

# SEDGEFIELDNEWS

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

November 2020

Deadline for next edition: Sunday 15th November

## Teaming up to commemorate and celebrate in 2020

Events of all shapes and sizes have been decimated this year, but here in Sedgefield, we are blessed with a staggering number of vibrant community groups, powered by volunteers who make things happen. Normally, Sedgefield News devotes a page every month to events and we never struggle to fill it. Their absence for most of this year has been tough for everyone, and we can't hide from the fact that not much will change in the near future. We say this with a heavy heart, because the last two months of the year are when some of our most significant community gatherings usually take place. But it's not all doom and gloom! The folk of Sedgefield are renowned for their ingenuity - plenty has been shown already in 2020, with wonderful 'virtual' initiatives created to keep us busy and entertained. Now, that ingenuity is at work again and organisations and individuals are teaming up to help us commemorate and celebrate as best we can during November and December.

**Remembrance Sunday** on November 8th, is one of the our most important occasions of the year. The difficult decision has been made to not hold a service in St Edmund's Church. Instead, leading up to 11am, a series of recorded prayers and readings will be shown on Twitter (@SedgefieldTC) and the website, [www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/category/council-news](http://www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/category/council-news)

There will be no public event around the War Memorial on the green, but a very small, carefully managed commemoration will take place and be broadcast live on Facebook. Organisations that usually lay a wreath have been contacted and asked to do so safely and at their own convenience after 1pm. Residents are encouraged to stand on their doorsteps to observe the national two-minute silence at 11am and the bells of St Edmund's Church will ring to signal the start of that.

The Festive Season here usually kicks off with the Snow Party and the big switch on of the Christmas lights around the village green. Sadly, this can't go ahead in the usual way, but the town council is coordinating a fortnight-long programme of activities, many of which will exist online and/or can be undertaken in Sedgefield by individuals and families in a safe, socially distanced manner. On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November the Christmas lights will be switched on by none other than Santa Claus himself. Sadly, his fans will not be allowed to gather on the village green (Santa really can't afford to risk having to self-isolate for a fortnight in December!) We all need to stay socially distant from him! However, Sedgefield News has stepped in to help. We will broadcast it live at [www.facebook.com/sedgefieldnews](https://www.facebook.com/sedgefieldnews).

## 2019/20 nominations for Sedgefield Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year

Sedgefield Citizen of the Year has been awarded to a Sedgefield resident since the year 2000 and for 2019 onwards we have added the Young Citizen of the Year - to be awarded to a young person under 21 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, who has made an exceptional contribution to Sedgefield.

For 2019, award nomination forms were circulated in February 2020 with a closing date at the end of March. However, coronavirus intervened and the meeting of the judging panel was postponed indefinitely.

**Now, time is catching up with us and we have decided to combine the 2019 awards with the 2020 awards.**

Nominations already received for 2019 will remain valid but we are inviting further nominations to recognise extraordinary service to the community in 2020. There is a nomination form enclosed in this edition and forms are also available on [sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://sedgefieldweb.co.uk) and [sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk). You may nominate for either award on this form, but if you wish to nominate in both categories, you will need to use a second form.

Please think about your friends and acquaintances and if they have performed meritorious acts in the community, nominate them to be our Citizen of the Year for 2019/20 or our Young Citizen of the Year 2019/20 before the closing date of **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November**.

Incidentally, we owe gratitude to the Rotary Club of Sedgefield for once again providing the town with a Christmas tree. Over the following couple of weeks there will be a series of festive competitions for residents and businesses, all leading up to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, when winners will be announced online, along with the recipients of the 2019/2020 Sedgefield Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards.

More details can be seen in the latest issue of the town council's Sedgefield Extra, included with this copy of the News. Inevitably, most of what is planned will happen online and not everyone has ready access to the internet. Everyone involved will do what they can to help as many residents as possible see, hear and read about what happens.

Everything here is correct at the time of going to print, but do keep an eye on the our social media feeds and websites. Late adjustments may have to be made if there are changes to the restrictions in our region.

This is not how we wanted our special winter moments to happen and we fervently hope for a return to normal in 2021. Meantime, together we can do a lot to commemorate and celebrate in the most fitting and memorable way.

