

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

April 2021

We do like to be beside the seaside and with luck, it won't be long!

Our colleague Judith Edgoose, who organises the distribution of this paper, has been driving her husband, Sam to Hartlepool Hospital recently for some treatment.

Having a valid reason to be beside the sea while she waits to collect him, she has been snapping away at a view that many of us can't wait to see, so here's a glimpse. Mm, I can almost smell the sea-spray!



Deadline for May: Thursday 15th April

As lockdown eases, is it time to give back a little?

We are fortunate to live in a lovely part of the world, and one of things that makes it so special is the tremendous sense of community spirit.

During the pandemic it was heartening to see so many people volunteering to provide help to their neighbours. In more normal times, our community supports an astonishing number of voluntary groups and it's one of the reasons people love living here. You can take part in a 5km run, join an art group, plant trees to create a new wood or visit a vibrant farmers market – and all this can be done in a single weekend! The Sedgefield News Diary Page was always full.

But many voluntary groups have had to pause during the pandemic, or adapt, developing creative, often online, solutions to keep going. As we head out of lockdown, many of these organisations may need help to start up again. Some older volunteers will want to step down, their work done, so perhaps it's time for batons to be passed to the next generation.

But why should you volunteer? What do you get out of it? The evidence is overwhelming, volunteering keeps you physically and mentally active and helps you live longer. It counteracts the effects of stress and depression as well as giving you a greater sense of empathy and appreciation of others. Your self-confidence gets a boost, and it gives you a sense of purpose. Many people appreciate the benefits - over 23% of adults in England volunteer at least once a month in normal times.

As Shakespeare said, "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." Now is your chance to make a

difference. Perhaps you have always wanted to try something but there isn't a relevant group in the area - then why not start a new one? You may find others are interested too. Existing groups may want to recruit new members or find extra volunteers, so if you want to get involved, let us know. We may be able to put you in touch.

A community is made of a lot of things but at its heart are the people and how they interact. Here at Sedgefield News we are ready to help. Over 3,000 copies of this newsletter go out to Sedgefield, Fishburn, Bradbury & Mordon and please remember, we're here for all of these communities. So send **your** news!

Clubs, Societies & Groups

Share your thoughts, plans or concerns about how to emerge from lockdown to news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk and we will give you each a space to speak to our readers.

Send your **Dates & Details** to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

and your **Events** to the Arts Page: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

And finally... Chris Lines returns to the back page with a round up of news from all the local sports clubs. They are absolutely raring to go, so as a little appetiser (and because I couldn't fit them all in!) here are the plans for two of the most popular groups:

Junior Sedgefield Harriers

Coaching is planned from the week commencing Monday 12th April at Sedgefield Community College. Risk assessments completed prior to the latest lockdown will be updated and the return of sessions will be subject to being given the go ahead by the college.

It is planned to provide the sessions that were previously offered (details on the club website), other than a change to the approach for the endurance group. Returning & new junior athletes from Year 3 upwards are welcome.

Sedgefield parkrun and junior parkrun

Organisers hope to resume Sedgefield parkrun and Sedgefield junior parkrun in June. I will provide a full update once plans are confirmed.

COVID VACCINATION UPDATE

Staff from Skerne Medical Group have been busy ensuring that registered patients have benefitted from the Covid Vaccination Programme close to home. Both clinical and administrative staff have been involved in vaccination sessions at our local vaccination hub in Spennymoor since late December. The availability of Astra Zeneca (Oxford) vaccine has enabled the team to offer vaccinations at Sedgefield and Trimdon Colliery surgeries to eligible patients.

By March 6th, tireless efforts by surgery staff have enabled 2,124 patients to have their vaccination at the surgery, while 142 housebound patients have also been given their vaccination at home, enabling the District Nursing team to focus on their vital work in our community.

Figures from March 12th show that 6,186 patients have received their 1st Covid vaccination and 312 patients are now fully vaccinated. Normal service at the surgery continues alongside the vaccination efforts, and many staff have offered extra hours to help this important cause. The Skerne team will continue to play their part in local vaccination delivery, as the photo shows.

When your turn comes around, please get vaccinated.

Below, some of the team prepare for a Sunday vaccination session. 13/03/21



SCHOOLS NEWS. Contributions are welcome from all schools in our area.

Walk for Autism Challenge

To help raise awareness about autism, staff of Sedgefield Community College have taken on the 'walk for autism challenge'.

The Challenge is to complete a minimum of 10,000 steps each day from the 26th March to the 2nd of April. Pupils and carers have also been contacted to see if we can spread understanding and compassion for those who have a diagnosis of autism.

This information has only been live for 12 days and staff have raised over £4,698 and are helping spread awareness far and wide. SCC joined the challenge to support assemblies on autism awareness in school and were aiming to raise £100 so to be looking at second place on the national league table for monies and awareness raised is a phenomenal achievement.

I'm exceptionally proud to work at a school who come together in such a united way to not only support pupils within our school but to support others in our community and across the country. *A.M. McGowan*



The Case of the Hardwick Booksnatcher

We had an amazing day on Thursday when we celebrated World Book Day at Sedgefield Hardwick. We had to solve a mystery - The Case of the Hardwick Booksnatcher! (pictures right)

Poor Mrs Newton had been locked up to stop her releasing some new books and we had to work with the world-famous detective Sherlock Holmes and his 'adequate assistant' Dr Watson (helped by the puppet Pinocchio!) to crack the case, find the criminal and release Mrs Newton.

