

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

December 2019

EARLY DEADLINE for next edition - Thursday 12th December

Blooming Gold

Sedgfield in Bloom brought home gold once again from the Britain in Bloom awards. Still very popular from her days presenting children's TV, Baroness Floella Benjamin handed out the awards in her capacity as Vice President and Ambassador for the Royal Horticultural Society. Sedgfield in Bloom chairman Howard Smith and treasurer Barbara Smith were delighted to receive the award on behalf of Sedgfield's council gardeners and the team of volunteer Bloomers, all of whom work hard to keep Sedgfield blooming beautifully.

Judges were particularly impressed by the recent developments in Ceddesfeld Gardens and the collaboration between Bloomers council and community. Bloom secretary Norma Neal said, 'The support of local groups, businesses and individuals is much appreciated. Work continues all year and new members are always welcome to join the Blooming team.' For more information ring 620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk.



St Edmunds Explorer Unit

Christmas Card Delivery

Drop Off Your Cards at
Number Four *the* Library
Before December 18th

!! Sedgfield Addresses Only !!

Please Donate Generously
All Donations will go Towards
Unit Funds



What are these four doing in the rain? Find out on page 3



Foodbank News

Sedgfield Area Churches Together has continued to support the Foodbank project, both with the distribution point at Trimdon Village and through the collection of donated food and toiletries in the bins sited in various locations. Sadly, Foodbank is still needed to support people going through the very worst of times, many of them being affected by the changes in welfare benefits with the introduction of Universal Credit.

In the year to December 2018 in Co. Durham 158,652kgs of food was donated by the public to the Durham Christian Partnership which operates most of the foodbank distribution points in the county. This fed 6,758 children and 12,606 adults, a total of 19,364 people supported with food aid.

Donations from our area since April 1st this year amounted to 2055kg. In the seven months to the end of October, 3,617 children and 6,092 adults received food support, a total of 9,709 people. From the Trimdon Village distribution point 54 adults and 35 children received food aid, a total of 89 people.

County Durham foodbanks are able to assess and complete an application for gas and electric vouchers for those in need who have a pre-payment meter.

This scheme is funded by one of the major energy suppliers. The vouchers are valued £30 for the summer and £49 for the winter. Foodbanks have seen an increase in people experiencing fuel poverty and some have self disconnected due to poverty issues. It is a basic need to have heat, light and hot water in your own home.

Collection points are located in Sainsbury's Sedgfield, the Co-op in Trimdon Village and Sedgfield, each of the 8 church buildings in the area and in St. Williams school. In addition some of the schools also collect for foodbank when they celebrate harvest.

At this time of year, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas, please help to support those who are less fortunate than us. Remember this when you are shopping and buy some extra non-perishable food or toiletries and place them in a foodbank bin. Each contribution, however small, supports those who are facing food shortages, particularly at this time of year.

Thank you to those who volunteer at the distribution point in Trimdon Village, those who collect the food and transport it to Durham for collection and distribution round the county, and to those who donate food and toiletries. Without your support those 9,709 people who have received food aid this year may not have been helped.

Please remember that Foodbank can only accept donations of non-perishable food. If you would like to find out more about foodbank, or would like to volunteer, call Peter Brookes: 07785268041 or Michael King: 01740 620910.

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GREENER SEDGEFIELD

When the festivities are over and it's time to tidy up we might feel overwhelmed by the amount of new things we have obtained and the pile of mess left behind. Here is an attempt to help you with ideas how to tackle the rubbish and unwanted items pile.



Once the decorations come down and Christmas trees give up the prime position in our houses, these can be taken to household waste recycling centres where they will be turned into compost. Christmas cards and wrapping paper, as long as they don't contain glitter, plastic or sellotape, can be recycled together with paper and cardboard. Cards that are not recyclable could be cut up and used for kids craft projects or used as gift tags next Christmas. Please do bear in mind that cardboard can only be recycled as long as it's dry, so if your blue bin is already bursting put the excess cardboard inside a clear plastic bag next to the bin and it will be collected and recycled. Durham County Council experiences 30% increase of recycling over the festive period, let's do our bit and let them do their job properly.

For broken fairy lights and other electrical goods, many shops run a hand back scheme where you can hand over your old and broken ones when purchasing new. Alternatively you can take your broken fairy lights to the tip for recycling. The same applies to many hard plastic items like toys for example. Remember that anything that you put into your green bin will be incinerated whilst many items can be recycled if they are taken to household recycling centres. Check Reuse and Recycling A-Z list on the council website for advice on how to dispose of various items.

Food waste is its worst around the festive season. You can put your food leftovers to a good use to avoid waste. Online resources like BBC Good Food and Love Food Hate Waste offer plenty of ideas about what to do with odds and ends in your fridge. Whatever is left of a Christmas turkey can be used to make stock which, together with uneaten veg can be turned into a hearty and warming soup, just perfect for after a cold winter walk.

Well meant but unwanted gifts that do not come with a gift receipt and can not be returned or swapped are something every household is familiar with. There are various online sites and Facebook pages where you could sell or pass on for free anything that you do not want. Do not forget charities with causes close to your heart, but be careful with door to door collections - even when the bogus ones can be identified from the genuine ones there are usually contractors doing the collections on behalf of the charities which in fact benefit far less from your kind donations than the collector does, and you can never be sure what happens to the items you have donated in good faith. Places like Daisy Chain and Marie Curie on Portrack Lane in Stockton run their own shops and happily receive donated items directly from yourselves. They also take other items like toys and books that door to door collections rarely accept. For more information about recycling and ideas on sustainable living join Greener Sedgefield page on Facebook.

