

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

March 2024

Submission deadline for the next edition: Thursday 14 March

Sedgefield Ball Game winner 2024 - Harrison Lower



Harrison Lower with mum, Michelle Lower, brother Freddie Lower, and dad, Martin Lower

The 2024 Ball Game was started by Rita Curry and, as tradition dictates, she passed the ball through the bull ring in the centre of the village before throwing it to the crowd.

The game was well attended and the usual scrums, running and kicking were seen along with an incident of the ball getting stuck on the roof of a bus. Players rocked the bus back and forth to retrieve the ball and continue the game!

The game was won by Harrison Lower, aged 19 who adds another win to the Lower family tally as dad, Martin, had won the game back in 2012.



Ball Game photographs from Stephen Curry



Sedgefield Citizen of the Year & Young Citizen of the Year 2023

Do you know of someone who has made an exceptional contribution to Sedgefield? Why not nominate them for Citizen of the Year 2023 or, for those under the age of 21 (on 31st December 2023), Young Citizen of the Year 2023.

They may have:

- Run a community group or project
- Excelled at representing our community
- Taken care of our environment and wildlife
- Done an amazing good deed
- Been a positive role model for people in Sedgefield

The awards (and prizes!) will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in Sedgefield Parish Hall on

Tuesday 7th May 2024

Submit your nomination online by scanning the QR code to the right. Please contact town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01740 621 273 if you require a paper nomination form.

Nomination deadline: 27th March 2024

Get nominating now!



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SCHOOL NEWS

Visiting residents at Willowdene Care Home

In a heartwarming display of community engagement, Sedgefield Hardwick's Year 2 class embarked on a special trip to Willowdene Care Home, modelling our character virtues among its residents. With their kindness and caring nature, the children participated in various activities and games, bringing a smile to the faces of the residents. Under the school's community impact offer, this visit aimed not only to foster connections between generations but also to contribute to the well-being of the wider community.

During their visit, the students brought smiles to the faces of the care home residents through their interactions and enthusiasm. They participated in a number of activities such as board games, bowling, colouring and the classic "Who am I?"

The children demonstrated the power of companionship and were excellent ambassadors for our school. Each interaction was filled with warmth, reflecting the values of empathy and care instilled in them through the character virtues the pupils have been learning about in school. By sharing their time and energy, the pupils not only added value to the lives of the residents but also learned valuable lessons about empathy, respect, the importance of giving back and developing positive friendships.

This initiative highlights the positive impact that small acts of kindness can have on the well-being of others, reinforcing the role models we want in our school and society.



Life saving awareness



At Sedgefield Primary we aim to equip our pupils for life and, with this in mind, we recently trained all our pupils in the basics of first aid. If a child knows the very basics, checking breathing or heartbeat, stopping blood coming out, calling an ambulance and giving correct information - they stand a very good chance of stopping an injury getting worse or may even save a life. Whole school training was delivered by the highly experienced Chris Hall from Thrills and Skills for Life. Chris runs first aid training for paediatrics and for outdoor and everything in between. Chris works with adults too but says, "It is most satisfying, teaching it to children. It ensures that pupils as young as four years of age know how to call an ambulance. In fact, two children Chris has taught have already saved adults' lives. Pupils at Sedgefield Primary listened intently as Chris told their stories within his training."



Pupils were thoroughly engaged hearing Chris' vast and varied world life experience, as he has served in the forces for 34 years - regular and reserve. He served in Iraq and Afghanistan and has been to 56 countries with the armed forces. Pupils even wore army uniform that has previously been worn in war torn areas by soldiers. Chris stated "I use skills and experiences I've had across my life in my team building and first aid training - thus giving the training a real world link."

For further information on training : chris@thrillsandskillsforlife.com

Artsmark

At Sedgefield Community College we place great value on the creative and performing arts, making sure our students have lots of opportunities to develop their interest in these and improve their artistic skills. With this in mind, we were delighted to recently achieve the Artsmark Silver Award. The Artsmark Award is nationally recognised as demonstrating where schools and colleges have a real commitment to the arts.