We watched CCTV evidence for vital clues and then voted which suspects Holmes and Watson should interrogate! These suspects ranged from Maleficent to the Beanstalk Giant and Bellatrix Lestrange, amongst others! As with all good mysteries, there was a shocking twist in the tale!

Head over to www.facebook.com/SedgefieldHardw to watch the full mystery unfold!



Your LETTERS

I was shocked and saddened to read the letter "Beware of the dog" printed in the last issue. It is clear that the writer and I have a very different recollections. My very friendly Rottweiler puppy who has just turned 1 year old was playing nicely with his ball on the field. A lady with her small dog and child approached and Zigi went over to say hi. The small dog lunged at my dog and broke free of his harness. Zigi was confused. He has never encountered a vicious or unsocialised dog before. He is well socialised and regularly attends day care with other dogs. He did not "go at" this dog and at no point did he "jump all over" the lady's son.

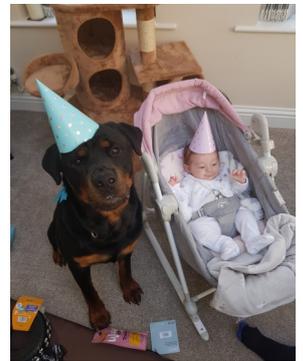
I highly recommend that if you know your dog is liable to react to others, it should have a well fitted harness and that you check that it is correctly adjusted before leaving the house, so that it cannot break free.

Zigi is a lovely family pet whom I believe is being victimised because of his breed. He is amazing with my disabled partner and our young daughter and is not how he was made out in last month's letter.

If you see us out and about, feel free to come and meet us and have a pet. Most of all, please don't judge a book by its cover, come and see us and make your own opinion.

Name and address supplied.

Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher. We strive to be impartial & independent and reserve the right to edit copy. We do not publish letters of unknown authorship, so please send contact details with any correspondence.



BUSINESS UPDATE

The last year has been hugely difficult for everyone and of course it has had a tragic impact on people in our community, which we should never forget. However, there is now optimism that we can finally and fully emerge from this crisis as 2021 progresses, and we all hope that the provisional timetable in the government's roadmap does not move back.

As restrictions are eased, Sedgefield Business Network looks forward to resuming some activities and initiatives (watch this space for news on that front), but in the meantime, we want to help support business in our community as things open up. Our decision to restore the paper to full size is based on the urgent need to restore community activity on all fronts, safely of course, but with confidence.

We have already seen the strong appetite to support local trade - Sedgefield Farmers' Market has been able to restart and has never been more popular! The market is run by Sedgefield Development Trust, which also publishes this paper and the News wants to help other local businesses to thrive again.

Over the years our advertising has helped many local traders, as well as keeping the News in print and providing an income for the projects of Sedgefield Development Trust.

Occasionally we have been able to feature a new business, but what we propose now is to establish this Business Update as a regular feature, working with partners such as Sedgefield Business Network and NETPark.



As you will see at the very top of the front page, our area of interest includes Sedgefield, Fishburn, Bradbury and Mordon.

We will keep you informed, bang the drum about business in these communities and hope to encourage you to "shop local."

In short, Sedgefield News will do what we can to help our vibrant, varied local economy to emerge from these difficult times and to thrive once more.

Unforgettable Experiences

Unforgettable Experiences provide personalised care and technical support to help older adults to access live, creative, and interactive artistic sessions online. To date the organisation has supported over 70 older adults to access art, music, dance, drama, creative writing, history, and photography twice per week with professional artists.

Sessions are open to anyone who is struggling with their mental health, dementia or neurological conditions, and helps their loved ones to connect with like-minded people who share similar interests. Digital Activity Buddies act like a technical befriender offering support to solve any complex technical issues to get you online and support you to access sessions each week. The service is currently free to anyone living in Sedgefield. For more information call 01325 238007 or visit www.unforgettableexperiences.org.uk



Poets of Sedgefield

The Arts page editor has received some superb contributions from the local community in response to his request for writing inspired by lockdown, but because of their length it has not always been possible to include them in the paper. If you follow Sedgefield News on Facebook, or you could ask someone who does to let you see it, we are preparing to post more on the page, to give the work the audience which it thoroughly deserves.

Two contributors we would particularly like to thank are Maureen Legender and John Taylor, of Wykes Close. Some of Maureen poems are almost epics, and John's contribution written as the millennium turned, was fascinating.

CPI cleans up

CPI, based at NETPark, has announced its participation in Waste2Fresh, a multinational project to improve the sustainability of textile manufacturing.

The wastewater associated with these processes, which is often left untreated and discharged into the surrounding environment, can release toxic chemicals and heavy metals. The project aims to recycle the wastewater involved in the process, dramatically reducing damage to the environment.

CPI will play a key role in bringing together the technology providers and textile manufacturing companies while also providing expertise in process engineering.



Back in the Saddle

With the lockdown due to ease soon, the equine world is one of many breathing a cautious sigh of relief. The pandemic has had far-reaching effects on the sector. Owners have been unable to see their horses, as some stables locked down; many events have been cancelled, losing essential income for many; horse enthusiasts have been unable to ride and there have even been reports of riding schools selling horses to afford care for the rest.