## Lost & gained in a strange year... a story that may go on.

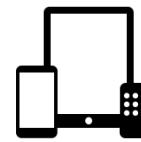
I've been lucky. Some of my family have had Covid 19 and come through it ok, so the impact on me has not, so far, been tragic. But after years of teaching, choral singing, conducting and more recently, playing in a ceilidh band, I do miss making music with friends. Zoom was quite exciting at the start, but its charms have worn thin!

On the other hand, I'm immensely grateful to the many musicians who have played and sung their hearts out for us online, despite many of them losing their income. I'm a better gardener than I used to be, too! Sandy Clubley, Editor.

**More thoughts from the news team in the next few pages, but how about you? Our 'news@' email address is just below!**

## GREENER SEDGEFIELD

As we approach Christmas, some kind of handheld device is often considered as a suitable gift. Before replacing phones, sat navs and tablets, have you considered what you will do with the old ones?



It is estimated that around 45 million unused gadgets are languishing in UK homes and almost half of all UK homes have between 2 and 5 gadgets sitting at the back of the drawer.

Around 80% of a phone can be recycled. They contain materials including plastic, metal, glass, palladium, copper, silver and gold parts, that can be recovered and reused. Also, some elements that go into a smartphone which becoming increasingly harder to get; this pushes up the price of phones but also affects the production of other important machinery. Indium for example, is used in touch screens but also in solar panels and as we move towards a greener society this will be needed more. The bright colours on your screens are made by using rare earth elements such as yttrium. Other elements are used in pacemakers, hearing aids and in the treatment of certain cancers, so huge importance is placed on not leaving them to languish or thrown to waste.

There is a finite supply of each element and we are using some so fast they will have disappeared from the world in less than 100 years.

Mining for rare earth metals affects the environment too, and some mines have questionable human rights. From one tonne of old phones, 150g of gold can be yielded, which is 30 times more than from a tonne of ore. Recovering the metals from lithium-ion batteries has an estimated 90% smaller ecological footprint than mining.

There are many options for disposal of old gadgets. Ask the retailer of the new gadget if they will take the old one back. Working items can be sold on or passed to charities who will make money by selling them to mobile phone recycling companies. There's Freecycle or our local Larder Facebook page. Someone may make use of your item for a little longer. Tablets and laptops not in good working order can also be given to, for example, [weecharity.co.uk](http://weecharity.co.uk), who refurbish them and donate to organisations that need them, whilst training volunteers and giving them additional skills for the workplace. The HWRC will take electrical items and ensure that any not working will be processed and parts stripped correctly. If you decide that they're not in good working order, please dispose of them correctly.

It goes without saying to remove any SD cards or SIM cards and reset your gadget to factory settings to protect your data. Don't rely on others to do this for you.

Placing old electronics in a drawer is a missed opportunity, especially when so many of their components are in demand and can be recycled and repurposed.

When buying or receiving a new gadget, perhaps we should think about what it replaces and what good can come from passing it on.

## Sedgefield Hardwick - back to school



Lockdown was a contrasting period for the pupils at our school. Some actually enjoyed their time away from school and with their family, but for some children, lockdown proved to be an incredibly challenging time.

After a while, relationships with siblings deteriorated into endless arguments and fights. In addition, boredom was a huge issue. Children were tired of being in the same place and doing the same things over and over. In contrast, some loved the extra time away from school, which allowed them to relax - especially more lie-ins!

Since returning to school in September, the children have experienced mixed emotions. Seeing friends was the best part of the return, as well as getting to know their new teachers. However, some children quickly grew tired of the return to constant time pressures - when to get up, where to go and what to do.

*"There are definitely some ups and downs, but personally I think the positives outweigh the negatives"*

commented a pupil in Year 6.



School fayres can't take place this year, so a virtual market is going ahead from November 1st to raise money for both village schools.

Many local businesses are involved. More details to come, but in the meantime, if you can help with a donation for the raffle it would be much appreciated!

If you have anything suitable please contact either of the organisers:

Joanne Salt: 07743159519 or

[joannesalt.uw@gmail.com](mailto:joannesalt.uw@gmail.com)

Sarah Jane Twist: 07749417019 or

[sjt twist91@gmail.com](mailto:sjt twist91@gmail.com)

Thank you.