Linked to this, we were delighted to provide all of our Y8 students with a chance to work with a renowned cartoonist, James Parsons. This is the second year that James has worked with our students and the standard of work that was produced was incredibly impressive as you can see from these examples.



As well as this, our Wednesday Super Curriculum continues to provide lots of opportunities for students to develop their interest in the arts with sessions relating to watercolour painting, pottery and textiles to name just a few. Once again, it's fantastic to see and celebrate the great pieces produced by our extremely talented students!



Looking ahead to opportunities for our students to showcase their artistic and performance skills, our Spring Music Showcase is taking place on Wednesday 20 March and we look forward to welcoming lots of parents and carers to the school for this event.



SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*



Updated contact information

There is no longer a telephone number for Sedgefield News or Sedgefield Development Trust. The postal address for both is 3a High Street, Sedgefield TS21 3AT.

Contact details for our organisation and projects are:

Sedgefield Development Trust	admin@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk
Bees at Hardwick	Facebook Bees at Hardwick
Bicycle and Active Travel	Facebook Sedgefield Bicycle and Active Travel
Days In Days Out	Brenda 07597 116847 or bustybee@live.com
Energy Switch	Peter 07572 502904
Farmers Market	farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk
Friendly Fixers	repaircafe@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk
Homework Help	homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk
Sedgefield News	news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk
Advertising	adverts@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk
Arts Update	sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com
Diary and events	diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com
Sports Update	chrisjlines@aol.com
Sew Easy	Dorothy 07773 286743
Thermal cameras	thermal@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk
Woodland & Wildlife	woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk



**Sunday 3 March
on the Village Green**



We welcome our usual traders to the Farmers Market and are pleased to support the Sedgefield Mayor who will have a tombola stall to raise funds for his chosen charities. Also, a big thank you to our volunteers, without them we would not have the Market. If you would like to volunteer just email your details to: farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk



**THERMAL IMAGING
CAMERA LOAN SCHEME**

A project by Sedgefield Development Trust

As reported last month, the booking slots for this winter are full, however, we have been able to allocate some slots to borrow our new standalone camera that does not need connection to a mobile phone. You can find out more about the scheme and how to book for next winter at sedgefieldweb.co.uk/thermalimaging.html.



Friendly Fixers



Friendly Fixers Repair Café has been fixing things for 18 months at our monthly meetings at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre. Every month people have brought a range of items to us from electrical, to garments, to mechanical, to furniture, to ceramics, and if we can fix them we will! One of our volunteers, Lexi has been a stalwart in the kitchen, welcoming people with hot drinks and cake. She is going to be taking a well-earned break for a few months while she looks after her new baby.



We wish her all the best, and look forward to seeing both her and baby in the future. In the meantime, we are keen to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining us as a volunteer. Opportunities include helping out in the kitchen; meeting and greeting people; taking details of the repairs needed and doing triage on repairs to identify what needs to be done.

If you would like to get involved, please get in touch.

Repair sessions are held on the first Saturday of every month from 10:30am to 12:30pm at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.



HOMEWORK HELP

A project of Sedgefield Development Trust

Homework Help needs some help, please! We try to help every student who asks, and right now, we need a volunteer who can help a GCSE English student towards the exam in May, particularly on the literature side. If you have some knowledge or experience in this area and could give an hour or so per week to work with this student, or if you'd just like to ask more what Homework Help entails, please e-mail homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.

We'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to all our volunteers - you make a positive difference to young lives; you are precious.

Sedgefield Development Trust contact details

3a Front Street, Sedgefield, County Durham TS21 3AT

email: secretary@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk website: www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

u3a update

u3a

At this month's meeting we were dismayed and rather frightened to learn from Kelly Close from the Cleveland Police Fraud Protection team just how easy it is for determined scammers and fraudsters to access any of our personal data online. In one exercise, she showed that, of the fifty or so members present, only half a dozen of us had email addresses that hadn't been accessed at some time by an unauthorised person. Check yours too on haveibeenpwned.com.

'--have i been pwned?