Buying local this Christmas

Two Sedgefield businesses have teamed up to encourage people to shop locally this Christmas. Bespoke card and picture maker All About Words and Betty's Boudoir are working together to enhance the range of festive gifts and cards available from within the community. Betty's Boudoir is now stocking a capsule collection of three All About Words Christmas cards, along with specially designed gift cards that customers can purchase, along with the shop's locally sourced clothing and accessories.

The two business women, Catherine Lines, at All About Words and Lily Grundy at Betty's Boudoir (right) will work together to promote each other's products. They are passionate about promoting local enterprise, and hope that people in Sedgefield will buy locally in the lead up to Christmas, from themselves and from all the other great businesses in Sedgefield.



A new face on Front Street

You may have spotted the striking new sign of Brown's Barbers of Sedgefield replacing Jayne's Fashions on Front Street. The proud new owner is Paula Peacock, (right) who many people will know from her time (nearly 15 years) cutting hair at Matthew Jones Barbers. **So fellas, if you've been puzzled, this is where to find Paula now!** After a hectic few weeks converting the former boutique, Paula opened her new shop on 11 November. There is space for an additional chair, so if any hairdresser is interested, call Paula on 07725 866209.

Sedgefield News from the past

by Martin F Peagam, The Time Traveller, for Sedgefield Local History Society.

Christmas Day in the Workhouse



December 1861 – 158 years ago

It was reported that the inmates of the Sedgefield Workhouse were 'bountifully regaled with a good old English dinner of Roast Beef and Plum Pudding with Nut Brown Ale', and in the afternoon enjoyed Spice Cake and Tea, and received gifts of nuts, oranges and tobacco. In this way 'the most abject poor fared as sumptuous as their more opulent neighbours'.

In December 1869 – 150 years ago

There was an inquest into the death of William Roxby, age 41, a Labourer and 'Lunatic' who had died at Sedgefield Asylum.

The inquest found that William had taken part in several dances as part of a Christmas party. He then sat down, looked unwell, and despite attention from those around him, died.

William was found to have choked on a piece of undigested potato, served as part of the Christmas Dinner, that had become lodged in his windpipe.

For more tales of Christmas in the Workhouse, come along to the Sedgefield Local History Society meeting in Ceddesfield Hall at 7.45pm on Monday 2nd December.



Plotting for the future

by Carole Lawford

The idea of my plot initially was to help my transition through a tough time from leading a normal life, working and driving, to a diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis and becoming disabled. The support I've had is phenomenal and I'm so grateful for it, from wherever it comes.

This support and the idea for sharing the experience, has led me to a change of direction. Several of the groups I already know and work with would like to visit, and further groups have been in touch since I've been writing this column. So, having had a very supportive meeting with our Parish Council, I recognised that in its wider form, my plot isn't a suitable place. Since then I've been considering a new location and building something that would ultimately benefit more people than I would have dreamed if I was restricted to my plot. Sometimes we start something that grows beyond where we'd initially dreamed.

Knowing now how many groups and people want this opportunity, I feel indebted and committed to following it through.

Durham County Council have also supported me, and I've attended courses on Social Enterprise, building contacts and my confidence in my new life. I have a great group of friends, all professional people like myself, who make up my Strategic Team. They will do the work I can longer do, and as I progress into my MS, they will take over and I will become a client.

We are now officially The Market Garden (Sedgefield) C.I.C. A community interest company that will reinvest all profits into the community and will have a profitable market garden, deliver training, sell the produce, hold events and lots of other great stuff the team are working on, and will be in place when we're set up.

What we need now is a location. I am discussing our needs and potential places within Sedgefield, with several possible locations. We need a plot of land where we can build this dream in my head, on a long-term basis (10 years at least, but preferably longer). It will benefit the area by bringing in visitors, promoting Sedgefield and our fabulous businesses, including our Farmers Market. It will be here for local people to use, purchase from, engage with and support.

Sedgefield businesses and residents already support those living with Dementia and Alzheimer's and their families, and our Market Garden will be built with that *continued opposite*

Big changes planned at Sedgefield Community College

Over the summer, the governors at Sedgefield Community College held a consultation to consider proposals to convert to academy status and join the Laidlaw Schools Trust.



SEDGEFIELD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"An Outstanding School" - Ofsted

Academies are schools funded by directly by the Department for Education. This places them outside local authority control and gives them more flexibility over their curriculum and budget. The governors considered a number of options, but their preferred option was to join an established sponsored academy trust. They believe this will provide a number of benefits:

- Providing additional revenue to give Sedgefield students new opportunities and experiences
- Providing financial support to community based educational programmes
- Sedgefield Community College, as an 'outstanding' school, would be the 'lead' school in the Trust and retain much autonomy, control and influence
- Providing additional revenue and capital investment to build a school improvement team
- Providing capital investment to Sedgefield Community College to further develop its campus

The Laidlaw Trust currently has six academy schools across the North East and receives financial support from their sponsor Lord Laidlaw. Over 4,000 students and more than 700 staff are currently part of the trust. The schools are located in Newcastle and Sunderland.

