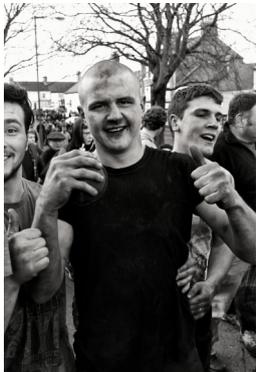


SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

March 2022 Edition

Deadline for April - Tuesday 15 March



2015 winner, James Archer



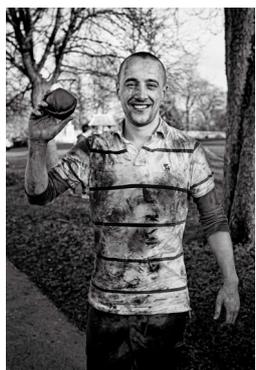
2016 winner, Daz Clemmet



2017 winner, Tom Adcock



2018 winner, Joe Saunders



2019 winner, Mike Adcock

The Ball Game returns

Did you know that the Sedgefield Ball Game is believed to date back to the 13th century when St Edmund's Church was completed and the stonemasons challenged the townsfolk to a celebratory game of football?

Similar Shrove Tuesday games also take place in Corfe Castle (Dorset), Ashbourne (Derbyshire), Atherstone (Warwickshire) and Alnwick (Northumberland).

In celebration of the Ball Game returning, we are delighted to feature this stunning set of images from photographer Stephen Curry - see his appeal for help below.

We look forward to seeing Stephen's portrait of the 2022 winner in our April edition. You can see more of Stephen's images at futureproofphotography.co.uk.

Are you a winner?

I'm originally from Sedgefield and have been photographing the Ball Game most years since 1995, continuing despite no longer living in the village.

As a photographer I cover a variety of work, but mainly documentary photography. I am aiming to publish a book of the game which is in early planning, I'm looking to add a final part to this and need some help. I am looking to photograph as many past winners of the game as I can find, to add to the book. I currently have 21 winners but there are many more. If you have won the game or know anyone that has, could you please get in touch. Please email me at curry.s@hotmail.co.uk or call me on 07752 431883 and we can make some arrangements. Alternatively, feel free to say hello at this year's game.

Stephen Curry



2020 winner, Paul Johnson



Platinum celebrations

In February, we marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in school. This was a very important event in our ongoing commitment to actively promote British values in school and to create opportunities for students that go beyond the limitations of a typical curriculum. In this case in particular, it allowed us the opportunity to enable our students to acquire a broad general knowledge of, and respect for, public institutions and services in England. Students learned about the Queen and her role, her ascension to the throne and about the different countries in the Commonwealth.



Planting a cherry blossom tree in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

This culminated in a day of celebrations which included staff wearing red, white and blue, Victoria sponge cakes being served from the school kitchen and the screening of the coronation around the school. Our lasting tribute to mark the Queen's 70 years on the throne was to 'plant a tree for the Jubilee' as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. Members of our 'Eco Squad' chose to plant a cherry blossom sapling and positioned it outside the entrance to the school, along with a commemorative plaque. We look forward to seeing it grow and bloom over the coming years.

Sedgefield Hardwick - Plastic Fantastic?

Children in Year 3 at Sedgefield Hardwick have been celebrating recently, as they have earned the John Muir 'Discovery Award', in 'recognition of awareness and responsibility for wild places'. In order to qualify for the award, the children undertook a programme called 'Plastic Fantastic?', ran by OASES, in which they explored the impact that single-use plastics have upon our local environment, and explored ways in which this problem could be reduced and nullified. Alongside this, they also undertook tasks which involved looking after the wild spaces in our community, and learned about the importance of nurturing and respecting these areas, so that our natural wildlife can thrive and flourish.

The children have been very enthused by the programme, and are full of ideas and projects that they would like to undertake. They would be very interested in hearing from any local conservation and wildlife groups who may be able to assist them with further caring for our local wildlife and environment!



Sedgefield Primary



Outdoor Team Adventures

An adventurous time was had by Year 6 pupils at Sedgefield Primary in their annual residential trip. A wide range of activities took place; the climbing wall, zip wires, giant swings and even visiting the Piranha Pool!

"Robinwood was an amazing experience. Our leaders, Zoe and Johnny, made the days fun, exciting, memorable and safe. Robinwood has been the best school trip ever," commented Layla.

Another Year 6 pupil summarised the visit; "Overall, I think that Robinwood was an amazing experience – all the activities were so fun. My favourite was the Giant Swing because it was really exciting and it involved lots of teamwork," Annabel.