She gave us information about further securing passwords by using 2 Factor Authentication which is regularly updated and VPNs which help privacy online by encrypting the connection between your device and the internet. Having now updated our apps and emails and promised to be ultra careful whom we share passwords and data access with, hopefully most of us are now more secure. Kelly did highlight the fact that many people believing in the adage that 'courtesy and politeness don't cost you anything' in talking to cold callers, are in fact wrong. In many cases it can cost you thousands of pounds! Just put the phone down or close the door immediately.

With our new-found grant money, several groups have been organising and finalising trips out of the village. The Lunch Group will be going to Middridge, the Theatre group are to productions at Newcastle Theatre Royal and at Billingham Forum, and the Homes and Gardens group are to visit Ormesby Hall. Many more trips and visits are currently being planned. Hopefully we'll have a long, warm summer to take advantage of them.



Ormesby Hall by Simon Armstrong

I know the saying is about 'teaching your grandmother to suck eggs', but us grannies in Sedgefield u3a are going to learn how to blow eggs and then decorate them using both traditional and more modern methods. We'll also be making baskets or bowls to display them. Our Pop-up craft group is all about learning new skills and leading up to Easter, we thought this would be an ideal way to spend three or four afternoons.

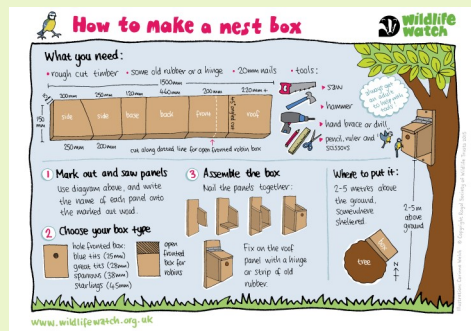
STEVE'S NATURE DIARY MARCH 2024

With spring just around the corner many of us will be turning our thoughts to the garden. I have just checked my bird nest boxes for damage, put on my gardening gloves and cleared out last year's nests ready for this year. Blue Tits have already started to investigate the nest box and a Great Tit has been calling "teacher teacher" - its characteristic call for a few weeks meaning spring is nearly here. The total area of all gardens in the UK exceeds that of our nature reserves, and as development destroys trees, hedges and old buildings, natural nesting sites are in decline. Nest boxes placed in gardens can make a real difference to the success or failure of a breeding species in an area, especially when accompanied by the regular supply of suitable food and water. If you don't have a nest box up, you still have time. You can find out more information about them at wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-bird-box.

Other gardening jobs will be pruning back the Buddleia 'ready for a show of flowers in the summer' and buying some compost.

Talking of compost, I hope like me, you have moved over to using peat free compost. Extracting peat for compost is bad for our climate and for wildlife. Peatlands provide habitat for a rich diversity of plants and animals. Migrating birds feed on peatland insects, while snakes and lizards also thrive in these special places. The UK is already one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world and extracting peat destroys complex ecosystems that are vital for nature's recovery. You might remember I have mentioned in the past that the UK Government committed to a ban on the sale of bagged peat compost back in 2022. A ban requires changes to the law - and this has not yet happened. The good news is that, in the meantime, many retailers have already removed bagged peat compost from their shelves. More people than ever are going peat-free and helping to keep peat in bogs, not bags! However, peat could be lurking in some unexpected places. These include potted house plants, in trays of bedding plants, and even some of the food we eat like mushrooms and salad leaves can be grown in peat!

For centuries, it was believed that peatlands were of no value unless drained or extracted from. Today, we know this is not true - so why are 80% of the UK's peatlands still degraded? Peat extraction for gardening and growing directly contributes to the decline of our peatlands, with knock-on impacts for the interlinked nature and climate crises. You can find more information about the "The Wildlife Trusts" Hidden Peat Campaign at wildlifetrusts.org/ban-sale-peat.



Over the next few months we will be updating and modernising our website; the current system makes it very difficult to add photos and entries, and we are aware it is very 'wordy'. The national u3a are promoting a new operating system and we will be migrating to that shortly. In the meantime there's lots of information, details and contact details on the current site if you'd like to learn a little more on what we stand for.