As part of the plans a new, state of the art, teacher training hub will be commissioned and built on the Sedgefield Community College campus. This will support teacher training programmes and provide additional social and dining space for the school. A consultation on this proposal is taking place and a public exhibition was held on 4 November. The hub is expected to open in September 2021.

In October, Mr Davies, the headmaster, announced his intention to step down from his role at the end of the current academic year. Mr Davies will take on a new challenge to oversee the secondary education provision across the trust. He will also oversee the build and development of the teacher training hub.

Happy birthday junior parkrun

On Sunday 3rd November Sedgefield junior parkrun celebrated it's 4th birthday. Since set up 4 years ago young people have clocked up some impressive statistics: 1966 different young people have represented 59 different running clubs; run a staggering 29,258km between them over a time of 132 days, 21hrs, 42 minutes and 39 seconds; and have achieved 3,551 PBs (that's personal best times).

The event is a free 2km walk/jog/run for 4-14 year olds and we meet at the visitors centre at Hardwick Park every Sunday at 8.50am.

A special mention must go to Les Wadey who had the vision to set up Sedgefield junior parkun (Sjp) and made the event what it is today. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of Sjp, as a participant, parent or carer, encouraging children to get involved and especially the volunteers who make it possible, week in, come rain or shine. On behalf of the co-ordinators, THANK YOU.

Every week we need at least 25 volunteers in order for the event to take place. No experience is needed you just need to be registered with parkrun which is free and only takes a few minutes.

And yes, those lovely people under the umbrella on page 1 are four of our volunteers, John Killingley, Karen Killingley, Anne Cox and Colin Everson.

For additional information please see our website <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/sedgefield-juniors/>

Plotting for the future continued

in mind, accessible to everyone, especially those who have served in the military. It will be a place of vision, creativity, education, fun and enterprise. I can't wait to see it come together, so watch this space. Sedgefield is already a great place to live, we're going to make it extra-special for many.

So if you are a landowner, know of somewhere that may be suitable or would like to help us in another way, please feel free to contact us on enquiries@themarketgardensedgefield.org

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year and look forward to 2020 in a way I could not have done a few months ago. We really are plotting for the future. Carole

Could you be our Arts Correspondent? If you love music, theatre, fine arts and craft, would you like to join our team and 'create' this page? Call for a chat on 07572 502904 or email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

We Need A Little Christmas.

'We need a little music, need a little laughter, need a little singing ringing through the rafters.' In this era of mental health awareness, Jerry Herman's words from the musical "Mame" may never have rung more true. The numerous health benefits, both physical and emotional, of interacting with the creative arts are now well publicised.

If, this year, you've grown a little leaner, grown a little colder, grown a little sadder or a little older, then Sedgefield Lyric Singers' Christmas concert may be just the thing to provide you with a snappy, happy ever-after, this Christmas tide. Join your mellifluous Lyric Singers, the increasingly talented SLYC and the fabulous Lirica in their Christmas concert this year to celebrate all that is good, holy and uplifting about winter, Christmas and our most musical of festive seasons.

Performances will be held on **Friday 13th and Saturday 14th December** in the Parish Hall, Sedgefield, starting at 7:30pm. Tickets for this uplifting musical modicum of magic are in great demand: to avoid disappointment, organise yours now! Available from Tickety Boo, or call 01740 621196 or members of the choirs. Tickets are £7 adults & £5 U16s.

We all need a little music now and again - and I think it's fair to say, we all need a little Panto too. See below for brilliant seasonal entertainment.



Sedgefield Lyric Singers,
Lirica and SLYC present

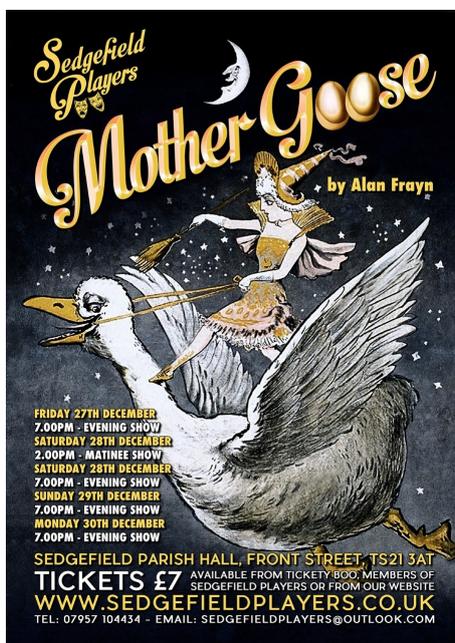
We Need a Little Christmas

Friday 13th & Saturday 14th December 2019

7.30pm, Parish Hall,
Sedgefield

Tickets £7 / £5 U16s

Lirica 



Sedgefield Players
Mother Goose
by Alan Frayn

FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER
7.00PM - EVENING SHOW
SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER
2.00PM - MATINEE SHOW
SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER
7.00PM - EVENING SHOW
SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER
7.00PM - EVENING SHOW
MONDAY 30TH DECEMBER
7.00PM - EVENING SHOW

SEDGEFIELD PARISH HALL, FRONT STREET, TS21 3AT
TICKETS £7 AVAILABLE FROM TICKETY BOO, MEMBERS OF SEDGEFIELD PLAYERS OR FROM OUR WEBSITE
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TEL: 07957 104434 - EMAIL: SEDGEFIELDPLAYERS@OUTLOOK.COM



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HARDWICK PARK, SEDGEFIELD

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2019

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RUN STARTS AT 10.30AM
DOGS ARE WELCOME
ADULT £12.50 | UNDER 12'S £6 | DOGS £3

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Betty's Boudoir

With Love from Betty's Boudoir

FASHION SHOW

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT | PARISH HALL, SEDGEFIELD
TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 7.30PM
TICKETS £5
(TICKETS AVAILABLE AT JAIZ HAIR SALON OR PAY ON THE DOOR)
EACH TICKET INCLUDES FREE GLASS OF WINE AND A MINCE PIE

Rock & Blues Club going strong

2019 has been another great year for Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club; 7 fantastic gigs with a mix of local 'up and coming' bands and established rock and blues musicians at the top of their game from around the UK.