Mini Navigators

Local residents may well have seen Year 1 pupils using their mapping skills in Geography fieldwork around Sedgefield. The children have been following a route marked on a map and completing tally charts to collect data.



Local Litter Pick

Year 3 have taken part in a local litter pick as part of their 'Plastic Fantastic?' project where they are working towards the John Muir Award. John Muir set up the award to get everyone thinking about recycling, reusing, rethinking and reducing plastic consumption.



Make a difference in Fishburn

Fishburn Parish Council is looking for people to step up and become a local councillor.

Fishburn Parish Council has 11 'seats' but there are currently only 6 councillors. For the Council to make decisions, there has to be a minimum of 3 councillors present at every meeting and with busy lives and ill health this is becoming increasingly difficult to achieve.

If you can work as part of a team, if you are able to take part in meetings, form sound judgements based on what is best for the community, and you are willing to abide by majority decisions, you have the qualities of a parish councillor.

Local councillors are passionate about their communities and seek to make changes to help improve the lives of their residents.

In Fishburn, the Council leads on community services such as:

- maintaining the playing areas, football fields, the new pavilion and changing rooms, multi-use games area and bowling greens;
- creating a woodland area at the rear of the pit wheel fields in partnership with Discover Brightwater and Durham Wildlife Trust;
- managing the cemetery and creating a memorial garden;
- commissioning a ceremonial beacon for the village;
- working with the County Council to improve road safety at the crossroads;



These activities are funded by a local tax, called a precept which is decided by the Council.

So, what are the requirements?

Local councillors put aside, on average, a couple of hours a week for council work. This includes reading information via email, attending meetings once a month, engaging with residents and speaking to local groups and bodies on behalf of the council.

You must be:

- a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth, or European Union;
- 18 years or over;
- living or working in the area served by the parish council or within 3 miles of the boundary.

If you are interested then please contact the Parish Clerk at fishburnparishcouncil@hotmail.com or call 07771 224860.

Introducing Sedgefield North Integrated Service

Skerne Medical Group are pleased to introduce, Sedgefield North Integrated Care Service, who are part of our practice team, providing access to Social Prescribing Link Workers and Care Co-ordinators, to support patients feeling isolated or lonely or with problems that are affecting their health that can't be "fixed" with a pill or medical treatment.

The team take a "what matters to me" approach and have excellent knowledge of the health and social care systems and local services.

The Social Prescribers work with people who have social problems and issues. These can include debt, benefits advice, housing, social isolation, domestic abuse, or employment issues. They will listen to you, help you identify what matters most to you and support you to access services, activities, or organisations that can help improve your wellbeing.

The Care Coordinators work with people with complex or long-term health conditions. They will carry out a personalised holistic assessment and can assist with identifying care needs. You may need a care needs assessment from social services or may be struggling to manage around the house. The care coordinator can assist in integrating health and social care and ensure the right care is provided at the right time. They can also work with unpaid carers and family members of those with long term conditions or complex needs. Carers are often not aware of the support that is available to them and benefit greatly from the Care Coordinator service.

Patients must be over 18 years of age to access this service and some exclusion may apply.

If you feel this service can help you, or someone you know that is a patient of the Practice, please contact the surgery.



Local History Society wants your memoirs

In this year of jubilee celebration, Sedgefield Local History Society (LHS) would like to compile a collective memoir - "70 Years of Sedgefield". But we can't do it alone.

We invite people of all ages to share their memories in this lovely small town. You may be 70 plus, 7 or 17 - or any of the 7s in between.

We all have stories to tell, linked to times, places and interest groups in Sedgefield - school days, sports events, village celebrations, farming, the mart, Sedgefield Show, the Ball Game, shops long gone. The Army Camp, Winterton and the general hospital, the racecourse and the hunt. Old friends, neighbours, workmates and village characters, youth groups and those for seniors.

Entertainment from Sedgefield Players, Lyric Singers and Lirica, the Folk Festival, Rock and Blues nights, the Ukulele Band and Mediaeval Fayre. Events and activities at our three thriving churches plus the parish hall, local hostels and restaurants, Ceddesfeld Hall, Hardwick Hall and Park plus all the services and amenities on our doorstep, so important to us during the last couple of difficult years.



Children at Ceddesfeld Hall

Aren't we lucky to live in such a vibrant place? I'm sure many of you will be thinking 'What about so and so? You haven't mentioned such and such.' That's where you come in. Please send us your memories of 70 Years of Sedgefield.

A brief note, a longer piece, a family memoir or a group effort - photos are welcome too.

Send them by email to me at norma@neal.myzen.co.uk, post to 49 The Orchard, TS21 3AQ or give me a ring on 01740 620091.