At our meeting on 1 March, Robert Pullen will be talking about sleep and dreams. Bob gave an extremely interesting and entertaining talk last year on the brain and how it works, closing his presentation with a bamboozling card trick. I wonder what he's got up his sleeve this time? If you are retired and would like to join us then, do come along and find out.

Christine Balfour



Memorabilia from 40+ years of twinning

A fond farewell

Last month, members of Sedgefield Twinning Association, along with Sedgefield Mayor David Jasper and his German counterpart Burgermeister Bernd Romanski of Hamminkeln, got together to celebrate over 40 years of links between the two towns and to bid an emotional farewell to the Association which has managed the exchange programme on behalf of Sedgefield Town Council for all of those years. Herr Romanski brought two long-term twinnings with him from Germany: Anneliese Hecheltjen and Hildegard Koesters. Guests were served a delicious dinner at Hardwick Hall Hotel, followed by poignant speeches from both mayors and from Chair Alda Houghton, as well as several guests. After the meal, superb entertainment was provided by Lirica.



Enjoying a performance from Lirica

The twinning partnership grew out of a friendship between then mayors Derrick Lofthouse and Heinrich Meyers. With the war still in living memory for many and with the Berlin Wall still dividing Germany itself, there was never a better time to deliver on the promise of the partnership agreement "to encourage and strengthen friendship between the people of Sedgefield and Hamminkeln". Many will have fond memories of the numerous exchanges that took place between members of the Association and friends from Hamminkeln, as well as those involving scouts, schools, and the local choirs. Deep friendships were fostered that continue to this day.

While the Twinning Association is now shutting down, the formal partnership will continue and the links between the two towns will live on in the hearts of all those who have been involved. In more recent years, those links have been used to start a less formal exchange between the running clubs in both towns and perhaps those less formal ties, with engagement from local clubs and associations, will be how the partnership continues. Already, Burgermeister Romanski is planning to return for our German-themed "Bierfest"!

Philip Houghton

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



Every day, hard-working residents across the UK face the distress of anti-social behaviour (ASB). Unfortunately, ASB is often seen as a minor crime, downplaying its significant impact on individuals and communities. If it's not addressed it can cause mental distress, anxiety, disrupted sleep, relationship breakdowns, and feelings of powerlessness. Shockingly, research by YouGov reveals that almost one in five adults have considered moving home due to the impact of ASB on their lives.

This is unacceptable, which is why I am committed to a zero-tolerance approach to ASB. To effectively combat ASB, we need to adopt an intelligence-led and data-driven approach. Community intelligence is really important to help us understand ASB patterns and trends as well as identifying those responsible. Therefore, reporting incidents of ASB is so important. This is why I have been working with the force to make reporting crime and anti-social behaviour easier, accessible and more convenient so we can get an accurate picture of ASB so we can target the hot spot locations.

Improving this has been a key focus since my election. The person answering a 101 or 999 call is usually the first contact people have with the police and has a significant impact on their trust and confidence. Its absolutely critical we get this right. I'm pleased to say Investment in technology and staffing is starting to pay dividends.

All crime and incident related calls are now triaged via the force switchboard. (staffing has increased from three to 11 operatives) On calling 101, an automated voice message now provides the option to report a crime or incident, diverting these calls to the Triage Team.

There is also a dedicated section on the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's website durham-pcc.gov.uk created to make it easier for residents to report ASB to the appropriate agencies and understand their rights. Let us work together to ensure that no one suffers in silence and minimize the impact of ASB on individuals' lives.

Joy Allen

BUSINESS UPDATE

Open Arms

The Hardwick Arms has reopened its doors with a new look, rebranded bar and lounge. In the lounge, there is comfortable seating, a relaxing atmosphere and a pool table. There are casual dining options made up of fast food and pub classics.



For those on the school run, the new opening hours are from 3pm from Wednesday to Friday with a special deal for a children's main meal with a cake and hot drink for you. Sunday roasts are available each week including a small plate option for smaller appetites. As with all the food options, these are available for dining-in, for collection or for delivery.

The Arms are striving to be the community pub of Sedgefield and are providing support to 3 local football teams and other local sponsorships. The hotel continues to operate and corporate rates are available to local businesses.