We spoke to Jen Green, a local accredited professional coach (BHSII) who also runs a mobile unit for HorseWeighUK. She described the increase she has seen in horse obesity as owners struggled to exercise their horses with the restrictions in place. She also described how, although financial support and grants have been available, this has not been enough for stables, with continuing costs such as vets, farriers and dentists. Many riding schools will be opening for lessons to the general public again from the start of April and they will have high hopes for a better year ahead for horses and their riders!

Sainsbury's Easter Art!

CHILDREN - Sainsbury's Sedgefield want to see your art!

To brighten the store this Easter they would like to fill their entrance with children's artwork. They will display children's Spring or Easter pictures from 27th March to 10th April, so please come by and drop them off in the Easter box at the entrance.

We will share some of the best entries next month.

GREENER SEDGEFIELD

The popularity of log burners in homes has increased significantly over recent years, the main reason for installing them being to provide a cosy atmosphere and not necessarily as a primary heat source. Understandable - who wouldn't like to relax in the warm whilst watching flickering flames? But it might come as a surprise that research shows that domestic wood burning has become the single biggest source of small particle air pollution in the UK, producing three times more than road traffic.

Wood burning stoves omit PM2.5, the air pollutant with the greatest impact on human health. Both short and long-term exposure to PM2.5 increases the risk of early death from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and is considered most harmful for the elderly and young children. Tiny particles can enter the bloodstream, be carried around the body and lodge in organs. And it's not only the outdoor air quality it affects. Wood burners triple the level of harmful pollution particles inside homes. Tiny particles flood into the room every time the doors are opened for refuelling.

Approximately 38% of particulate matter in the UK is the result of wood fires and what is really scary is that just 8% of the population cause this pollution by burning wood indoors, but banning the log burners and open fires is clearly not an option anyone would want to consider, so what can we do?

The first and biggest step is to fit an EcoDesign wood stove, either new or to replace any older models. A modern EcoDesign-compliant wood burning stove produces up to 90% less emissions than an open fire and up to 80% less than an over 10 years old stove. From January 2022 all stoves sold in the UK must be EcoDesign - a new standard of efficiency designed to reduce harmful emissions by burning wood more efficiently and completely. Secondly, burn dry, sustainably sourced, seasoned fire wood ideally with moisture content of 20% or less. Look for 'Ready to Burn' labels that ensure good quality dry wood. Government has already taken steps and sales of wet wood in small units will be phased out from February 2021.

Wet wood in volumes greater than 2m cube will also have to be sold with advice on how to dry it before burning. Also, sales of bagged traditional house coal will be phased out by February 2021 and sale of house coal direct to customers will end by 2023. Alongside wood with

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY APRIL 2021

Whenever I do one of my favourite walks from Sedgefield over to Bishop Middleham I am always on the lookout for wildlife, and during lockdown last year this route became important for spotting all kinds of signs of spring.

April is a good time to see a number of species; from the first sand martin on its way back from Africa to bluebells in flower or the first orange tip. I always try to be alert when approaching running water whether it's a ditch, Stony Beck or the River Skerne hoping to hear the sound of a plop, or a brief glimpse of a rare mammal that lives exclusively in riverine habitats – the water vole. I have never seen one here (have you?) and it's no surprise; since the 1960's water voles have disappeared from 95% of their former range.

Water voles were once widespread across the UK, found in both rural and urban wetland habitats such as rivers, streams, ditches, and ponds, but have declined because of loss and fragmentation of habitat. The water vole plays its part as a prey species for many native predators, such as foxes, herons, and otters, but having evolved alongside these predators it has developed defence responses, which are ineffective to the recently introduced American mink.

Water voles are our country's 'bankside engineers', whose burrowing creates niche habitats that provide opportunities for invertebrates to breed, which, in turn, can benefit fish, amphibians and small mammals.



Three North East Wildlife Trusts have joined forces to urge people to get involved with an ambitious project to save this native species. Durham Wildlife Trust, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, and Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, have launched 'Naturally Native' to stop the decline of the water vole, and to ensure that they can thrive along the rivers, streams, and ponds of the North East. The initiative has been made possible through funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Durham Wildlife Trust's Kirsty Pollard is leading the project, and is very keen to get people from around the region involved. "This is such an important project that will not only stop the decline of the water vole, but will also help support a wide range of other native wildlife," she said.

The project is looking for volunteers to help with surveying or monitoring of the water vole population, and to report any sightings of the voles, or of their number-one predator – the American mink. You can find out how to get involved one of the wildlife trust websites or on the projects Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NaturallyNative> or

With the help of the local community, it is hoped to be able to reverse the decline of the water vole, promote their recovery and perhaps we might see them on our local walks.

moisture content higher than 20%, we should not burn painted or treated wood or any household rubbish.

Minimise the release of small particles into the indoor air by refuelling on a hot ember bed as opposed to when flames are present. Have your burner serviced and chimney swept regularly. With a few adaptations and wise choices we can continue to enjoy a burner's cosy atmosphere AND benefit from maximising their efficiency.

For news, discussion and ideas on more sustainable living join Greener Sedgefield on Facebook.

A roadmap to the Ploggers' Return

With the government's recent announcement about the roadmap out of lockdown, Plogging should be able to resume soon.

