to make your flu vaccination quick and efficient.

The free vaccination is available to patients who are 65 years and older by 31st March 2015, pregnant women and patients with a serious medical condition such as chronic (long term) respiratory disease, e.g. severe asthma, COPD or bronchitis; chronic heart disease, chronic liver disease, chronic kidney disease; chronic neurological disease e.g. motor neurone disease, Parkinson's disease; diabetes; asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen; patients with weakened immune system due to disease/treatment; people in long stay residential care home, and carers.

The programme is also extended to all children aged 2, 3 and 4 years old (but not aged less than two or aged five or over) as at 1st September 2014 and once vaccines have been received we will hold dedicated sessions for eligible children. Details will be advertised locally, in surgeries and on our website www.doctorsnhs.co.uk. If you haven't attended the drop in clinic previously, why not give it a try? We look forward to welcoming you at the session. If you have any queries please ring your surgery and we will be pleased to assist you.

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October Events Diary

Wednesday 1st

Sedgefield Harriers' Annual General Meeting 8.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Members advised to take seats from 8.30pm.

Sedgefield WI Parish Hall 7.15pm. Ancient Egypt. Slideshow by Rachel Grocke of Durham Oriental Museum. Members' Comp'n, an Egyptian souvenir. Visitors welcome

Tuesday 2nd

Sedgefield Gardening Club 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Propagation of Plants by Dianne Nichol Brown. All welcome

Friday 3rd

Sedgefield & District U3A Speaker Mike Amos 2pm at Sedgefield Parish Hall. Members free, guest £3 at the door. For more information call Brenda on 629574

Sunday 5th

Sedgefield Farmers' Market from 8.30am on the Village Green. A sociable morning out with really excellent local food.

Monday 6th

Methodist Wives & Friends 7.30pm. George Hetherington: Life of Jerome Kern

Sedgefield Local History Society Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm. Tony Nicholson "The Hell- Fire club at Skelton Castle"

Tuesday 7th

Tai Chi Parish Hall Sedgefield, 10 - 11 am. A gentler form of exercise.

Friday 10th

The Country Market Parish Hall, 10 - 11.30am. Home baking, Jam, Cards, Plants & Crafts. Refreshments are on sale so it's a good place to catch up with friends!

Saturday 11th

Christmas Coffee Morning 10am-12.30 St. Edmund's Church - details opposite

Handbell Rally in the Parish Hall - details opposite

Round the Isles Dinner - details opposite

Tuesday 14th

Neighbourhood Watch A.G.M. followed by normal Panel Meeting, then PACT Priorities. 7pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. ALL Welcome

Ladies' Club Ceddesfeld Hall. A talk by Diabetes UK.

Friday 17th

October Coffee Morning Sedgefield WI, Parish Hall 9.30-11.30. Tombola, home-made cakes, crafts, books.. All Welcome

Live Music Night at Sedgefield Cricket Club, 7.45 pm. Main guest Bernard Wrigley. Also Pipe Dream, John Wrightson Band. £10, inc buffet. Tel 621347

Monday 20th

Meditation Group St Edmund's Church. 7 - 7.30pm. All welcome

Methodist Wives & Friends 7.30pm. Peter Baron MBE: Cloudy Rain Later

Sedgefield Family History Group (branch of Cleveland FHS) Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm. Dorothy Hamilton 'Using & misusing old Parish Registers'. For information go to www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk or tel. 620367. New members always welcome.

Tuesday 21st

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club Parish Hall at 7.30 pm. "Tantalising Textures". Val Guest, Northumberland & Durham demonstrator

Saturday 25th

Cricket Club Quiz Night returns tonight at 8pm, presented by John Bryant

Tuesday 28th

Ladies' Club Ceddesfeld Hall. Leslie Howe, Silversmith.