This may develop into a display, a document for LHS archives or even a book. It all depends on you.

Together, let's create a fitting tribute to this great place at a time of national celebration.

Go outdoors with tales and trails

In March and April, Hardwick Park are running outdoor discovery sessions for younger children based on popular books.



There will be craft activities, storytelling and interactive park trails in the Outdoor Learning Area. Booking is essential. See the Facebook page for Hardwick Park .



STEVE'S NATURE DIARY MARCH 2022

On a recent lunchtime walk, I came across a sight that I had only seen once before, even though it is thought that there are around 30 million of these small mammals in the country. Any thoughts?

You have probably seen evidence of them nearly everywhere; little piles of soil that appear in grassland, along verges and unfortunately occasionally in your lawn. Yes, a mole.

The mole is a secretive mammal living the whole of its short active life underground, where it constructs a vast network of tunnels. They are stocky animals, with a wedge-shaped body and short tail and are covered in black, velvety fur, with tiny eyes, a long, pink nose and two big, shovel-like 'hands' for front paws. They use these paws to dig tunnels and hunt for their favourite meal of earthworms. The tunnels act as giant pitfall traps for earthworms, insects and other invertebrates on which the mole can feed. They also like to eat underground grubs that would usually feed off crops, so moles can help to control unwanted visitors! So perhaps we should give moles more respect.



A mole can dig up to 20 metres of tunnel in a day using its forepaws to effectively breaststroke its way through the soil. Because they spend most of the time underground they've had to adapt to a lack of oxygen – below ground there's around a third of the oxygen that we find above ground. Moles have more blood in their system to cope with this, as well as twice as much haemoglobin as other mammals their size, which carries more oxygen through their bloodstream. Every now and again, loose soil is pushed up to the surface, resulting in what we see as a mole hill. The mole's velvety coat helps it to move easily through the soil, and its mouth and nose are protected from debris by their down-facing position.

They did play a small but significant part in English history by contributing to the death of a king! In 1702, King William III (William of Orange) died following a fall from his horse, which had stumbled into a moles burrow and thrown the monarch from out of his saddle. He subsequently developed pneumonia and died. His rivals, the Jacobites (supporters of the restoration of the deposed Catholic monarch James II) reportedly toasted "the little gentleman in the black velvet waistcoat" for causing the kings death. For centuries afterwards mole catchers would make velvet waistcoats from the fur of the moles they trapped and killed. By digging up the earth, moles help make the soil healthier by aerating it. This allows more types of plants to grow, which in turn feeds more insects. Their tunnels also improve soil drainage, which helps stop flooding and huge puddles forming on the ground. Moles truly are the unsung heroes of the animal world!

DISCOVER BRIGHTWATER
HERITAGE FUND
GROUNDWORK
PAPER + INK

WRITE! SHORT STORY COURSE
SIGN UP TO ONE OF THREE COURSES, TAUGHT BY LOCAL WRITER AND OXFORD UNIVERSITY CREATIVE WRITING TEACHER HARRY MAN.
Four workshops, free of charge!
Learn what makes a great short story and jump-start your own writing talents!

SIGN UP
www.paperand.ink/brightwater

Darlington
6, 20, 27 March & 3 April 2022
12 PM FREEMASONS' HALL

Sedgefield
6, 20, 27 March & 3 April 2022
3 PM CEDDESFELD HALL

Newton Aycliffe
5, 19, 26 March & 2 April 2022
3 PM AYCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

For more information:
brightwater@paperand.ink

Cut the ends off the stems then store in glasses of water in fridge or on your counter!

KEEP YOUR JARS! (let things cool before freezing)

Store onions, potatoes in a basket and a dark space

wrap your lettuce in a tea towel!

And FRIDGE!

Store these WHOLE in the freezer... Stone fruit! yellow berry stick, tomatoes

Wrap bread in cloth (or pillow case) and store in a wooden bread bin.

Put leftovers in jars or just put a plate over and fridge it!

Stand celery + float carrots in water.

wrap beans and peas in a damp cloth

Beeswax wraps!

Steel + glass freeze well!

Pyrex

@eco with em_

Sedgefield Village Veterans helping "Warrior Woman"

Lesley Baker is a member of the Ambulance Service and has been an active member of the Territorial Army medical branch for over 20 years. In that time, Lesley has been deployed to all the big hot spots - Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, etc. as well as serving the people of the North East within the Ambulance Service.

Unfortunately, Lesley has been diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer and is currently undergoing gruelling treatment. However, as the absolute Warrior Woman she is, Lesley has thrown herself into raising money to buy defibrillators to be located in publicly accessible places. In Lesley's own words....