There have been lots of changes at the Hardwick Arms but there remains a warm welcome. Find out about their upcoming events on their website hardwickarmshotel.co.uk, their Facebook page "Hardwick Arms Bar and Lounge" or give them a call on 01740 622305.



ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Stockton Calling

Our festival season kicks off on 30 March with a weatherproof one-dayer across ten indoor venues in Stockton. The line up is a mix of headliners and household names like The Bluetones and The Enemy supported by upcoming North East talent such as local bands End Credits and Gone Tomorrow.

Stockton Calling is now well established on Teesside, having operated for over ten years, and with over 80 acts crammed into one day there is something for everyone.

Tickets are priced at £40 and are available at stocktoncalling.co.uk/book.

SATURDAY 30 MARCH 2024

STOCKTON CALLING

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW www.stocktoncalling.co.uk

Stockton's multi-venue music festival

The Enemy

CORELLA thebluetones

Lilacs the deep tan **VENUS**

Dilettante **NOISY** **Ellur**

ABOUT-FACES ALL BEFORE BLACKOUT THE ARCADE BRODIE MILNER CAT RYAN CHURCH HONEY CORTNEY DIXON GUSP DAWKS DAYZIES DICTATOR DOSSERS ED COSENS EMILY ROWAN END CREDITS ERNIE FASHION TIPS GEMMA ROGERS GETDOWN SERVICES GIRLBAND! GOOD COP BAD COP GONE TOMORROW HANNAH ROBINSON HECTOR GANNET INDIA ANKIM RIES JACK RASMUSSEN JAM TUB JEN DIXON LIZZIE ESAU LIZZIE REID LOCK-IN LOST IN TRANSLATION MAEVE AND THE TRAINS MAIUS MOLLIS MARINA JOSEPHINA MEGAN WYN MELANIE BAKER MOON WAX MT. MISERY NO TEETH PAVE THE JUNGLE PRETTY VELVET REIGNMAKER RISCO SAFE AT ANY SPEED SARAH JOHNSONE SCRUFFY BEAR SOUNDS MINT SPIELMANN SUGAR ROULETTE SUNBEAM SUN KING THE CHASE THE COVASETTES THE GUEST LIST THE KAIROS THE SLATES THETA TINA SANDWICH TOY CAR TRUNKY JUNO TV DEATH VELKOR WEATHERSHIP WINGS OF DESIRE WINGZ OF THE MONKEY

Mayor's Music Night

Head to the Parish Hall on 22 March for the usual entertainment, fun and games courtesy of Mayor Dave Jasper. The Moondogs are a vibrant local band with a nationwide reputation, playing all your favourites from the 50s and 60s.

Mayor's Music Night

Tickets available from STC Offices
Weekday Mornings

The Moondogs

Tickets £12

Cash Bar

Bring Your Own Snacks

Raffle

Games

Friday 22nd March

7:30pm

Parish Hall Sedgefield

Sedgefield Rock & Blues Club

Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club has achieved legendary status in its relatively short 15 year history, not only hosting countless luminaries including Buddy Whittington and Chantel McGregor, but also being itself inducted as a venue into Blues Hall of Fame. March sees the club reopen it's doors to welcome The Alex Fawcett band, who all hail from the North East and who play a mix of covers and original music. For a full list of scheduled gigs & to buy tickets visit sedgefieldblues.com.

Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club

ALEX FAWCETT BAND
Lindsay Hannon Blues Trio

09.03.24 @ 7PM

"Alex plays with a youthful style which echoes the guitarist of the past, mixed with a huge modern sound and feel."

"Lindsay, a voice soulful, brooding & self-conscious in its longing."

£15

Adele Parks Masterclass

Best-selling local author of over 5 million volumes Adele Parks MBE has written 23 novels to date. On 22 March she participates in a 2-hour workshop session with fans and aspiring authors at Teesside University. Details are available at: eventbrite.co.uk/e/beyond-the-book-with-adele-parks-tickets-803274484607.