Friday 31st

Sedgefield in Bloom Halloween Coffee Morning Parish Hall, 10-11.30am. Home made cakes, book stall, gifts, crafts, raffle, tombola

Mayor's Charity Quiz Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.30 pm. Tickets £5, inc. pie & peas, from 621273 or jane@sedgefield.net

Regular Meetings

New Generation Church

Sundays at 11am. All welcome

NECP Concertina Workshop

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 1pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Contact 01642 588197

Eddies@4

4pm, Welcome Room, St Edmund's. Informal service for 2-6 yr olds. 621125

Bridge Club

Sunday & Tuesday, 7.30pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners welcome. Jen 620434

Sedgefield Players

Parish Hall, 7.30pm Sundays & Weds. SPYS: 7-17 yrs Sunday 6.30pm. 620091

Ceddesfeld Hall Pre-School

Mon, Wed & Fri mornings; Children invited from 2+years. Tel 620934

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Hall, Mon, Wed & Thurs, 9:15-11:30am in term time. Contact 620893

Fishburn Art Group

Youth & Community Centre, Butterwick Rd. 9.30am -12 noon, Mondays

Community College Bowls

Mons 6-8pm. Carpet Bowls/Short Mat Individual coaching. No age limit. 623198

Sedgefield Mags

1st Monday of month in Nag's Head at 8pm. Contact 07966029434

Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

Ceddesfeld Hall. Tues & Thurs mornings 8.30-12 Beginners welcome. 622532

Sedgefield Pop In Club

for elderly & disabled. Ceddesfeld Hall Tues 9.30-12 Wed 10-12.30 Thur 1-3.30

Sedgefield Art Group

Methodist Church Hall 6.30-8.30pm Tues. Tuition. New members welcome

Craft Club

Swinhoe Rm, Ceddesfeld Hall, 2nd/4th Tues 7.30-10pm. 620656. All welcome

CAB Advice Sessions

Sedgefield Advice & Information Centre Fortnightly Wednesdays 10am-1pm

Sing for Health

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 1-2pm, Methodist Church Hall

Toddler Club

Wednesday term time 1.15 to 3pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Joan Brennan, 622385.

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers

Wed 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall (Mon1st wk of m'th) Beginners welcome. 621292

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

Wednesdays, 7.30pm. Contacts, Bob, 07831270892 ; Mel, 07530315331

Sedgefield Acoustic Evenings

Ceddesfeld Hall, 8.30pm 1st Fri & 4th Wed. Informal singaround, all welcome.

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members welcome. Contact Carl; 07775644598

Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group

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Make new friends at U3A

Retired or semi-retired? Maybe you simply have time on your hands? If so, you're welcome to the friendly monthly meetings of Sedgefield U3A (University of the 3rd Age) to socialise and share interests and knowledge with others in informal surroundings. We meet on first Fridays with speakers on interesting topics such as health, education, politics, science, the arts, hobbies and much more. We run visits to Homes & Gardens, Theatre and Science & Technology-based industries in the North-East. We also have a Book Club, Creative Writing group and are forming Photography and Wine Appreciation groups. For details of the next meeting, see p6.

Christmas Coffee Morning Saturday 11th October

Join us for a warm, friendly cuppa and refreshments whilst enjoying live music in St Edmund's church.

There will be homemade cake, Christmas paper, cards and gifts stall and Harriers sports goodies. Help the children's Harriers group, who are raising money for both their new running track and St Edmund's.

Sweet Chiming Handbells Saturday 11th October

Handbell Ringing teams from across the N.E. region are expected at the regional autumn rally being hosted by Sedgefield Handbell Ringers in the Parish Hall, starting at 10am. Visitors are welcome. For further details contact R. Burnip on 01740 621292

Round the Isles Dinner Saturday 11th October

7pm for 7.30pm at Ceddesfeld Hall, with dishes from around the British Isles, with choice of main courses (veggie option) & sweets. Cheese board; coffee & mints, whisky or port. Live music from Justus Kitchty Retro. Tickets £16 from Pat/Dudley 620607, David/Wendy 620206 or from Town Council Offices.

Sedgefield Switch Monday 13th October

is your last chance to sign up to the scheme. You'll find the link at www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

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Wed 9.30am-12.30pm, Thurs 10am-6pm
Fri 1pm - 7pm, Sat 9.30am-12.30pm
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Thursdays 9th & 23rd October
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Sedgefield Social Club

Saturday 4th Oct: John Conlon

Saturday 11th Oct: Rose

Saturday 18th Oct: Russell Kent

Saturday 27th Oct: JoJo

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Country Night Mon 20th: Dave Ingles

Cover charge of £3 per person
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Memorial for Dr. Sutherland Saturday 18th October, 3pm

A memorial gathering will be held for friends and colleagues of Dr Sutherland in the North East. They are invited to meet the family and to remember and celebrate Elizabeth's life. The venue is Fremington Sunday School, on the B6270 between Reeth and Grinton, postcode, DL11 6AR.

If you park in Reeth the Sunday School is a ten minute walk.