Our great reputation continues with the Parish Hall providing the setting for a fabulous evening, combined with great sound and friendly supportive and appreciative crowds.

So, thank you for your attendance and support this year, we hope you have a great Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you in 2020.

The next gig is **Friday 24th January** with Kirk Fletcher supported by the Emma Wilson Band.

As always, find more details at www.sedgefieldblues.com

Events at The Manor House

We have a great programme of events to start the New Year
31st January – 2nd February is Independent venue Week



Friday 31st January:
The Alan Hull Songbook
with Dave Hull-Denholm and Ian Thomson of Lindisfarne

1st February: The Bird Scarers
with Michael and Gary Chaplin – tales of life in the Durham Coalfield

2nd February: Songwriters Afternoon
with Phil Caffrey, Hayley McKay & David Neil Crabtree

Tickets for all 3 events £10 each or for the whole weekend at £25.

Friday 21st February
'Call my Quaff' wine tasting evening
with Newcastle Wine School.
Tickets £25. More details on www.manorhousesedgefield.co.uk/calendar

All tickets available from
The Manor House
01740 629 264
enquiries@manorhousesedgefield.co.uk
or www.wegotickets.com (search Sedgefield).



DIARY DECEMBER 2019

Submit events to diary.sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

- Sun 1st** **Sedgefield Christmas Farmers' Market** 8.30am -12.30pm
- Mon 2nd** **Sedgefield Methodist Wives & Friends.** Carols, mince pies & ginger wine. Contact Margaret Dickerson 01740 621093 or Jennifer Mason 01740 620296.
Sedgefield Local History Society, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm. Christmas in the Workhouse by Martin Peagram.
- Tue 3rd** **Living in the Light Advent course** (session 2 of 4), Sedgefield Methodist Church (New Room) at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend even if you missed the first session. Sedgefield Area Churches Together.
Christmas Flower Demonstration, in aid of Cancer Research. 2pm in St. Mary Magdalene Church, Trimdon. Tickets are £5 and are available from Suzanne on 01429 882250.
Sedgefield Tea Dance, Sedgefield Parish Hall 1-3pm, £2.50 including refreshments. For information, call Joyce 01740 622601 or Ann 01740 629070.
- Wed 4th** **Sedgefield Women's Institute**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7.15pm. "Zambezi Sunshine Trust" with John Gillette, catered buffet, competition – a decorated Christmas cracker.
- Fri 6th** **Quiz night**, Sedgefield Cricket Club, 8.30pm.
Sedgefield and District U3A at Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Food & festival fun. All welcome. Guests £3 at the door, 01740 629574.
Veterans Coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-12pm.
- Sat 7th** **St Edmund's Gift Day**, 10-11.30am. Coffee morning and gift day. Please come along and join us. Details below.
- Tue 10th** **Living in the Light Advent course** (session 3 of 4), Sedgefield Methodist Church (New Room) at 7pm.
Ladies Club, Ceddesfeld Hall, Christmas social & buffet
Sedgefield Tea Dance - details as Tue 3rd.
- Wed 11th** **Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch Meeting**, Sedgefield Social Club (Upstairs Room) from 7pm.
- Fri 13th** **We Need A Little Christmas**, concert by Sedgefield Lyric Singers, Lirica & SLYC. Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets £7/£5 (under 16s) from Ticket Boo, members of the choir or 01740 621196.
Christmas Live Music Night, Sedgefield Cricket Club, 7.30pm. Marty Craggs Little Band Jam + Billingham Silver Band, Flossie Malavialle, Trevor Bond & John Wrightson Band. £11, for tickets 01740 621347.
Country Market, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10-11.30am. Cakes, crafts, plants, refreshments, everyone welcome.
- Sat 14th** **We Need A Little Christmas**, details as Friday 13th
- Tue 17th** **Sedgefield Community Hospital, 10am to 4pm. Christmas Fayre.** Raising funds for extra equipment to help rehabilitate patients.
Living in the Light Advent course (final session), Sedgefield Methodist Church (New Room) at 7pm.
Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club Members' Christmas Meal
- Thu 19th** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Fire Station, 10.30am-12pm. For dementia clients and their carers only.

Change of Date

Mordon & Bradbury Annual Whist Evening has been moved to **Tuesday 10th December** at 7.30pm in Mordon Village Hall. This is to accommodate the hall being used as a polling station.

Coming Soon

Saturday 18th January at 7.30pm
Sedgefield in Bloom: Dancing to Sharon Cardno in the Parish Hall. Tickets are £10 and include a pie & peas supper. They are available from council offices.

St. Edmund's Christmas Gift Day & Coffee Morning

December 7th
Do you have a craft you enjoy and want to demonstrate and sell?
This is an opportunity to promote your craft, with 10% of profits donated to the Church. Call Julie 01740 622391.