"survival from a cardiac arrest relies upon a timely response from first responders i.e. bystanders. 50-70% of sudden cardiac arrest victims survive if defibrillation occurs within the first 5 minutes. For every minute that passes, there is a 10% less chance of survival. I wish to help fund as many defibs locally as possible."



So far, Lesley has managed to raise enough money to buy 3 defibrillators which have been distributed within the North East. This is fantastic but more are needed. Who knows where or when one may be required! The average cost of a defibrillator is £1000.

Sedgefield Village Veterans hold a monthly coffee morning to raise funds for the group and annually have a 'charity' coffee morning with all the funds raised going to support a local good cause. The group has unanimously chosen Lesley's cause for our event being held in the Parish Hall at 10:30 on Friday 25 March.

Start in sight for church conservation projects

Work is about to start on the first of five restoration projects designed to safeguard the future of Sedgefield's St Edmund's Church for the benefit of both the local community and the anticipated increase in visitors to the town now that Coronavirus restrictions have been eased.

The Friends of St Edmund's have confirmed that, weather permitting, a start will be made shortly on the second stage of essential repairs to various sections of external stonework.

This work will be quickly followed by the installation of bronze safety bars around the roof of the church tower to enable the resumption of sight-seeing trips to the rooftop of the tower.

When these projects are completed, the Friends hope to have the necessary approval for the repairs and refurbishment of the two faces of the church clock. Repairs to the vandalised church lych-gate will then follow.

The fifth project centres on the ancient tower bell frame, installed in 1707, which requires one of the oak beams to be replaced so the ringing of the bells can continue for weddings and other special occasions.

Dr Alistair Irvine, Chairman of the Friends, commented this week: "We have been struggling to make any kind of progress since the coronavirus outbreak, and the need to secure administrative and church authority approvals. Most of these are now in hand, and once we have obtained all the estimates from specialist companies and craftsmen qualified to work on a Grade I listed building, our work can continue.

"The future certainly looks much brighter for all the people throughout the country who value St Edmund's and have helped us to raise the necessary finance to enable essential repairs. We are most grateful to all members of the Friends and our supporters for their generosity."



Artist's impression of the refurbished clock face

SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Neighbourhood Watch Meetings

Neighbourhood Watch meetings take place upstairs in the Social Club on the second Wednesday of every month at 7pm. The next meeting will be on March 9 at 7pm.

Thanks to those who attended our February meeting and for tabling some very useful ideas. The good news is that the police reported some very low crime figures for Sedgefield in January 2022. Whilst we are all lucky to live in a low crime area, let's not be complacent. Crime still exists and if we only had one victim, it would be 'one too many'. So please stay vigilant and report anything suspicious. Our police rely on information from the public to help them stamp out crime.

It was suggested that NHW ought to visit other Voluntary Organisations in Sedgefield to advise on crime prevention and security which we have taken on board and are starting to plan these visits. At our meeting we demonstrated some home security equipment which gave rise to a lot of interest and some residents acquired equipment from us in return for a donation. This will now be a regular activity at each meeting. Personal attack alarms were requested and we are acquiring more of these for our next meeting. Our Holiday Security Packs were also displayed which are available to hire to give you some extra home security equipment whilst you are away. Please come along and find out more.

Police and Crime Commissioner

NHW have arranged a meeting with Joy Allen, the new Police and Crime Commissioner for 31 March 2022.

Joy has previously worked in community safety and is keen to support the work of the NHW. We will be discussing arrangements for Joy to address other Community Groups in Sedgefield so that we all understand her role, how we can learn more about protecting Sedgefield and how to better support and interact with police.

To report anything suspicious in your area call Durham Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

To report concerns, seek advice or pass on information call 101. Keep notes, ask for an incident number. Information received will be developed & acted on.

Confidential email address:
amy.jorgeson@durham.police.uk.

ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap email: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Sedgefield Players

Sedgefield Players present their production of J. B. Priestley's 'When we are married'.

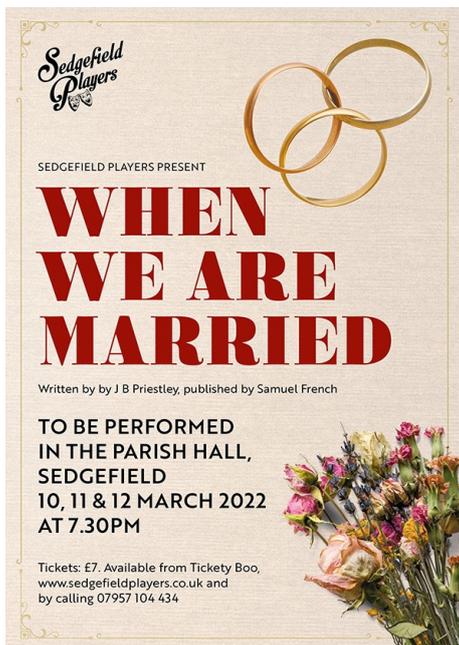
The Soppitts, the Parkers and the Helliwells are celebrating 25 years of happy (ish) marriage, when suddenly their world is turned upside down.