This is not a religious memorial and the family welcomes everyone. There will be refreshments and you should feel free to just "turn up".

Pictured below are the "lovely staff" at the new Youth Café; just one of this month's good news stories!



'She's Fired'

Saturday 8th November

A performance of the musical narration about the 1880 Seaham mining disaster, written by Bob Lowery and John Wrightson, in Sedgefield Parish Hall. It was first performed at Sedgefield Folk Festival two years ago, since when further performances have taken place at various venues throughout the North East. The musical has received such widespread acclaim that an invitation has been received to perform at The Sage, Gateshead on 14th March next year. Tickets for the Parish Hall performance are £6, from Joan Edmundson on 621347.

Coach trip to Doncaster Tuesday 4th November

9am Parish Hall return 4.30pm from Doncaster. Cost £8.50. Please contact Sedgefield Town Council Office

Flower Demonstration Friday November 21st

with Val Walker 7pm, Parish Hall
Tickets from Judith Edgoose, 620244 or Nancy Wells, 620467
Sedgefield Twinning Association

New youth café opens its doors in welcome

The owners of Toshach's Tea Shop, on The Square, responded to the need which they saw for a safe place for young people to get together, by opening up to youngsters aged 13 - 17 on alternate Friday evenings.

Supported by volunteers from Sedgefield Area Churches Together, this welcome facility will open on alternate Fridays from 7-9pm, for a trial period until Christmas.

Future dates are:

10th & 24th October

7th & 21st November

5th & 19th December

Daniel, one of their first customers said, "It's a lovely place to come and sit, with lovely staff".

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Sports UPDATE with Sports Editor CHRIS LINES

Yet again, Durham County Cricket Club has delivered the goods, showing the rest of the professional sports teams in the North East how to earn silverware. After winning a third county championship last year, the club had a difficult start to this season. However, the last couple of months have seen a remarkable turnaround in form. The team has climbed out of relegation danger in the championship and progressed through the knock out stages of the 50 over one day cup. An incredible semi-final against Nottinghamshire at the Chester-le-Street ground saw Durham win after posting a daunting target of over 353, including an amazing 164 off 113 balls by Ben Stokes. The final at Lord's was a low scoring affair, with Durham restricting Warwickshire to 165, bowling them out with several overs to spare. The run chase was anything but straightforward and Durham lost early wickets. Despite this, Stokes and the veteran Gareth Brees got the team (packed with players who came up through the DCCC academy) over the line, securing the club's fifth major trophy since it became a first class county.

Rugby Union

Sedgefield Rugby Club needs you. The local club got off to a poor start this season, having to cancel the first league game due to low player numbers. During the close season, a few players hung up their boots or relocated, leading to a serious reduction in the squad size.

The recent Wayne Hedley memorial match was a big success in raising over £600 for charity, but the club didn't attract any new or returning players as a result of the event. Luckily, Durham City and Stockton are helping Sedgefield out with players for the short term, but the club needs to find a longer term solution. There is a recruitment campaign underway, so look out for information around the village.

If you fancy a run out for a family friendly club, plus a lively social programme, get in touch with Sedgefield Rugby Club on 07732 399541 or on Facebook. All ages (17+) and abilities are welcome, even if you only want a 20 minute run out at the end of a match. **You can help your local rugby club stay alive.**

Wheelchair Rugby

The Sedgefield based North East Bulls wheelchair rugby club will host its annual tournament on Saturday & Sunday 11th/12th October. The event will be held at the community college, with the first game starting at 9.30am on both days. This year's visiting teams are the North Wales Dragons, Caledonian Crushers and North West Burn. Admission for spectators is free, so get along to witness some great sporting action. You can find out more about the Bulls at www.facebook.com/pages/NE-Bulls-WRC/105177856204681.

Great North Run

As always, plenty of people from Sedgefield made the annual pilgrimage to Newcastle to take part in the Great North Run. It was a landmark year, seeing the millionth finisher to cross the line during the race. I'm not sure how many of that first million have come from Sedgefield, but we've certainly contributed our fair share. Every year, the world's biggest half marathon throws up some great, inspiring stories with thousands of runners raising money for fantastic causes. There are too many from Sedgefield to highlight here and I don't want to single out only one or two. Well done to everyone who completed the run on what was a pretty warm day (great for spectators, but not ideal for runners!). The day before the half marathon, a battalion of younger runners from Sedgefield descended on Newcastle/Gateshead quayside to tackle the Mini and Junior Great North Runs. Both races have grown into significant events and no doubt many of the young runners will graduate to the full half marathon in years to come. Again, I don't want to focus on just one or two runners, but I was there and it was brilliant to see so many youngsters from Sedgefield enjoying the experience and being cheered on by thousands of spectators.