Come and join us.

Church will be open from 10am to 11.30am, with cakes and cards for sale, and an opportunity, if you like, to make a donation towards the life and work of St. Edmund's Church in our community. We look forward to seeing you.

Sedgefield Library

Tel: 03000 269521 **Opening Hours:**

Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Thursdays: 10am - 6pm

Fridays: 1pm - 7pm

Saturdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Basic computing, tailored to your needs:
Thursdays 10.30 - 12.30

'Boogie Beat' pre-school session:

Thursdays 2pm: Booking essential

Craft Group: 1.30pm 2nd & 4th Friday

Book Circle: 3rd Friday 2pm: new members always welcome.

Christmas Refreshments: Thursday 19th
A thank you to our borrowers

The Hub

@Sedgefield Community College

New Dance Generation - Monday

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

Clubbercise: Tues 6pm

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

Blade Taekwondo: Sat 10.30am

Call **01740 617882** for all enquiries.

December at Sedgefield Social Club

Sat 7th: Stenna

Sat 14th: Sue Allan

Tue 24th: Sarah Fitzpatrick

Tue 31st: Gilly

Sew Easy Sessions in December

Mondays 6.30-9pm

Venue: Parish Hall Boardroom.

Ceddesfeld Acoustic Group

First Friday & last Wednesday of every month. All instruments welcome.

St John Fisher Catholic Church Weekly Mass Times

Weds & Fri mornings, 9.45am

Sunday 10.45am

Adoration on Thursday at 7pm

Legion of Mary, Friday am after Mass

parishsecretary1961@btconnect.com

New Generation Church

Christmas Special: "Heaven's got Talent"
December 15th at 6.30pm

Bethany Centre, Woodham Way,

Newton Aycliffe DL5 4UD

Carol Service, December 22nd, 5pm

Sedgefield Methodist Hall Non-Profit Playgroup

Mon, Wed & Thursday 9.30-11.30am in term time. For children aged 2 to 4.
Contact Barbara Smith 01740 620923 or Jane Jones 01740 620893

An Advent & Christmas Calendar of Christian Celebrations, 2019

can be found on our website. Just type this link into your browser.

<http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk/images/poster-wall/ChristmasServices2019.jpg>

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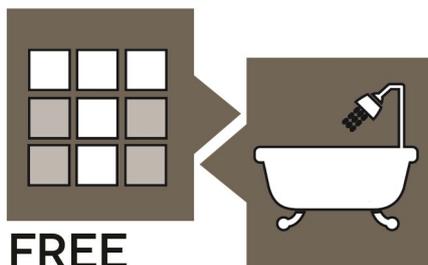
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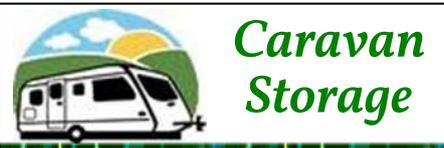
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SEDGEFIELD VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Personal Attack Alarms

Evidence has shown that attackers panic on hearing a Personal Attack Alarm and their instinct is to flee the scene. It works so well that Police are recommending it strongly as a deterrent.

Last month we advised you to buy one but since then have acquired around 20 alarms from Durham Constabulary to give away free to Sedgefield residents. These are being snapped up, however we are expecting to receive a further supply from the Police and these will be made available free of charge at our next NHW Meeting on 11th December 2019.

We are also working with Durham Constabulary to acquire other crime prevention equipment items which will also be made available free of charge and include Shed Alarms, UV Pens, Plug in Timers, Window shock alarms, Purse Bells and Faraday Cages (for car keys).

In due course we will be compiling packs that can be loaned to residents who are going on holiday or leaving their premises unoccupied, which will include TV simulators and 'Patlock' heavy duty patio locks.

A Dash Cam for your house

Part of our loan pack mentioned above could be a 'dash cam' for your house! The 'YI' is a range of CCTV cameras that is nothing to do with Geordies but provides a sharp HD digital picture which is ideal for face recognition. They are totally independent, wireless, night vision cameras that are controlled remotely from your phone. This makes their position flexible with an easy plug and play operation. It can be placed on your window sill to be operated like a dash cam. These cameras are very competitively priced and show that protecting your property can be cost effective, in fact they are so inexpensive most buyers acquire two or three. Look up the YI on the web and let us know what you think via Facebook. PC Lamb at Sedgefield Police has confirmed that they will give full support to any CCTV evidence you provide.

Street signs

Hopefully you have noticed our new yellow 'Beware' Neighbourhood Watch signs around our village. Volunteers have erected 22 signs to date and we would like to know if you think we need more and if so where they should be installed. The aim is to warn criminals that residents in the area are vigilant and will report suspicious activity. (The rest is up to you!)

Join our Facebook page

A new 'Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch' Facebook page has been launched as a way of exchanging information with Sedgefield residents. We are currently adding information so that you can keep up to speed on what we are doing but it's also a vehicle for you all to contact us, raise concerns, get feedback and flag up suspicious activity.

Police Report

Our Police Beat Team have reported that thankfully, the occurrence of crime in Sedgefield has recently reduced overall. However, it has not completely disappeared and shoplifting continues to be a problem at Sainsburys and the Co-op. This may be the calm before the storm as dark nights and Christmas are a favourite time for crime so please stay vigilant.