Across the course of an evening the happy (ish) couples scramble to discover if they were ever truly married in the first place, and what the consequences might be.

In their first full length production since the start of COVID, and during their 50th year, the *Players* wanted to bring this very popular and funny play to their audience. If it sounds familiar as piece to you, you may remember their production of the same play over 30 years ago!

With a large cast, and with a fantastic set and costumes, this is a piece not to be missed. Tickets are available from the Sedgefield Players website

www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk,
from Tickety Boo, or by calling
07957 104434.



BAMS 2022 Concert Series

Bishop Auckland Music Society launches 2022's concert season on 1st April with *The Barbican Quartet* - who are an award-winning string quartet based in London. Performing as usual in the Bishop Auckland Methodist Church.

Visit bvemv.orpheusweb.co.uk/BAMSWeb/bams.html for full 2022 programme & tickets.

SLYC return to the stage

Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir will be presenting their first show since 2019 on Saturday 26 March at Sedgefield Parish Hall. *One Sun One World* is an environmental musical that was written for the 50th Anniversary of the WWF UK.

SLYC started working on the show in January 2020, and had to take weekly rehearsals online during lockdown – this was a totally new way of singing together, as choir members couldn't hear each other. As soon as restrictions allowed, SLYC got back to singing in Ceddesfeld every week (socially distanced), and are now eager to get back on stage after such a long break.



Written by Peter Rose and Anne Conlon, the team behind previous SLYC favourites *Yanomamo* and *African Jigsaw*, *One Sun One World* reminds us of the great wonders and beauties of the Earth and the intricate threads of life linking every living thing. The show celebrates our astonishing planet in all its rich diversity, but also examines changes brought about by human activities in a modern world through the eyes of the polar bear, the tiger, the panda, the oak tree and cacao.

Tickets for *One Sun, One World* are £6, available from Rob or Kristen – 01740 621956, or at Tickety Boo.

Sedgefield Lyric Singers honour Joan Seymour

Joan Seymour was awarded honorary life membership of Sedgefield Lyric Singers at their AGM this year.

Having joined the Lyrics in its founding year, 1974, Joan has continued to make a fabulous contribution ever since. She has much musical skill, a wonderful voice and she displays great warmth towards everyone. Alongside her mischievous sense of humour and unfaltering cheerfulness, is her utter enthusiasm for all things, musical, or not. Joan is much loved and has kept the SLS smiling through very challenging times.

Congratulations and well done to Joan! A most deserving recipient.



From Loft to Loved Workshops

From Loft to Loved is able to offer workshops again and there are now dozens of sessions for adults and children.

March offerings include glass fusing, crafting silver jewellery and candle making. There's a special Mothers' Day workshop for children on 12 March, so pop along and have fun while learning a new skill and creating something beautiful at the same time.



Visit www.fromlofttoloved.co.uk and look for "Workshops" for full details. Be sure to book early as classes fill up fast.

DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

March 2022

- Wednesday 2** **Sedgefield Women's Institute meeting**, "Chocolatrice Chocolate Factory of Coxhoe", Parish Hall, 7:15pm. Visitors welcome £3.50.
- Friday 4** **Sedgefield Women's Institute**, coffee morning, 9:30am to 11:30am. Cake stall and raffle, everyone welcome.
- Mayor's Civic Ball**, Hardwick Hall Hotel, 7pm. See the poster below for full details.
- U3A**, Parish Hall at 2pm. Jack Wood, "My art on my sleeve". Contact 01740 629574 for details.
- Sunday 6** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am-12:30pm, featuring Stray Aid as the community stall.
- Monday 7** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Preston Park Insights by Austen Atkinson. Ceddesfeld Hall 7:45pm. Please contact Suzanne Hopper 01429 882250.
- Wednesday 9** **Neighbourhood Watch Meeting**, upstairs room, Social Club, 7pm. Home security equipment will be available.
- Thursday 10** **Sedgefield Show Planning Committee**, Sedgefield Social Club, 7.30pm. We would welcome new people who would like to get involved or could support the show. Email Ian Mason at ian@sedgefieldshow.co.uk.
- Monday 14** **DIDO**, Parish Hall from 1pm to 3:15pm. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with The Old Age Travellers Band, a quiz and raffle. Wear something green or come as a leprechaun! Contact 01740 629574 for details.
- Tuesday 15** **Repair Café**, planning meeting, Parish Hall, 7pm-8pm.
- Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club**, flower demonstration by Susan Elsdon titled "These are a few of my favourite things", Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Members no charge, non-members £5. Contact 07533 752870 or 07721 767408.
- Friday 18** **Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club**, Malone Sibun + Bad Bob Bates, tickets from www.sedgefieldblues.com.
- Saturday 19** **Sedgefield Area Churches Together**, Lent Event, Sedgefield Methodist Church, 10am to 4pm. See poster for full details.
- Sunday 20** **Mordon & Bradbury Village Association**, Annual General Meeting, Mordon & Bradbury Village Hall, 3pm.
- Saturday 26** **SLYC present One Sun One World**, Parish Hall, 7:30pm. See the Arts Page opposite for ticketing details.