More local events

Workshops at Loft to Loved, Sedgefield

Loft to Loved hosts workshops in fused glass, greeting cards and suncatchers, as well as many more throughout March, prices vary. fromlofttoloved.co.uk.

Murmuration at The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle

Exploration of the history of birds in art, featuring contributions from a global gathering of artists. Until 23 June, free with day ticket thebowesmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/murmuration/.



Keep Calm and Paint with Acrylics, The Willow Barn, Wynyard

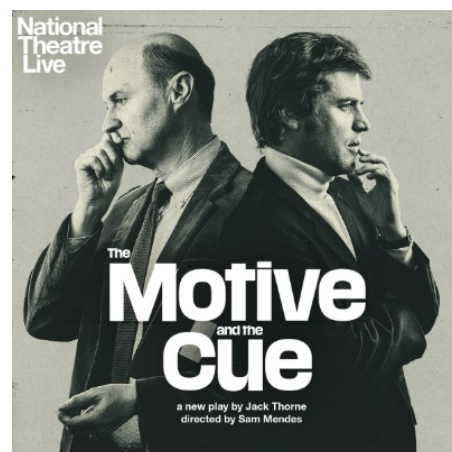
Classes for beginners as well as experienced painters. 7 March 6:30pm £30 eventbrite.co.uk/e/keep-calm-and-paint-with-tickets-797731224567?aff.

InterACT Festival 2024 online and live, ARC Stockton

The Northern School of Art stages 8 short plays over 2 evenings, at the ARC or watch online, no fixed fee. 19 and 21 March 7pm arconline.co.uk/whats-on/the-northern-school-of-art-presents-interact-festival-2024/.

The Motive and the Cue (15), The Witham, Barnard Castle

The Evening Standard award-winning best new play gets a screening at The Witham, starring Mark Gatiss as Gielgud and Johnny Flynn as Burton. 28th March 7pm £12-14 thewitham.org.uk/event/national-theatre-live-the-motive-and-the-cue-15/.



SPORTS UPDATE with Chris Lines chrisjlines@aol.com

It's possible that spring might have sprung by the time that I write next month's sports update, which means that local cricket action won't be too far away. Indoor training is well underway and some members of Sedgefield Cricket Club have been honing their fitness at events like the Ball Game (congratulations to Harrison Lower for following in his dad's footsteps and winning the game). Next month, I'll have a preview of the cricket season that lies ahead. For now, it's back to sports that better suit the mud.

Athletics

As mentioned last month, Sedgefield hosted the English Northern Cross Country Championships on 27 January. Held in East Park, the event proved to be a great success, attracting almost 2,000 competitors from across the North of England, plus a large number of spectators. Sedgefield was the venue for the event for the first time since 1955, when it was held at the racecourse, which played an important role again this time, by allowing participants to park on the site.

Among the runners were many of the country's best athletes, some of whom have represented their nation at international events. The championships were organised by Northern Athletics, with support from Sedgefield Harriers and Durham County Council and Sedgefield Cricket Club, which acted as race headquarters. Other local businesses were involved and the event was only possible thanks to the contributions of many volunteers. Also in attendance were Sedgefield MP Paul Howell, Chair of Durham County Council Joan Nicholson and consort Rob Nicholson, Mayor of Sedgefield Dave Jasper and consort Annette Lawson, and Chair of Sedgefield Town Council Cllr Mel Carr. They were joined by Dave Allen, President of Northern Athletics, and Tony Wood, Chairman of Northern Athletics, to present prizes to the winners of the races.

The two biggest fields of the day were in the senior women's and senior men's races. The senior women's event over 8.1km was won by Lauren McNeil of Hallamshire Harriers Sheffield in a time of 28 minutes and 35 seconds. Clubmate Lauren Heyes was second in 29:00, with Sophie Tarver of Wirral AC third (29:35). There was a victory for the North East in the senior men's race over 12.1km, with Calum Johnson of Gateshead Harriers claiming the title for the second time in 37:55, followed by Angus McMillan of City of York AC in 38:25 and Matthew Ramsden of Blackburn Harriers & AC in 36:53. Some drone footage from the start of the senior men's race is worth a watch at youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=tPB4_FhCGY.