That's all for this month. As ever, send any sporting news to chrislines@aol.com.

Pictured right are Ean Parsons & Dave Icton at the Sports Awards

Sports Awards

Sedgefield the town was well represented and enjoyed success at the recent Sedgefield & District Sports & Physical Activity Awards evening. Boccia player Lee Madison won the sporting achievement of the year award and Sedgefield Cricket Club's Dave Icton was named volunteer of the year. Sedgefield Harriers won club of the year despite strong opposition from a range of very good sports clubs, including Sedgefield Squash Club.

Other nominees on the night included Harriers track and field coach Tim Dredge and Louise McAlpine, who created the hugely successful Sedgefield Happy Feet Joggers Run England group. Tim has guided junior throwers to gold medals at the North East Championships and has led the Harriers to compete in the North East Youth Development League and other competitions. Louise has founded a group of about 30 novice runners and inspired them to run and achieve feats they never thought possible - some have run 10k races, or even competed in cross-country, and most have gone on to join Sedgefield Harriers.

Lee Madison, Dave Icton and the Harriers will now go forward to represent Sedgefield & District at the County Durham Sports Awards finals in October - news of how they get on next month. Meanwhile, congratulations to all the individuals and clubs who were nominated or picked up district awards - yet more evidence of how sport thrives in our community.



I'd like to use this tiny spare corner to say thank you for a message which came in with one of this month's contributions. It makes it all worth while! Sedgefield News Editor
"Continued thanks to you all for giving everyone in Sedgefield a chance to know what is going on and an opportunity to voice their views!
Keep up the good work."

Thomas tops the lot!

Sedgefield in Bloom members Ian and Sheila Sutherland had to go home for a longer ladder to judge the winner of the children's sunflower competition. A pupil at Rectory Row School, Thomas Hogarth (6) of Hornby Avenue, pictured right, had managed to grow a sunflower almost four metres high, the second tallest ever in the competition. The adults in the Spring Lane Sunflower competition couldn't quite match that, but Marjorie and Howard Allinson won with a sunflower measuring 3 metres 50, the only competitors to break the 3 metre barrier. The potentially winning efforts of June and Keith Beveridge were sabotaged by a squirrel, who took a fancy to their tallest sunflower and ate the top off. They are planning anti-squirrel measures for next year.

Plant Quiz

Sedgefield in Bloom is very grateful to those keen gardeners who entered our plant quiz, cleverly designed by Bloomer Rosemary Burnip. Not only have we swelled the Bloom coffers a little more, but the inventive and very complimentary tie breakers devised by entrants will be put to excellent use in our presentations to the judges next year.

Maureen Gandy of The Orchard, with all 50 correct answers wins £25 worth of garden vouchers. Other prizes go to entrants who were no more than one and half points behind the winner. Pipped to second place by just half a point was Sheena Cannings of Hardwick Road. Joint third were A Brown of Eaglescliffe and Sheila Littlefair of Hemlington, while T Kay and Sheila Swanson, both of Sedgefield, tied for fifth place. The cryptic clues and their answers will be displayed on the Bloom sponsor board in front of the parish hall. As well as figuring out all the answers, Maureen came up with these delightful words of encouragement. 'We really hope they succeed; the displays are colourful, the village looks beautiful, with scarcely a sign of a weed. Thanks to the Bloomers, young and old, for they are worth their weight in gold.'

Summer at Hardwick Park *(photo, front page)*

The largely good weather of the last few months brought people out in their hundreds to enjoy the scenery, wildlife and facilities of the Park. In early summer, delivery was taken of the Yurt which stands at one end of the main car park. Electricity has just been put in and it will be heated during the colder months. It will help cope with the ever increasing numbers of children coming to for educational sessions, craft, story time, birthday parties, etc. The Park is certainly a mecca for mums and young children, with the playground and its new mud proof surface and the family friendly café.

The Rangers and their band of volunteers have been busy with all the routine work of pruning, weeding, mowing grass and maintaining wild flower areas. A lot of time has been spent erecting a fence around the Plantation, now too dangerous to enter due to windblown trees. We were pleased to hear recently that the Park has been selected for an award for the appearance of the shrub beds. A few volunteers concentrate wholly on keeping these weed free and full of interesting shrubs and it is nice to have their work appreciated. The Park has also been granted the Green Flag Award again, which is awarded throughout the country for the best green spaces, and also the Visit England Award.