SEDGEFIELD LIBRARY

Tel: 0300 026 9521

The library is open again with temporary opening hours:

Wednesday 9.30 to 12.30
Thursday 9.30 to 16.30 (Closed for lunch from 12.30 to 13.30)
Friday 13.30 to 17.30
Saturday 9.30 to 12.30

There is no longer a limit to numbers or browsing times, so there is no need to queue.

Craft Group and Book Circle are back!

Craft Group, 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 1:30pm
 Book Circle, 3rd Friday of the month from 2pm

Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

Methodist Church every Monday from 9:30am-11am.

Sedgefield Social Club

Singer every Saturday from 9pm.
 Quiz on **Friday 11 March** at 8pm.
 Karaoke on **Friday 25 March** at 8pm.

T Dance

The T dance is taking a break but will start back again in June. More details nearer the time.

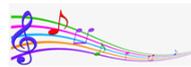


Sedgefield Town Council
Mayor's Civic Ball

Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield
 Friday 4th March 2022 

Drinks Reception: 7pm - Dinner 7.30pm
 Dancing to MOSAIC
 Carriages Midnight
 Tickets £35
available from
 Sedgefield Town Council Offices
 Telephone 01740 621273

Raising Funds for Youngminds
 Local Groups & Charities



Sedgefield Area Churches Together

Lent Event

Saturday 19th March 2022

10 am to 4 pm
 Sedgefield Methodist Church

Discussions around what it means to follow Jesus

Refreshments and a simple lunch will be provided

Free to join in

Whether you come for the whole event or part of it, you are very welcome

There is no need to register, but if you'd like more information or to let us know you are interested, contact sedgefielddact@gmail.com

Ding dong

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers are hoping to recruit new members this spring. 

If you are interested in learning to play handbells, having fun, and rising to the challenge of a new hobby, why not give it a go?

Our friendly group meet every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall.

An ability to read music is advantageous.

If you want to get involved, please contact Joan 01740 622871 or Alison 01740 620912.

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS

Time to get Active! From Sedgfield Bikes & Active Travel

As we head towards warmer weather there has never been a better time to get active as you explore the village, and there are lots of reasons to give Active Travel a try!

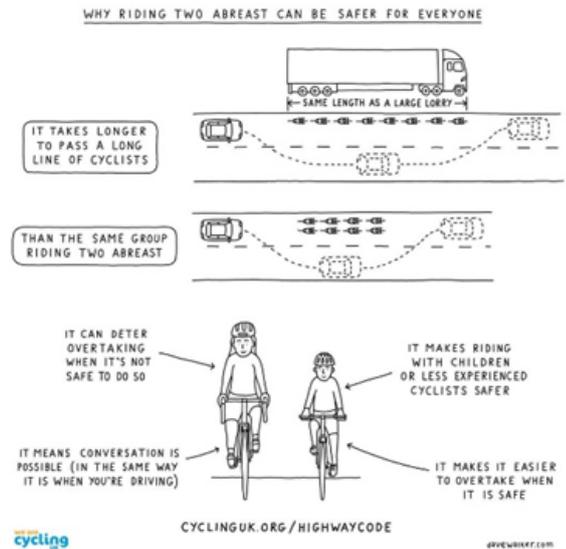
You may know that the government's review of the Highway Code is complete and the new rules came into force a few weeks ago. The full update can be found at <https://bit.ly/3B16QMG> but the general point is that the Highway Code now prioritises pedestrians and cyclists as vulnerable road users.