The plan is to give Sedgefield a spring clean early in April and we'll do that in a way that follows the rule of six, whilst allowing many Ploggers to participate.

Meanwhile we know that some of you Ploggers, and other residents, have continued to do your bit to keep Sedgefield looking lovely. Great work everyone, as always!



The “s106” pot of money

Although there is some discussion at present regarding the use of Section 106 money, much of the talk has probably been beneath the radar for most people, so in this article we will try to clarify the topic, which is of great importance to communities.

Section 106, often abbreviated to s106, refers to the section of the Town & Country Planning Acts which regulates how developers in receipt of planning permission may be required to put money into a 'pot' to help with local needs particularly exacerbated by their development. Typically, a house builder might be required to contribute money to increase the capacity of a school required to accept more pupils; or perhaps to increase sports provision or open space to meet the needs generated by their development.

Within Sedgefield, recent planning permissions for housing have led to developers paying, or committing to pay, considerable sums into the 'pot'. It is important to know that in effect the 'pot' has compartments too; some for education, some for sport, open space, or community use etc. We have received a table from Durham County Council, setting out the commitments from developers for recent approvals of housing in Sedgefield.

Some Sedgefield money has been committed to education but some significant sums in other parts of the 'pot' have yet to be allocated and other sums are still many months away from being received.

So what is the process by which funding is allocated, and how do you engage with it?

Initially an application is submitted to the Action Area Partnership (AAP), who are supported by Durham County Council's Partnership and Community Engagement Service. A consultation will follow with all the appropriate bodies including DCC elected members, the AAP and the local Town or Parish Council.

As an example, by the time you read this, proposals to use some of the sports part of the 'pot' may have progressed, as an application for support for the Athletics Track, detailed opposite, is under consideration.

On page 9 we have outlined another possible application by Sedgefield Development Trust, on behalf of the Woodland & Wildlife project. At this stage we do not know of any competing proposals for the funds designated for sport or open space, although they may, of course, exist. We hope that these two examples will help to throw light on how s106 funding works.

East Durham Community Athletics Track update

In our January issue, we reported on the progress of the athletics track project that is being proposed for a site on NETPark. Details of the vision for the East Durham Community Athletics Track (EDCAT) had just gone live online as part of a public consultation process, and the team behind the initiative was keen to get feedback from residents and other interested parties.

Key findings from the public consultation have now been released and the overall response has been extremely positive. An impressive 357 individuals completed the survey and 87% of them supported the proposed development, with 86% agreeing that the site that has been chosen is an appropriate location for an athletics facility.

Ean Parsons, chair of the EDCAT Steering Group, comments: “We are delighted that the response to our public consultation was so overwhelmingly positive and are grateful to everyone who took the time to contribute. We received hundreds of comments through the online survey, and the vast majority were hugely supportive. Inevitably, there were also some questions and challenges, on a range of topics. None of these were unexpected and they will be addressed in the full consultation statement in our planning application, which we expect to submit around Easter.

“As well as the online survey comments, several organisations and individuals have also contacted us direct, resulting in some constructive correspondence and some (COVID-compliant!) meetings. All of this has been very helpful, as we have developed the finer details of our plans.”

If you would like to contact the EDCAT steering group to discuss any aspect of the project, please send an email to edcatrack@gmail.com, and keep an eye on www.edcatrack.com and @EDCATrack on Twitter for the latest news from the track project.

BACK THE TRACK

East Durham Community Athletics Track | Public Consultation

December 2020 - January 2021



357

Completed Responses

Are you generally in support of the development proposed?

87%

Strongly Agree / Agree

“The location of the proposed track is perfect as it will serve the Sedgefield community but also be accessible for others in the East Durham area.”

Do you agree that there is a need for a new community athletics facility to serve communities across east Durham?

87%

Strongly Agree / Agree

“Location is excellent - very well situated to meet the needs of the East Durham area, particularly Fishburn, Sedgefield and the Trimdons. These areas have never benefitted from any form of athletic training facility and they are poorly related to existing facilities elsewhere in County Durham.”

Do you agree that the proposed site is an appropriate location for a new community athletics facility?

86%

Strongly Agree / Agree

“I think the track will be well used and will encourage young people in particular to take up and maintain an interest in sport, as well as well as encouraging a healthy lifestyle generally.”

For more details about the project email edcatrack@gmail.com





@EDCATrack

www.edcatrack.com



ARTS UPDATE

with Geoff Millichap
email: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

In Conversation with Judith O'Reilly

Already an established writer of Northern non-fiction, the Durham writer Judith O'Reilly has more recently built a huge fan base in the male-dominated world of action thriller writing. Her non-fiction debut, 'Killing State' was followed last year by 'Curse the day', which continued the adventures of her protagonist, the discharged soldier Michael North.

Promotional tours, literary festivals and book signings were inevitably curtailed by the bans on public events last year but O'Reilly has been able to find inventive ways to maintain contact with her readers, from online readings of her work to Instagram posts and here, in conversation with South Tyneside Libraries.

Fans of David Baldacci, Andy McNab & Lee Child who have not yet encountered her will find a fresh new voice in Judith O'Reilly, who spent several years working in London as a journalist before returning north to commence writing political thrillers.