Illegal parking and speeding remain a concern and the Speed Watch initiative will continue where NHW and the Beat Team log speeding offences and the Police issue warnings.

Next NHW Meeting 11th December at 7pm in the Social Club (upstairs). Please enjoy the festive season and remember to keep your doors locked, set your light timers, check on neighbours living alone, and don't advertise the great gifts in your house by leaving the empty boxes on display outside!



For Local Police, call 101

to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information. Please keep notes and ask for an incident number.

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Any information we receive will be developed and acted upon.

Skerne Medical Group

We have a limited number of flu vaccines remaining and as winter starts to draw in we would like to invite all eligible patients who have not yet received a flu vaccine to contact us for an appointment.

We are also able to offer vaccination (nasal spray) to children who were aged 2 or 3 on 31st August 2019. Please note we are not able to vaccinate children who missed the vaccination at school unless the child is eligible due to a medical condition.

We also offer a vaccination against shingles to eligible patients. Most patients in their 70s are eligible due to their age, eligibility is lost once you attain 80 years of age and patients only require one vaccine in their lifetime. Please contact the surgery to see if you are eligible & to book an appointment.

Identification of veterans

If you are a services veteran (e.g. Army, Navy, Marines, RAF, TA) please ensure your GP surgery is aware along with relevant dates of military service so an entry can be added to your medical record. This identification will enable your GP surgery to provide you with the medical care and support you may require.

Mini Wetlands

A new venture from the Woodland & Wildlife group: they have been developing scrapes for the benefit of frogs, toads, newts or any other wildlife which needs a watery breeding spot or a refuge or simply a drink.

Great work!



STEVE'S NATURE DIARY DECEMBER

One of the highlights of recent walks has been the abundance and variety of fungi that has been reported. There have been several Fungi Foray's organised by various organisations including "The Wildlife Trusts". These are walks led by experts looking specifically at mushrooms, toadstools and various fungi. A question I am often asked is what are fungi? They are not plants because they can't make their own food using sunlight. They are not animals either because they don't have mouths or stomachs - so they can't eat like humans do. They have to break down their food first and then absorb what they need for growth and development. They have their very own group called the Fungal Kingdom. The Fungal Kingdom is one of the largest kingdoms of living organisms with at least 1.5 million species. The other question people also ask is what is the difference between mushrooms and toadstools? Technically, there is no *scientific difference* between a mushroom and a toadstool. Although some people say that mushrooms are edible and toadstools are not, this is incorrect and misleading. All can be broadly described as the fruiting body of a fungus. The main part of the fungus are tiny white threads spreading through the earth or rotting material. When conditions are right they produce the fruiting bodies which when ripe produce millions spores that are of the next generation.

With more than 15,000 species in the UK, many do not have English names and are known only by their scientific name which can be a bit daunting for the beginner. But those that have English names can have very descriptive and imaginative names. Chicken of the woods and King Alfred's cakes, pink ballerinas and scarlet elf cups, blewits and boletes; some are delightfully named, some delicious, and others poisonous. Every habitat is home to a great variety of fungi and although November can be the peak season for going on a fungus foray but you can still find them during December especially if we haven't had too many frosts. Tees Valley Wildlife Trust's Saltburn Gill is an excellent site to visit at this time of the year for a variety of fungi as is Durham Wildlife Trusts nature reserve Black Plantation near Slatley. Another place worth a visit is the Valley

bottom at Durham Botanic Gardens, a perfect location for a fungal foray: deciduous beech and oak woodland on one side of a small stream, a conifer plantation on the other, with plentiful fallen timber. It also has a newly installed entrance archway formed from 10-foot-tall toadstool sculptures, made by local artist-blacksmith Graeme Hopper and financed by the Friends of the Garden.



As well as many delicious wild mushrooms, fungi also include some of our most poisonous species, aptly named species such as the sickener, poison pie, death cap and the destroying angel. NEVER eat any fungi you find unless you are 100% certain about their identity. Unless you are with an expert, it is best to leave mushrooms where you find them - that way, others can enjoy their beauty - and go home with a photo instead.

Running between Sedgfield and Hamminkeln by Alda Hummelinck

Our exchange trips to compete in Citylauf, Hamminkeln and Serpentine, Sedgfield have become part of our regular calendar.

During the August bank holiday weekend, a group of Sedgfield Harriers went to Hamminkeln to take part in the town's running festival Citylauf!

On arrival our hosts took us to the Roadhouse to meet up with the rest of our German friends. First-timers were made to feel very welcome. On Saturday, Rolf Lindau took us out on a long but leisurely bicycle trip around the beautiful Niederrhein region, followed by a trip to the annual beer festival, and finally a meal in the local Italian restaurant where we had some very deep conversations about the history of Germany, Berlin and what Europe might look like next year.

Sunday was race day and very hot. The 5k race was still relatively cool at 9.30am but the 10k race didn't start until 11am when it was hot but the German and Sedgfield supporters cheered all the runners round the four laps of the town. An amazing weekend.

Mid September, 19 Germans, including the Mayor of Hamminkeln Bernd Romanski, stayed in Durham House and with their Harriers friends. After coffee and cakes, it was cricket at the Community College. Of course we did parkrun on Saturday, followed by breakfast at the Tower Café. That afternoon, we visited the HMS Trincomalee in Hartlepool and walked from Seaton Carew to the mouth of the Tees where we explained the industrial background to the area. Saturday evening was spent back at Durham House with home-made pizza, German beer and some hard-fought pool competitions!