Hardwick Park is a hive of activity with meetings of the cycling group, Buggyfit and other fitness classes, Park Run and now the establishment of 1,2,3 Run circuits around the Park, but the Park relies heavily on its volunteers and is always eager for more, to work outside, to help with the educational activities or to be in the shop/Information Centre.

Anyone interested should either call in at the Park office or ring 01740 621505.

Alison Hodgson, park volunteer



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Your Letters

Thoughts on leaving

Sedgefield Fun Club has played such a huge and important part in my life but after 17 and a half years the time has come for me to move on to a new and exciting opportunity at In2 (Sedgefield Hardwick).

I would like to give a massive thanks to all the parents, committee members, my fantastic team and especially to all the children who have all played a part in making my time at fun club such a wonderful experience.

I will take away some amazing memories and friends from fun club which will always have a special place in my heart. *Paula Tomys, Sedgefield Fun Club Manager. Sincere apologies to Paula, whose letter was omitted last month*

Leaving is not always easy but it has to be done sometimes, to look out for new aims and challenges and start a new venture. It has been a giggle, it's been fun, it's been a big part of my life but its time to move on! After 15 wonderful years of working at Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club, I looked after the fabulous children of Sedgefield for the last time on September 11th. It has been a wonderful experience working with all the staff, especially Paula Tomys, my amazing manager who I'm going to miss working with everyday. We were a fab manager/deputy team! I am going with a lot of good memories which will be long cherished.

Finally, I thank all the staff and kind parents and most of all - the amazing children I have had the pleasure and privilege of looking after all these years. *Fondest memories, Vicky Kime.*

Maintenance of St Edmund's church

The last edition of Sedgefield News included a letter concerning the upkeep of St Edmund's Church. The leaflet from the Friends of St Edmund's spurred me to join them and to support the upkeep of this historical gem.

I tend to agree with A F Mowat, it is a great pity that churches are unable to fund their own buildings, and that the Church Commissioners are in the process of selling land for building against the wishes of local communities. I also find it difficult to accept that my own Roman Catholic Church seems to sit on money and valuables held in the Vatican that could be used to alleviate world poverty. But ultimately, two wrongs never make a right. Sedgefield Parish Church guards the religious history of this town. It has seen changes that we can hardly comprehend and affected the lives of countless individuals over the centuries. The building may in name belong to the Church of England, but in reality it belongs to all of us. There are few in this village who haven't wept at a funeral, smiled at a Christening or laughed at a wedding inside its walls, while wondering how many others have felt the same emotions while sitting or standing in the same spot. It really doesn't matter what faith we follow, St. Edmund's is now the symbol of a united community. The Friends of St Edmund's are a group of many faiths, perhaps none, who support this view and work hard to preserve a lovely building for our benefit. They are not "creeping round with a begging bowl" but fundraising at social events, the funds usually coming from among themselves. I am a regular worshipper at St John Fisher Church and support the upkeep of that church building, an ever more difficult exercise with dwindling regular congregations - the case with all churches today. I don't have any difficulty in supporting St Edmund's too, after all, the Friends are only asking for £25 a year. I am sorry that A F Mowat is offended by the leaflet. I am sure that was never its intent, but maybe his remarks should have been directed to the Church Commissioners and those who hold control of major financial assets, not to those trying to preserve a piece of historic architecture for us. Like him, I hope future generations can admire St Edmund's too. *Angela Barron*

In response to the letter in last month's Sedgefield News we would like to clarify some points. We receive no funding from the Church Commissioners (who manage the property assets of the Church of England) towards the maintenance of St Edmund's church building. The income from those assets goes to support the ministry of the church across England. The land close to Eden Drive owned by the Durham Diocese has not been sold. The site is now one of a number of proposals for new housing being considered. If it were to be sold the money would be used across the Diocese to help meet ministry costs.

Like all Church of England parish churches we depend on the generous financial support of local people. We are very grateful for all that we do receive from people in Sedgefield, its environs and beyond, which enable us to maintain and develop a building loved by so many and which we wish to be a facility for all in our community. *Michael Gobbett, Team Rector, Michael King, Chair of the Church Council, Alison Hodgson, Secretary of The Friends of St Edmund's.*



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