It is unusual for women to write in this genre, so much so that Judith even considered adopting a less feminine nom-de-plume in order to find a publisher. Thankfully her talent won through & two novels so far are the result, with more in the pipeline. Join her online as she talks about her life and work in a free event hosted online at 6pm on Thursday 22nd April.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-audience-with-judith-oreilly-tickets-140971199653>



County Durham Folklore

Set some time aside on at 6pm on April 7th for what promises to be a fascinating presentation on the ancient folklore of Teesdale and Weardale.

Local historian & playwright Michael Lyons, alongside music by composer, Trevor Honeyman will reveal the mythology of Durham, which is rich with spooky stories filled with mysterious creatures.

This free talk will help you to tell your water-sprites from your Hob-thruses, and is sure to help you to avoid falling foul of the terrifying Peg Powler!

Listen carefully to identify the scary creature pictured here!



This is certain to be a popular event so follow the link below early to claim your free e-ticket. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ancient-folklore-of-teesdale-and-weardale-tickets-137585137851?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

Dance City CAT

The Dance City Training Centre will increase its intake for September 2021, so online workshops & 2-hour taster sessions are being organized online for April 6th & 7th.

The sessions are designed to appeal to young people aged 10-18 who might be interested in applying to join the programme.

From September it is expected that in-person sessions will resume in Darlington & Newcastle. Please follow the links below for times & further details.

<https://www.dancecity.co.uk/class/2000/virtual-cat-taster-day/>
[dancecity.co.uk/classes-workshops/](https://www.dancecity.co.uk/classes-workshops/)

entertain -

a magazine for young people by young people

Enter CIC is a youth theatre group based in Ferryhill that some children from our area are involved in.

Personally, I have been part of the group for just over six years and in that time I've been lucky enough to travel to Belgium to perform with the group and to perform at the Sage with Sir Tim Rice, to name but two of the highlights.

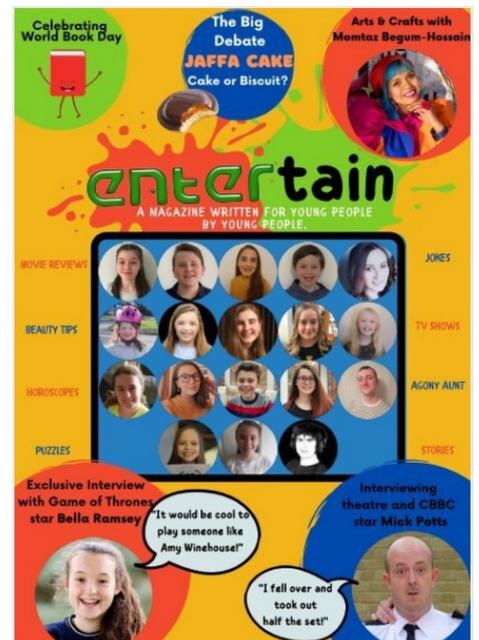
During COVID-19 we have worked on a number of projects, the most recent being a new magazine called "entertain". The first edition was released on World Book Day and we plan to release a new one each term. Despite being a theatre group, the magazine covers lots of topics. It is aimed at young people and written by young people and it includes recipes, reviews, jokes and a debate (I'm a firm believer that a Jaffa Cake is a cake!).

We have been holding weekly zoom meetings to work on this project and have had a lot of fun doing so.

There are Interviews with Bella Ramsey, a young actress whose name you may recognise from The Worst Witch, Game of Thrones and His Dark Materials, and Mick Potts, a children's actor best known for his role on CBBC's Danny and Mick, can also be found in this edition.

entertain is completely free of charge and is accessed online, making it accessible to most.

The link to the magazine is at www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/65338876/entertain or go to yumpu.com and search for 'entertain'. Hannah Savage



DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

To all clubs, groups and societies - this is your space. As you open up again, we will design the page around your needs.

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club Update

Members of the Flower Club please note, that we are unable to recommence our Flower Club programme in June, as hoped. Covid restrictions prevent this unfortunately.

As long as restrictions allow, we will recommence on 20th July (Members night) with our AGM and a short demonstration by Val Guest. We intend to try to have a surprise for members in August. Obviously this is entirely dependent on Covid restrictions! We will keep in touch.

NAFAS have announced that it is National Flower Arranging Day on 7 May. They have suggested that all NAFAS members fasten a small floral tribute to their front door, gate or fence to celebrate the day. Previously, they have urged members to put small floral tributes around their own local areas, encouraging local people to take home the tributes to enjoy. Unfortunately, this is not encouraged in the present climate.

The committee thank you for your continued support and we hope to meet up again very soon.

If anyone is interested in joining the Flower Club, we will meet up on the 3rd Tuesday in the month at 7.30 pm in Parish Hall, Sedgefield. We would love to meet you and welcome you to our Club. Any enquiries to 07533 752870.

CEDDSFELD HALL

Home of Sedgefield Community Association (SCA)

Roadmap to re-opening Ceddesfeld Hall

SCA is delighted to begin to plan for the resumption of activities and events at Ceddesfeld Hall. The Government's roadmap, announced by the Prime Minister on 22 February (with further guidance on 25 February) indicated that community halls may reopen after Easter for those activities already permitted over lockdown, plus a small list of further activities. They should otherwise remain closed until May 17 (step 3). The planned four step approach is dependent on: the Covid-19 vaccination programme going to plan; reduced numbers of people dying or needing hospital treatment; no surge in hospital admissions and any new variants of the virus do not fundamentally change the risk of lifting restrictions.