Sunday was Serpentine day! The weather wasn't great but our Hamminkeln friends still showed some amazing performances with Andrea Pfister being the fastest lady overall and Werner Kamps being the fastest Hamminkeln runner! In the afternoon, we visited Durham Another fantastic weekend. Here's to 2020.



YOUR LETTERS

A big thank you to everyone who knitted/crocheted the poppies to go around our Memorial Garden fence on the Green. The 300+ poppies look absolutely wonderful.

Jean Easson, Sedgfield



Special Remembrance

Willowdene Care Home was delighted to welcome Ron Eyles of St Edmunds Church to the home, to conduct a Remembrance Service for our residents and relatives.

One of our residents, Ivy, was born in 1915 during the First World War and although she has no recollection of the War she has many funny and amusing stories from the Second World War where she was a lady of 24 when the war started. Many of her friends and relatives were lost in this War which made the service more poignant. The service opened with Amazing Grace, one of Ivy's favourite songs. The singing could be heard throughout the ground floor and the lounge was full to the rafters with residents and relatives alike. Everyone had such a lovely morning and after the service they enjoyed a quiz with cakes and refreshments. The Parish of Upper Skerne visits the home monthly and the next visit will be Tuesday 3rd December at 11 am. If anyone would like to come along, enjoy the service and sample the Willowdene hospitality, please get in touch with Angela Penman at Willowdene Care Home on 771310.

CEDDSFELD HALL

Home of Sedgefield Community Association

The dark nights are now well and truly here and SCA were very pleased to welcome families and friends to Ceddesfeld Hall for Sedgefield Town Council's annual firework display and pumpkin competition. The event was very well organised with a fabulous display of fireworks and pumpkins, much enjoyed and appreciated by the many visitors.

As December draws near, groups and sections that use Ceddesfeld are busy planning and preparing for festive events.

In support of STC Snow Party

a Christmas Craft Fayre will take place in the main hall on Saturday 30th November from 1pm to 3.45 pm. There will be a varied range of stalls, including a tombola; refreshments will be served and the bar will also be open.

Friday 20th December

Following STC 'Carols on the Green', a glass of warming mulled wine will be served at Ceddesfeld, followed by a night of live music with Ceddesfeld Ukulele Band. The programme includes some Christmas songs as well as lots of other popular music, the bar is open and the event is free.

On Christmas Eve there is a table-top quiz night, which begins at 8 pm. There will be prizes for the winning team as well as mince pies and nibbles. This is another free event and everyone is welcome to come along a join in the fun.

Looking ahead to next year,

SCA's traditional Burns Supper is to take place on Saturday 25th January. A drinks reception is followed by a 5 course meal (choice of haggis or roast beef in advance please) to include a cheese board and coffee. In true tradition there will be 'pipes, toasts, talks and quotes' too, all for £25. Tickets can be purchased by contacting any of the numbers below.

Last but not least...

Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre is on Saturday 16th May 2020.

Make a date in your diary!

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

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST NEWS

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Sedgefield Farmers Market

Sunday 1st December

farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk / charitystall@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk

Anyone who came to last month's market - or even who just saw our Facebook page - will know that it was a stunning success. We know how winter can affect an outdoor market, but there are reasons to be cheerful!

There is a growing interest in good local produce, low food miles and the sheer quality that our producers achieve. We hope customers who have tried once or twice will return regularly, and spread the word.

Two examples of the great value to be found - cheaper cuts of meat, as at the traditional butcher's shop and prized by keen cooks, are plentiful; and as for winter vegetables, well, the queue is the only witness you need!

As well as the regulars, we look forward to welcoming our newest stalls back for their second month - that's Kettle & Keg's coffee and hot beverages and the Wearside Bakehouse for fresh artisan bread. Readmans return with Christmas wreaths, plants and other decorations.

To get you into the early Christmas spirit, SDT will have free mince pies and hot ginger wine to hand out while stocks last. With seasonal songs from Sedgefield Hardwick school choir and Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir, getting in the mood should be easy! The Woodland Trust return to the Community stall, and lastly, Sedgefield Farmers Market sturdy reusable shopping bags are always available; could make a super-useful Christmas present wrapper!



We're not predicting snow, but this winter market from a previous year did look awfully pretty!

Homework Help has been very active this term - well done and a big thank you to all the students and volunteer helpers (plug: more helpers are always welcome, so that we can help more students!) Many thanks also to Katie and Gary and the team at the library - your good-natured help and support in hosting us are much appreciated. Contact homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.

Let us help you to reduce your Energy costs

Sedgefield Development Trust are very much aware that many of our residents do not have or do not use computers. In the very competitive world of energy pricing, if you do not access the internet, you are unable to take advantage of the best energy tariffs which, in the main, are only displayed on comparison websites.

The energy switching scheme which SDT promote is available to all, and over the past four years, at the time of the auction, has produced tariffs which have been the best in the energy market. so if you don't use a computer, why not contact us? We will complete all the registration paperwork for you and see if we can help reduce your energy costs. Contact our helpline on 07980 134 594 or come along and talk to us on the SDT stall at the monthly Farmers Market. Remember you will be only talking to Sedgefield people and you will not be committing yourself to anything by talking to us.