The new code sets an expectation that powered road users must give more space and take more care around pedestrians and cyclists, and that pedestrians have right of way over all other road users, including when wanting to cross the road. We hope that as these changes begin to be more widely applied, people will feel more confident to leave their cars behind.

The cost of living is increasing and with energy bills going up, now is an excellent time to look for ways to save a few pounds! Opting for walking, cycling or public transport will save money on fuel and parking, as well as providing an opportunity for getting some exercise and leaving road and parking space to those who really can't walk or cycle. BAT can give you advice on how to use your bike for shopping trips and is working to provide better bike parking in the village very soon.

Of course, walking and cycling are also great ways just to get outside and enjoy all the fun and health benefits of the great outdoors. In Sedgfield we have many lovely areas to explore; please do contact us if you need inspiration!

BAT continues to work behind the scenes to arrange a public consultation on improvements to Active Travel in our area and will let you know soon how you can take part. In the meanwhile, please join us on Facebook at <https://bit.ly/3J1symC> or email cycling@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk



WOODLAND & WILDLIFE

Many thanks to everyone who brought trees to us and helped out on the day.

We successfully assembled 2 dead hedges, which are dual purpose, being natural habitats, whilst also providing a barrier to allow the regeneration of flora.

If you would like to know more or to volunteer with us, please contact Melissa – woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or join our Facebook page, Woodland & Wildlife - Sedgfield.

Christmas Tree Recycling at the Woodland & Wildlife site



DIDO: Days In Days Out

It's going to be a busy year for DIDO, with lots of exciting days planned for 2022.

In February we had the lovely Ian Mc Donald, a vocalist with a smooth voice, sing to us over a Valentine's Day cream tea.

In March we have the Irish Folk Band the Old Age Travellers booked to help us celebrate St Patrick Day in style.

A trip to Whitby is planned for May and our plans are underway for a big party to celebrate the Queen's 70th Jubilee in June.

Add to this a 60s fancy dress do in the Summer and more day trips out in the pipeline, it's going to be a fun year.

If you fancy joining us, then come along to the Parish Hall on the second Monday of the month, from 1pm till 3.30pm. For further information call/text Brenda on 07597116847.

Citizen of the Year & Young Citizen of the Year Nominations

The nomination form for the 2021 awards may have fallen out of the paper by the time you read this, but please give it a moment's thought before you bin it. It's simply a chance to recognise the efforts of someone who has gone "above and beyond" as some have during the difficult times we have been through.

Sedgefield Development Trust Contact Details. Company Secretary, 3a Front Street, Sedgfield, Co. Durham, TS21 3AT. Telephone no 07572 502904 email: secretary@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk website: www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk



The weather has been pretty unkind to us this winter and we want to say how grateful we are to the band of terrific volunteers, without whom the market simply couldn't happen.

I can tell you also that the producers and stallholders were very relieved that the market actually took place, shifted and shortened though it was!

Many thanks to all the customers who braved the wind to come out and sympathy to those who came late or couldn't manage it at all.

Let's hope for better times during the rest of 2022, beginning with the morning of **Sunday 6 March**, when the charity stall will be taken by the pet rescue charity, **Stray Aid**.

CEDDSFELD HALL

Home of Sedgefield Community Association

(www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk)

Save the Dates!

Easter Monday 18 April 1:45pm-2pm
Selection (by raffle ticket draw) of the Mediaeval Fayre May Queen (age 8 - 11) and her attendants (age 5 - 11).

Easter Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt is from 2pm to 4pm with chocolate and sweet prizes for all children under 12. There will be decorated eggs and Easter bonnet competitions, with prizes for all ages. Families are welcome to bring their own picnic and the bar will open from 1:30pm to 4pm.

Mediaeval Fayre

Saturday 21 May 10am to 4pm

On the Village Green and Ceddesfeld Hall and lawns. The children's walking parade will be led by the May Queen and her attendants in the horse and carriage. The theme this year is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The procession will include children from local and nearby primary schools and nurseries, as well as some mediaeval knights and country dancers.

SCA will have a huge tombola, while around the green there will be numerous, varied craft and food stalls as well as the fun fair. In the arena, the mediaeval knights will demonstrate their combat skills, and local groups will do battle in the tug of war.

Ceddesfeld lawns will be open, for Birds of Prey, face painting, circus skills, and Living History displays and demonstrations. Refreshments will be served throughout the day and the bar will be open.



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Saturday 4 June 10am to 4pm

As part of the national celebrations, STC with SCA, Churches Together, and local community groups, are planning a very special day to celebrate. The day will begin with an ecumenical church service at St Edmund's at 10am then Ceddesfeld Hall and grounds will be open for people to enjoy a range of family fun activities, a programme of live musical entertainment and lots more.