## Lost & gained in a strange year... a story that may go on

I really enjoyed the quiet roads for walking and cycling at the start of the pandemic.

I won't miss wearing my mask and forgetting to take it to the shops!

Paul Savage, reporter.

## Doing things differently.

### An IMPORTANT MESSAGE from Skerne Medical Group

Covid-19 has changed all of our lives in many ways, including the way you are able to see a GP and other Practice staff. Throughout the pandemic we have remained open and continued to strive to deliver a high quality service to all patients albeit in a very different way.

Unfortunately, as the pandemic situation sees further restrictions imposed both nationally and locally, we must continue with our GP telephone triage process and only see patients for face to face appointments where it is deemed appropriate to do so.

Our reception staff are currently seeing an increased number of calls each day and to help them to navigate an appropriate care pathway for you they do need to ask you to provide them with key information about the reason for your call to the surgery. We appreciate your continued patience during this period.

To assist in the way we manage your calls you will now be able to ring for appointments and prescriptions using the usual phone number, then pressing option 1. All that we kindly ask is, if you are contacting us for a prescription, please call after 9.30am.

**We would like to remind you that there are alternative ways to order your medication, book appointments and seek general medical advice.**

- **Sign up for repeat dispensing.** This will allow you to collect your medication directly from your nominated pharmacy for a period of 12 months. Please speak to reception to activate a log in and password which you can use 24/7

- **Book Appointments online.** Please speak to reception to activate a log in and password which you can use 24/7

- **e-Consult.** You can use e-Consult to seek advice via an online consultation which offers around the clock NHS self-help information, signposting to services, and a symptom checker. You can also use e-Consult to request a sick note. A GP will need to contact you to discuss. To access this service please visit the surgery website at [www.doctorsnhs.co.uk](http://www.doctorsnhs.co.uk)

*Please note, the e-Consult service must **not** be used for emergencies or ordering repeat prescriptions.*

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding in helping us to meet all of our patients' needs in a safe way.

### Sedgefield News from the past

#### 80 years ago ... in November 1940, during the Second World War, a number of soldiers made the news.

On 21st November the local papers carried news of two soldiers found dead on the Sedgefield to Stockton road.

A car driven by Lieutenant Thomas Miller swerved to avoid an object on the road and hit another object. The first object was a soldier sitting in the road, already dead, and second was another soldier, also sitting in the road, who was killed by the impact with the car.

An inquest heard that the two soldiers – Gunner Adam Lindsay and Gunner Thomas Carr - had been drinking at a Sedgefield public house earlier that evening. They left at closing time, carrying a bottle of beer, but had missed the last bus. They declared their intention to walk home or hitch a lift.

The inquest attached no blame to the car driver and declared a verdict of 'accidental death' on both soldiers.

A week later another soldier was making the news.

The Evening Gazette reported that Edward Boardman (29) had been committed to prison for one month. Boardman had been found guilty on three charges: stealing a sum of 18s from a shop in Sedgefield, stealing a cash box containing £1 5s 3d from Frank Davison, and stealing chocolates and cigarettes valued at £3 6s 6d from Frederick Anderson. The soldier was fortunate not to be facing a longer prison sentence: charges of breaking and entering had been dropped and the court took into account positive reports about his previous good character.

#### 60 years ago ... in November 1960 a local MP was trying to reduce deaths on the road by promoting a local invention.

Joe Slater, who was what the Birmingham Post called a 'Socialist MP' for Sedgefield, was one of two Durham Labour MPs asking the then Transport Minister, Ernest Marples, to consider adopting an invention by two Durham men.

### Lost & gained in a strange year...

#### a story that may go on

##### I have enjoyed...

- ... the slower pace of life without commuting
- ... Mum's taxi not being so busy!
- ... my dog curled up beside me when I work from home.

##### I miss...

- ...going out with friends to share our news over coffee & cake
- ... traveling, & exploring new places
- ... the shared exhilaration of live theatre performances
- ...big hugs from my Mum & Dad

Janette Savage, Editor

### From Loft to Loved is moving!

From their tiny shop on North End, this successful business will be in much more spacious premises at 11 The Square from November 1st.