Although there was no silverware for Sedgefield Harriers, the club did have the largest number of runners in the senior women's race, while also providing many of the volunteers who marshalled around the course or managed traffic and pedestrians. Local residents and members of other North East athletics clubs also helped to stage the championships, along with numerous officials from the region's grass roots sports community.

A couple of weeks later after the cross country championships, there was success for members of Sedgefield Harriers at the popular Stuart Pailor Memorial Race ('Old Monks'), organised by Hartlepool Burn Road Harriers, which this year followed a revised route of just under six miles. The event started and finished in Hart village, and included two laps on trails around the edges of fields and in and out of Castle Eden Dene. After sustained wet weather, the runners had to battle thick mud and literally wade through water. First Harrier over the line was Justin Cox, who was eighth overall in 41 minutes and 44 seconds, followed by Chris Lines in ninth (41:52) and David Walker in 14th (43:53). Jane Spink won the women's race and was 21st overall in 45:45. The second female Harrier was Lisa Darby (52:55), followed by Emma Featherstone (54:46). Together, Jane, Lisa and Emma claimed the women's team prize for Sedgefield. Harriers also took home numerous age category prizes – David Walker was first V55 man and in the ladies' race, Emma Featherstone was first V40, Lisa Darby was first V50, and Susan Milburn was first V65. In total, 28 Sedgefield Harriers took part in the race, and some are still drying out now.

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

Rugby Union



Sedgefield District RUFC's first XV have found some great form just when they needed it most. During a tough season, the team has been flirting with relegation in the second division of the Durham & Northumberland League. However, three successive, hard fought victories have lifted Sedgefield out of the danger zone. On 27 January, the team edged a tight contest with DMP Elizabethans, winning 25-24 and gaining revenge for a defeat against the same outfit earlier in the season. Sedgefield followed this up with a convincing 22-40 win away at Houghton on 3 February, and then a 29-22 home success against Whitby. Both DMP Elizabethans and Whitby now sit below Sedgefield in the table, which highlights the importance of the recent wins. Sedgefield's Saxons team have been frustrated by cancellations, but hope to return to action soon.



Sedgefield Saxons

The club is already preparing for its end of season awards night, which will be held on Saturday 6 April. More details will be revealed in due course. Find out more about Sedgefield District RUFC on the club's Facebook page at facebook.com/sedgefield.districtrufc and on its website at pitchero.com/clubs/sedgefielddistrictrufc.



The lead pack in the senior men's event at the 2024 Northern Cross Country Championships - photo by Ian Dunn



Lauren McNeil (no 116) won the senior women's race at the 2024 Northern Cross Country Championships - photo by Ian Dunn

CEDDESFELD HALL

Easter Monday Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt, 1 April 2pm to 4pm

Always great fun, the egg hunt (with chocolate and sweet prizes) is for children under 12yrs on the lawns. 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.

SCA Quiz Night, Saturday 20 April 7:30pm for 8pm

£10 per person to include pie and peas, with quiz master Peter Hinde – tickets from behind the bar, or from Pat, John, Sarah, or Peter. Teams of 6 or less. The SCA quiz is always very popular, so don't be disappointed! There will be a raffle, and all proceeds will go towards the entertainment and activities at the Mediaeval Fayre.

Mediaeval Fayre, Saturday 18 May 10am to 4pm Village Green/Ceddesfeld Hall



Ceddesfeld lawns will be open, for everyone to enjoy birds of prey, tool making, face painting, circus skills, living history re-enactments, bucking bronco and more! Delicious hot and cold refreshments will be served throughout the day and the bar will be open.

Volunteers Essential!

SCA wholly rely on local people, community groups and businesses to get involved, to engage and volunteer support in making large events such as the Fayre sustainable and successful. Any financial sponsorship and support from local firms and businesses, as well as practical help with setting up, taking down, manning stalls, running activities etc, is very necessary, so please do get in touch if you can offer any support and help with the events.

For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 01740 620607, John on 01740 620042, Sarah on 01740 622185 or visit our website on www.sedgefieldscsca.org.uk. Follow us on [Facebook](#) or contact SCA via email info@sedgefieldscsca.org.uk.