The Trustees are working towards a partial and limited reopening of activities (for sections and groups) from May 17. By then, the rule of 6 (or two households) will apply to all indoor spaces, with a 30 people limit.

Due to distance safety restrictions at Ceddesfeld, the main hall will remain limited to a maximum of 24 people and the capacity limit for the smaller upstairs rooms is 16 (4 tables of 4).

Hopefully, by step 4 (no earlier than June 21) legal limits on social contact will be lifted and larger events will be allowed. All things being well, SCA hope to reopen the bar from this date.

Everything is, of course, open to review and we do have a limited number of volunteers, but fingers crossed that everything goes as planned and a successful, gradual, and confident return to activities and events can take place in the run up to autumn and beyond. If you would like to get more involved with the community, please do get in touch.

The Pop-In Club has, like all sections and groups, been unable to use Ceddesfeld Hall during the last year but Wendy Rowley their organiser, has found other ways to help them. Before Christmas she arranged to hand out Christmas gifts from a stall in Ceddesfeld car park and is repeating this at the end of March with Easter gifts (social distancing of course). Naturally, we are all looking forward to the group (and all groups) being able to use the hall again.

SCA will be holding a virtual quiz, on Easter Monday (5 April) at 7 pm, over Zoom. Please email: info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk for an invitation, or telephone Sarah and Tony on 01740 622185 and the link will be sent.

An updated risk assessment can be found on the SCA website.

For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 620607, John on 620042, Sarah on 622185 or visit our website at www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk

SEDFIELD LIBRARY

Tel: 0300 026 9521

It is too soon to know when our library will open again, but if you have internet access, check these...

www.durham.gov.uk/libraryonline for updates and information and to updated with any service changes.

Facebook @CountyDurhamLibraries It is absolutely full of interest. We recommend following them.

Sedgefield in Bloom are in the pink!

With our new hi-vis jackets, you can't miss Sedgefield Bloomers out and about around the village. Spring bulbs are already putting on a beautiful show and we will soon be adding summer bedding which will keep Sedgefield spirits up as we move to brighter days ahead.

Covid has put a bit of a dampener on our usual fundraising efforts, limiting cash available to buy plants.

However, we are determined to provide as lovely a show as ever.

Sedgefield is packed with keen gardeners and we would like to enlist your help. Donations of perennial plants are always welcome. Think of us as you lift and split larger clumps of plants or possibly decide to remove a plant which has outgrown its space. You may like to donate a few plants or herbs which you have grown from seed and nurtured in your greenhouse. Or, when you can get to the garden centre or supermarket, pop an extra tray of bedding plants into your basket.

Bedding out starts at the end of May and we'll make good use of any plants received. If you would like to help, please contact

alicehobson.ah@googlemail.com or norma@neal.myzen.co.uk or ring Norma on 01740 620091



SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS

to contact us, please email secretary@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk



SEDGEFIELD ENERGY SWITCH

Saving you money on your gas and electricity bills
A Sedgefield Development Trust initiative

With energy prices rising again & our next auction on May 18th, now could be the time to join.

If you have not yet joined, why not give this popular scheme a try? Don't just take our word for the savings you could make - you may have friends and neighbours who had benefited.

For new participants, if your current contract ends before the end of June, this is the registration period for you and if you have been part of the scheme before and your contract ends before the end of July, you will need to register again at this auction in order to receive your next offer.

Prior to registering, have to hand the following information from your latest statement or Annual Summary: name of current supplier, name of current Tariff, date when current Tariff ends, amount of gas & electricity used per year.

Key dates

Registration opens on Tuesday 30th March and closes on Monday 17th May. Auction is on Tuesday 18th May. Offers issued from Monday 31st May, closure is Tuesday 29th June.

If you're happy to register online go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk. Click on ENERGY SWITCH, 'Free Sign up', 'Register Today' and fill out details.

If you prefer to register and receive information by post, or need help, please call the Sedgefield Development Trust Helpline, **07980 134 594**. Leave a message and we will call back. We can help or complete registration for you.

Homework Help continues online!

We currently have some capacity for help with English (any age) but whatever you'd like help with (or could offer to help with) do please contact homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk



Our New Volunteers

A warm welcome to the new volunteers who have joined the project over the past couple of months, it's great to see new faces and fresh enthusiasm!

At our last working session, we concentrated on litter picking and filled at least 10 bags of rubbish from the eastern part of the project site, a fantastic effort by all!

We are also excited to have a new volunteer who is carrying out a bird survey for the site. On his first visit he logged goldcrest, greater spotted woodpecker and goldfinches among many others - we very much look forward to reading his final report.

Hedge Planting Day

The project is receiving 420 tree whips from The Woodland Trust, with planting planned for Saturday 1st May. The new hedge will be planted along the new William Armstrong Way and the more hands helping the better!

Location: Woodland & Wildlife Site behind Discovery 1 & 2 buildings at NETPark (rough postcode is TS21 3FH) follow the green arrow signs from Discovery 1 & 2 car park.

Time: 10am until all planted, so stay as long as you like!

Covid: The event will be planned to keep everyone safe, but please do your bit by wearing a mask, keeping your distance and sanitising your hands and tools.

What to bring: If possible, bring a spade (although we do have a small number of tools available), work gloves and a drink.