We all wish them well.



The invention was a device to display the speed that a vehicle was travelling at on the OUTSIDE of the vehicle.

#### 20 years ago ...

Regular racegoers, frustrated by the lack of race meetings taking place at present, due to COVID-19 restrictions, may recall that in November 2000, the local race meeting had to be cancelled.

That month there was heavy rain across the country and, a few days after the Huntingdon meeting had to be abandoned when the river burst its banks, the Dublin Evening Herald reported on 6 November 2000 that a spokesman at Sedgefield

Racecourse had confirmed that the planned jump meeting at Sedgefield could not go ahead because the course was too waterlogged.

If you would like to know more about your local history, visit the Facebook page of Sedgefield Local History Society.

Martin F Peagam, *The Time Traveller*, on behalf of Sedgefield Local History Society.

## William Turner's sites in County Durham

William Turner's work and reputation recently saw him added to the design of the new £20 note, which may be the highest national honour we can confer. Now that local visitor attractions have reopened, we in Durham again have the opportunity to revisit his strong links with the County and the dramatic works he produced on our doorsteps.

JMW Turner was born in London in 1775 & his talent was obvious from childhood. He was selected by the Royal Academy for formal training aged just 14, and would become its youngest ever inductee. At 22 he visited Durham on his formative 1797 tour, already as a well-travelled & adept architectural draughtsman. However it was in the North that his talent for landscape painting blossomed.

On a 1000 mile journey through Durham & Northumberland, the lakes, & the abbeys of Yorkshire, he learned to enhance rather than simply record the terrain, and convey his own personal impression of a location, rather than reproduce a photo-realistic rendering. On this tour he became the 'landscape poet', as which he is viewed today, able to inject emotion, psychology, and the sublime into his scenes. He single-handedly raised the status of landscape painting in the art world. Turner's approach, emphasising individual experience over & above literal copying, was attuned to the idealistic Romantic movement of the day so it was unsurprising that Turner would be drawn to Durham during the early part of the 19th century. Durham, like the lakes, had become a hub of the Romantic scene, attracting visitors like Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Lord Byron, John Ruskin, William Wordsworth & Sir Walter Scott among many others. Turner was in Durham again in 1801 & in 1816, when he sketched High



*Raby Castle, the Seat of the Earl of Darlington, 1817 : Walters Art Museum, Baltimore*

Force Waterfall, but it was in 1817 that he made his most extensive tour of the region as a mature artist, producing sketches of Durham City, Brancepeth Castle, Bishop Auckland & Witton Le Wear, and taking in the Durham Dales, Barnard Castle & Lune Forest. The most substantial work to result from this trip was his oil painting of Raby Castle, which was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1818, and which is notable for its emphasis on the sky.

Turner was inspired by the light in Durham's landscapes & he had a dizzying ability to capture light & atmospherics. It was this, alongside his capacity for expressing the subjective impression of a panorama, which made him a key influence on the Impressionist movement, as well as on the American modernists & Abstract Expressionists that followed, notably, Mark Rothko, but also on the work of Whistler, Monet & several others.



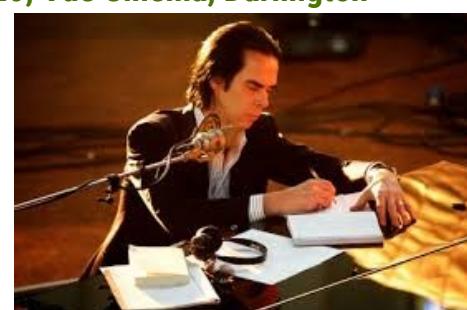
*Durham Cathedral, 1798-99: Royal Academy*

One of our greatest painters, Turner's scenes can often best be experienced in situ, when the weather permits. Sites like Raby Castle, High Force, Durham Cathedral, and the Bowes museum are of course well worth a visit in their own right, but for a new perspective on familiar territory, try following The "Turner Trail" of local places where he stayed, painted, and where he is exhibited. You can find it on the website, [ThisIsDurham.com](http://ThisIsDurham.com)

## Idiot Prayer: Nick Cave Alone At Alexandra Palace: 5th November 2020, Vue Cinema, Darlington

Those who long for the return of live music to our venues should not miss the transmission of Nick Cave's live act, showing at Cinemas across the north of England this month. Being 2020, it's a concert but not as we know it. In response to venues closing across the country, Nick Cave collaborated with award-winning cinematographer Robbie Ryan to record a solo performance alone in the lofty surroundings of the West Hall, Alexandra Palace, in June this year.