The Fayre begins with the children's walking parade from Burton Mews to the central performance arena on the village green. We're expecting, 'Mediaeval Madness' this year, with the historical theme providing a taste of the early, high and late Middle Ages, with activities and entertainment to suit everyone! The parade will include children from local primary schools and nurseries, to culminate in demonstrations and performances, with mediaeval knights and re-enactments. SCA will have two tombola stalls (bottles and gifts) while around the green there will be various craft and food stalls as well as the traditional fun fair. Throughout the day, the mediaeval mayhem will continue with knights who will demonstrate their combat skills, local groups doing battle in the tug of war and a fantastic falconry display – not to be missed!



MAYOR'S CORNER

What a coup for Sedgefield last month when we hosted the English Northern Cross Country Championships in East Park. It was a fantastic day of racing and a logistical masterclass in organisation, with a veritable army of volunteers drawn from several village groups and businesses. It was a great honour to be asked to present the medals to some of the winning athletes. I hope that we can host the event again in a few years' time. Certainly, the main players of Northern Athletics were most impressed with the venue, the course and the slick organisation. 1 March sees the Mayor's Ball and, on 3 March, a Mayor's Charity Stall at the Farmers' Market. The ever-popular Moondogs will be strutting their stuff on 22 March. Tickets are available from the STC Offices on weekday mornings. I hope to see you at some (or all) of these events plus some of the regular coffee mornings.

Take care and stay safe.

Dave Jasper



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DIARY & EVENTS

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March 2024

- Friday 1** **Mayor's Ball**, Hardwick Hall Hotel from 7pm, with the Travelin' Band and top magician, Tom Bolton. Tickets £40 from Sedgefield Town Council Offices.
- Word Day of Prayer**, St. Edmund's Church, 2pm. All welcome.
- Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. A talk by Robert Pullen on sleep and dreams. Visitors welcome, £3.
- Saturday 2** **Friendly Fixers**, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Repair café.
- Reflections for Lent**, Sedgefield Methodist Church, 10:30am to 2pm. See posted for details.
- Sunday 3** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am to 12:30pm. See page 3 for more information.
- Monday 4** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. Women of the 1950s with Carol Dean.
- Tuesday 5** **Open Mic Night**, Mordon Village Hall, 7:30pm. £3 per person.
- Wednesday 6** **Sedgefield Women's Institute**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm. Our speaker is Dave Dean—"Staying safe, don't get scammed". Members' competition is "A small teddy bear". Visitors always welcome (£4).
- Friday 8** **Quiz, Pie and Peas**, Mordon Village Hall, 7pm. £6.50.
- Sedgefield WI**, coffee morning, 10am to 11:30am, Sedgefield Parish Hall, Home made cakes, raffle, everyone welcome!
- Friday 15** **Sedgefield Village Veterans**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.
- Tuesday 19** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers.
- Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Flower demonstration by Heather Curry—"Time for Tea". Members free, guests £5.
- Friday 22** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am to 11:30am. £2 for tea/coffee plus scone/cake. All welcome.
- Mayor's Music Night with the Moondogs**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Cash bar, bring your own nibbles. Tickets £12 from Sedgefield Town Council Offices (weekday mornings).
- Saturday 23** **Sedgefield Games Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, from 6pm. Come along and play a variety of board games. £2.50.
- Tuesday 26** **Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall AGM**, Mordon Village Hall, 7:30pm.

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Book Circle, 3rd Friday of the month from 2pm.

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Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

Methodist Church on Mondays from 9:30am to 11am (except Bank Holidays). Suitable for babies, toddlers and preschool children. Please follow us on Facebook for regular updates.

Making Tracks

Railway Society Club Night every Wednesday evening from 7:30pm to 10pm in the Kell Room at Ceddesfeld Hall. New members welcome, under 13s to be accompanied by an adult.

Sedgefield Social Club

Singer every fortnight, see "Sedgefield Social Club Official" Facebook page for details.

Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. The first 3 afternoons are a free trial and then you have the option to become a member.

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