The next auction will be held in February 2020 with the following key dates applying: Registration from 3rd December 2019 to 10th February 2020 Auction Day 11th February 2020 Personal Offers issued the 25th February Final Day for Offer Acceptance 24th March

Don't forget if you are part of the scheme now and your existing energy contract comes to an end before the end of April 2020, you need to register for this auction. If you are happy to register on line yourself, go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk, open the ENERGY SWITCH section, simply click on the 'REGISTER NOW' button, then click on the 'SIGN UP TODAY' button and fill out your details, again if you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

SPORTS UPDATE

Email your reports to chrisjlines@aol.com

As another year draws to a close, it's awards season again and BBC Sports Personality of the Year is on the near horizon, to be held in Aberdeen on 15th December. There will be plenty of great candidates from a wide range of sports, for the main award and the team prize. However, I can't look beyond Ben Stokes and the ICC Cricket World Cup winning England team for at least two of the gongs, while Trevor Bayliss has to be a strong favourite for the coach award too. Of course, if one of the home nations had won the Rugby Union World Cup or Women's Football World Cup, then the story might be different, but as things stand, cricket (including a graduate from the Durham CCC Academy) should feature very prominently. Back to the grass roots...



Three of the Sedgefield Youth F.C. players (l-r) George Davey, Noah Young, Dan Dickenson.

Youth Football

The last few weeks have been eventful for all four Sedgefield Youth FC teams. Each team is performing very well and it is clear to see all of the work on and off the pitch is paying off. The U9s are in their first ever season and are going from strength to strength, playing great football while achieving a mixture of results. The U9 coaches, Todd Young and Richard Kilner, are new to their roles, but they have been outstanding in getting the team up and running and are creating excellent training sessions to develop the young players. The U10s Saturday team narrowly missed out on promotion on the last day of the previous season, but bounced straight back and got their winter campaign off to a flying start with a win. The U10s Sunday team are in their first season and are looking very comfortable with 19 goals in their last three games, conceding none. The U11s have played seven games so far this season, winning six and drawing one. They have already scored 49 goals, more than during the whole of last season.

Sedgefield Youth FC would like to say a massive thank you to everyone that helps the club. The children, coaches, sponsors and all of those who work behind the scenes. The parents/supporters have also been a massive help, whether it be running a tuck shop, helping with the set up on match days, or just being there to support the club. The club is also grateful to Lakota Penny and Tim Dredge, Sedgefield Co-op, and Durham County Councillors David Brown and John Robinson, for helping to raise funds for the club. If you would like to start a team or would like to be involved with the club in any way, please email the Sedgefield Youth FC chairman at sedgefieldyouthfc@gmail.com.

Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers recently held the club's annual dinner and awards night at Hardwick Hall Hotel. During the event, the following awards were presented:

- Newcomer of the year: Sam Rudd
- Track and Field Athlete of the year: Sue Dobson
- Individual Performance of the Year: Lisa Darby
- Volunteer of the Year: Stuart Park
- Club Runner of the year: Marie Walker
- Club Member of the year: Pete King
- Dave Sawyer Endurance Award: Ian Blakemore
- Grand Prix Elite Men: Mark Raine
- Grand Prix Elite Women: Rosie Warnett
- Grand Prix Division 1: David Walker Grand Prix Division 2: Ian Spencer
- Grand Prix Division 3: Fay Uphill Grand Prix Division 4: Helen Frame
- Time Trial Most Improved Female: Helen Godfrey
- Time Trial Most Improved Male: Roger Roebuck
- Time Trial Fastest Male: Ciaran Lines Time Trial Fastest Female: Lisa Darby
- Time Trial Best Male Attender: Rich Fearnside
- Time Trial Best Female Attender: Christine Hearmon.

Congratulations to all the award winners. The focus of many Harriers is now on the winter cross country season and the next big event on the calendar is

Squash

The squash season is gathering pace with the Durham & Cleveland Leagues now in full swing, and the county programmes providing plenty of opportunity for Sedgefield's finest to test themselves against the best players in the region. A record entry from Sedgefield Squash Club saw no less than eight juniors enter the County Championships in Redcar. All acquitted themselves very well, with Ben Wilberforce finishing runner-up in the U17 boys' competition, and Lauren Prynne, Katelyn Craig and Richard Flanagan placing third in their respective categories. However, the highlight was Jenny Walker's five-set thriller to win the U17 girls' title. In a tightly contested final, the lead changed hand numerous times, before Jenny came from behind to win the final set and the match - a fantastic performance under pressure. Well done to everyone who competed and represented the club.

At the other end of the age scale, five of Sedgefield's more senior players competed in the County Masters last month. Leading the way was Tom McKay, who finished runner-up in the over 35 men's category, while Chris Rowsby headed a strong Sedgefield contingent in the over 55s, reaching the semi-final, with Gordon Peden and Neil Bunney both making the quarter-finals, as did Andy Black in the over 45s.

Meanwhile, two of Sedgefield's senior teams have made excellent starts to the season and remain unbeaten as I write. The men's fourth team are top of their table after five wins out of five, while the newly formed fifth team enjoyed their first ever win in the same division. The ladies' team are looking a formidable outfit this season, with four wins out of four, and having already taken a major scalp in defeating Yarm, who have been crowned champions in each of the past four seasons. Watch this space for more news from a title race that will surely go down to the wire.

SEDGEFIELD
HARRIERS
ATHLETICS CLUB



the North East Cross Country Championships in Alnwick on Saturday 14th December. Given the recent weather, it looks likely to be a properly muddy occasion!

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

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