Family Fun Afternoon

Sunday 21 August 1pm to 4pm

A fun event for families with younger children relaxing on the fantastic lawns at Ceddesfeld Hall. Garden games and sports equipment, face painting and lots of space for a family picnic. The bar will be open. All the events are free. Look out for event posters and information brochures coming out through the schools and on social media.

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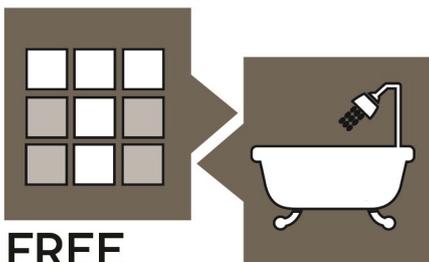
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SPORTS UPDATE

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Spring might be in the air by the time you read this, so we can start turning our thoughts to the next summer of sport. That's probably a good thing for the nation, taking some minds off the disappointing Winter Olympics for Team GB. As always, here in Sedgefield, grass roots clubs are looking forward to a busy time during the warmer months, and hoping for a more normal summer than the last two have been. On that note, look out for a preview of the season ahead from Sedgefield Cricket Club next month. Meanwhile, there's plenty of sporting endeavour to report all year round, so I'd better get on with that.

Athletics

Sedgefield recently hosted the County Durham Sportshall competition at the Community College. Sportshall is a format used around the country to offer junior athletes the opportunity to compete indoors. There are three age groups - under 11, under 13 and under 15, and as part of the overall national scheme, each county is invited to bring along a team from each age group to a regional final. For the North East, this is normally held in South Shields in mid-March, and then the winning county teams for U13s and U15s from each region are invited to the national finals which usually take place in Manchester, and have featured athletes from Sedgefield in the past, such as Abbie Walker, Ellie Spink and Katelyn Craig.



The competition is made up of indoor versions of field events and relay races, with points gained from both to give an overall team score. The field events for the Under 11s are standing long jump, standing triple jump, vertical jump, speed bounce, chest push, javelin, hi-stepper, target throw and balance beam. In the regional and national competitions, only three or four juniors from each county team compete in each event. However, at the county competition hosted in Sedgefield, organiser Marie Walker sets the event up so that every child had a go at each discipline, which makes it more fun and means less sitting around for them. It also helps Marie to choose the county team and which child should tackle which event at the regional final. Although lack of space and time meant that the target throw and balance beam weren't included, there was a shuttle run, which again helps Marie pick the team and who takes part in which discipline.

The relay races at Sedgefield were obstacle race, hurdles, 4x1 lap, 4x2 laps and a 6-lap paarlauf (with two children). The races are run using 'reversal-boards' at both ends of the hall to create laps. The regional event includes all of the above races, plus 'under and over' and a grand prix race.

Sedgefield has been hosting the Sportshall competition for almost a decade and five clubs took part this year – Crook/Sedgefield, Derwentside, Chester-le-Street, Phoenix Flyers (Durham) and Newton Aycliffe, with 57 boys and girls in action. Phoenix Flyers won the competition, with Derwentside second and Newton Aycliffe third. As with all such events, it was all possible thanks to the efforts of loads of volunteers.

Squash



Squash continues to bounce back in 2022, with tournaments taking place all over the country and around the world. Players at Sedgefield are back in the thick of it with internal leagues, county leagues, cups and the County Masters Championships, not forgetting playing for fun.

The second team have battled through to the County Cup quarter finals and play away at Leyburn in a few weeks' time. The recent County Masters Championships were held at Norton and several of our players competed in the various age groups. Chris Bunting was runner up in his age group, Chris Rowsby made the plate final in the over 60s, while Ian Williams reached the semi-final stage, only to be beaten by the current British champion from Nunthorpe.

Back in the county leagues, the performance of the month goes to the Sedgefield 5th team who secured a hard fought 3-2 win away at Sunderland. The victory was made all the sweeter with the team having three juniors playing, one of whom was making his debut. Well done to Jess, Richard and Giacometti.

Anyone interested in getting involved or joining Sedgefield Squash Club can get in touch via info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.

Football



The last couple of months have been disappointing for St. Edmund's FC. The team is now out of all cup competitions and with six league games left to play, may get dragged into a relegation battle (not helped by the fact that two clubs in the same division folded before Christmas).

For many years, St. Edmund's has been flying the flag for Sedgefield in the Durham District Sunday Premier League and only last June won the Bishop Auckland Heart Foundation Cup. Here's hoping the team can produce a strong finish to the season and retain their place in the top division.

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