The planting date is subject to change depending on delivery of trees, so look out for information on social media or email Melissa at woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk for up-to-date info.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!



Anna Kenyon's photo shows the grassy eastern part of site.



March's much larger market felt so good! In fact, with 20 stalls and pretty decent weather, almost normal!

We've looked carefully at the Government's tentative programme for relaxing pandemic restrictions and it is clear that for April at least, things will stay the same.

Our "non-essential retailers" could return in May, but we don't expect to change anything else at that time. It looks as though we will operate with social distancing, hand sanitiser, etc until after June 21st.

All that suggests our re-launch could be in July, with perhaps just a few small changes in June. When that time comes we will begin to prioritise replacements for the stalls we have lost over the past 15 months, whilst trying to maintain a good balance of produce. Beyond that, we hope to broaden our range a bit too.

So for now it's still 'business as COVID-19 allows', but last month you proved that you still know how to enjoy the joyful event that is "Ta-Da..."

MARKET DAY IN SEDGEFIELD!

Sustainable Sedgefield

There is still time to sign up for the **Footpaths Sustainability Course**, designed for people who want to make changes in their daily life to reduce their carbon footprint.

We will have 7 sessions in total, each lasting 2 hours and taking place approximately every 2-3 weeks at a time agreed by the group.

The focus will be on 5 different topics - home energy, waste & water, transport, consumerism and food - all topped and tailed by an introduction and a 'where next?' session. Between sessions, participants will be encouraged to find out more about their own situation and look at changes they can make.

The focus is on achieving practical changes within a supportive environment. All the activities have been tried and tested in community groups in Leicester over a number of years and they do produce results!

There is no charge to take part, just a commitment to learning and a desire to make changes. We anticipate starting in April, and while Covid restrictions are in place, some of the sessions are likely to be online.

To find out more or to register your interest, please contact the organiser via Sedgefield News. Email news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk

With thanks to all our volunteers

Getting extra support from your energy supplier

Citizens Advice County Durham have an Energy Redress Scheme for social housing tenants and also run a national Energy Advice project, both of which can offer a wider range of energy related support. You'll normally be able to get priority services if your energy companies class you as 'vulnerable', for instance, if you

- are disabled or have a long-term health condition
 - are recovering from an injury
 - have mental health problems
 - don't speak or read English well
 - have children under 5 or are pregnant
 - have reached State Pension age
- If your situation isn't listed, you might still be able to sign up for priority services for other reasons - for example, if you're recently bereaved or you've returned to living independently after some time in residential care.



County Durham

Switchboard: 0300 323 1000 (Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm & Fri 9am-4:30pm)
Debt Advice line: 0300 323 2000 (Mon-Fri 9am-1pm)
General Adviceline 0808 278 7821 (Mon-Fri 10am-4pm)

SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Keep watching for scams.

Scams are taking various forms at the moment.

Currently using text messages are those asking you to click on a link to a web site. The most common of these are claiming to be from:

HMRC (tax refund); HSBC (check unusual activity on your account); Virgin Media (failed direct debit); NHS vaccine appointments (asking you to pay); Royal Mail (asking you to pay for a held-up parcel); Amazon (subscription); Netflix (subscription). DELETE ALL SUCH TEXTS.

Currently using letters is a company called CCS Collect who claim you have an unpaid debt and could face court action. A Sedgefield resident received this saying they owed money to BT. Upon checking with BT they owed them nothing.

DO NOT PAY MONEY TO THIRD PARTIES such as these to settle a debt. If you owe money pay it direct.

Automated telephone calls are also being used asking you to press 1 to avoid being charged. DO NOT RESPOND, HANG UP.

Cold Callers – have been seen again in Sedgefield. Some of these are ex-prisoners. DO NOT RESPOND TO COLD CALLERS, keep your door locked.

If you spot a scam report it to the Action Fraud Helpline or call them on 0300 123 2040.

Crime isn't as common as you think... but don't be a victim. Please lock up, stay safe, sleep well.

To report anything suspicious call Durham Constabulary on 101.
Call 999 in an emergency.
Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 (anon)
CPO 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

Continued from page 5

s106 money: a possible application for funding

In recent years the SDT's **Woodland & Wildlife** group have discussed the possibility of 'daylighting' a stream which was culverted years ago on the site of the old Winterton hospital. It is understood to be clean water.

The idea is to remove the stream from its culvert and let it run naturally under the B1278 and into the Skerne. It would greatly enhance the woodland area and help to increase bio-diversity - an attractive solution which we think it would be seen as a significant amenity.

In informal discussions with local charities and statutory organisations the idea has met with enthusiasm.

At the SDT meeting on the 22nd March the Trustees resolved to take the idea forward to the application for s106 funds from the open space part of the 'pot'.



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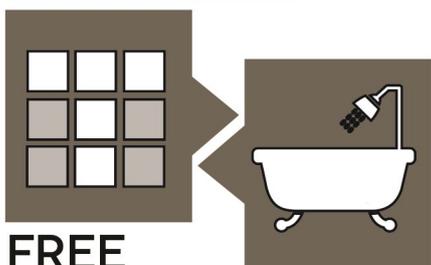
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SPORTS UPDATE

Email chrisjlines@aol.com

Many months have passed since I have been able to report on local grass roots sports action. It has been frustrating for everyone involved and the various sports organisations in our community have been doing all that they can to keep members motivated and informed. Now, there seems to be genuine optimism that training and competition can return in the not too distant future. However, because of the nature of the various outdoor and indoor sports, the pace of that return and the way it happens won't be the same for all. Regional and national governing bodies have a big influence on how things progress and of course, everything depends on the roadmap continuing as planned.

This month we have a summary of the current situation with the key sports in Sedgefield (correct as we go to print, but keep in touch with clubs for the very latest). Here's hoping that they can all bounce back and once again make ours a thriving and successful sporting community.

Football

Senior: The St. Edmund's FC league season is due to restart on Wednesday 31st March the plan is for it to be concluded by the end of May. The club has 13 league games to play and is still in both the County Cup and the Heart Foundation Cup (quarter finals stage). The two cups are run by County Durham FA and will be completed even if they run into June.

All match day rules regarding COVID social distancing restrictions will remain in place, the same as before the latest lockdown. Last season's County Cup final between Ferryhill Dynamos and Witton Park, abandoned once due to injury, then again due to a combination of bad weather and COVID, will now be played on Thursday 29th April. For more details about St. Edmund's FC, contact Phil Shann on 07944 501708.

Junior: Sedgefield Youth FC (SYFC) aims to return to training during the week commencing Monday 29th March, with league games resuming from Saturday 3rd April. The club has a new U7 team, plus teams in the U10 (two teams), U11 and U12 age groups. A new U17 team will start in the summer, playing home games at Darlington, due to the fact that the community college doesn't allow afternoon kick-offs.

SYFC contacts: David on 07515020766 / Ryan on 07446980831.

Club email address: club@sedgefieldyouthfc.com.

Rugby Union

Sedgefield District RUFC is preparing to restart in line with the RFU roadmap for community rugby. This allows training to begin from 29th March and matches under adapted laws from 26th April. If all goes to plan, this will allow a return to full competition in time for the new season in September.

The rugby club has invested in a new training facility at Hardwick Hall in preparation for the return, with new lighting and a scrum machine on the way, thanks to support from Durham County Council and Sport England. The club will always welcome new players of all abilities, whether they're new to the game, returning after time away, or looking for a fresh environment. Stay informed about club activities via its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sedgefield.districtrufc.

Bowls is a sport enjoyed by players of all ages. A minimum level of fitness is required, with an enjoyment of gentle exercise, fresh air and friendly company - ideal for getting outside again after the pandemic. Fishburn Bowls Club welcomes anyone from the surrounding area with an interest in bowling; male, female and all ages are invited to join. Find the club between the football pitches and the Fishburn Youth and Community Centre off Butterwick Road. Parking is at the gate near the football pavilion.

COVID-19 has resulted in the Club withdrawing this year from the leagues in which it normally competes. Members will compete in the club's own competitions, planned for two designated days of each week during the season. Further details in due course. For information about Fishburn Bowls Club and the latest on its plans for 2021, contact Carol Mason, secretary: 07446 032450 / 01740 238443, or Terry Graham, treasurer, on 01740 621627.

Contact us: news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk Sedgefield News is printed by The Print Factory: 01429 264777

Cricket

Provided that there are no delays, Sedgefield Cricket Club plans are: **From 29th March**, outdoor pre-season training & coaching (senior teams' pre-season sessions, Tuesdays & Thursdays)

Saturday 3rd April (Easter Saturday)

The annual 'Ground Force' day when everyone chips in to ensure that the ground is tip top for the season

From 9th April, Friday evening junior group coaching resumes - individual groups may start beforehand and parents will be contacted asap.

12th April, the bar reopens with a fully refurbished front patio and new outdoor furniture, the Club plans to open the bar for outdoor sales.

Saturday 17th April, start of the cricket season. Sedgefield 1st XI hosts Whitby 1st XI at 12:30pm (the 2nd XI will be away at Bedale).

Everyone at the club has fingers crossed that these dates don't change and everybody stays healthy. Decent weather will also be helpful!

We are still awaiting junior team fixtures are still awaited, as well as details of COVID-related measures for all match play. The club looks forward to seeing everyone once activities are underway. For more information about the bar, including clubhouse hire, call 07778 103080.

Cricket club membership enquiries to sccmemberships@outlook.com.

Athletics

Senior Sedgefield Harriers training/coaching sessions due to resume on Monday 29th March:

Mondays, 6 - 7pm - beginners & improvers at Hardwick Park, to encourage new & returning runners, Contact Clair Walker on clairwalker1@hotmail.co.uk.

Tuesdays, 6 - 7pm - short reps & hill sprints at Hardwick Park. Contact Ean Parsons on 07771 828568. Ean is a qualified UK Athletics endurance coach. Sessions are designed to build strength and speed.

Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm - runner-led 'effort' session at NETPark (until Easter) or Hardwick Park (from 14th April), designed to build runners' speed endurance, but suitable for runners of all abilities. Contact Chris Lines on chrisjlines@aol.com.

Thursdays 6 - 7pm - strength endurance at NETPark. Sessions designed to increase endurance. Contact Ean Parsons as above. For general enquiries, contact club secretary Bethany Raine at iveybethany@me.com or visit www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk.

Junior Sedgefield Harriers and Sedgefield parkrun are on the front page.

That's all for this month. Here's hoping that I can report on some real grass roots action again soon. Chris