Cave has been releasing novel, challenging work since the 70s, steadily building an army of dedicated listeners and impressing critics worldwide. In that time he has achieved commercial success not only with his band 'The Bad Seeds' but as an acclaimed composer of musical scores. Some of his best known work now includes compositions for films like *The Road*, or *Lawless* & of course, his track 'Red Right Hand' appears in several movies & TV shows, most prominently as the theme song for *Peaky Blinders*. In this show described by the Guardian as "utterly magnetic" in a 5-star review, Cave again showcased his creativity in the format as well as the content of the production. It remains to be seen whether having an audience but no performer, at a broadcast featuring a performer but no audience, will prove to be successful, or strictly a historical oddity, a relic of an age of public restrictions. Whatever else, it promises to be an opportunity to catch a once-in-a-generation talent at the peak of his powers, in an undoubtedly memorable & unique experience - even by the standards of 2020.



## Bright Sparks at NETPark

**Five years ago, after returning home from his first day as Commercial Director, Paul Usher switched on his light and was amazed to see it work. He had joined Quorum, a software development company which specialises in helping energy companies to access the National Grid.**

National Grid operates a balancing mechanism to ensure power gets to customers when it's needed. With almost no storage capacity for electricity, this mechanism is complex and has to balance the different types of supply including wind farms, solar power, power stations and, increasingly, battery storage, with the demand from businesses and households. All of this takes place in the 60 minutes before power is required! It's not surprising Paul was impressed his light came on.

Quorum was founded in 2002 and has always been a local company. From its original base at Wynyard Business Park it moved to the business incubator at the newly opened NETPark before moving to Explorer 2 as the business expanded. It now has sixteen employees performing roles as business analysts, software developers and testers.

In Great Britain the average demand for electricity is between 35 and 45 gigawatts – about enough power to light 4.4 billion LED lights. Quorum provides software to around a third of the energy suppliers but they don't want to stop there and have recently launched a new product. SOLV Trader provides a live dashboard to monitor the longer-term markets (intra-day and day ahead) and it can recommend which trades to make and which ones to avoid. Working with their partner, SmartestEnergy, they expect the software to become a blueprint for trading support.

The future looks bright for the company and Paul is confident they will be able to grow further. The company is planning to develop software capable of taking a demand order from the National Grid and sending it to individual wind turbines to provide the power. The move to net zero carbon will provide many opportunities for the company and they can ensure the lights stay on.

To find out more, you visit their website at [www.quorumdev.com](http://www.quorumdev.com).



## Archaeology in the East Park

**Discover Brightwater/Dig Ventures, Thursday 22 Oct to Thursday 26 Nov**

Originally due to take place in April, DigVentures returns at last to East Park to resume their archaeological dig. They invite you to join them. Local people have previously helped to investigate the remains of a very unusual Roman town and this will now continue.

'Safe Dig' measures are in place. Join our socially-distanced Dig Team this autumn to help us investigate a new part of the site, safely.

Find out more at <https://digventures.com/get-involved/>



Please send Diary & Event details to  
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## SEDGEFIELD LIBRARY

### Current Opening Hours

**Wednesday 9.30am-12.30pm,  
Thursday 10am-4pm,  
Friday 1pm-5pm**

We will be closed on Saturdays for the time being but you can now browse. Once you have hand anti-bac-ed, you are welcome to choose from the shelves.

There is a limit of 4 people allowed in the building at any one time, and the time allowed is 15 minutes.

You may borrow up to 6 books and can also order books from other libraries to be delivered.

Masks should be worn and please bring your library card to be scanned for Track & Trace.

There is also now computer access, but that is also limited to 30 minutes. Sorry, there are no scanning, printing or photocopying facilities yet.

This is as we are at the moment but watch this space. We hope that more hours and facilities will be available soon.

The online catalogue system available for reserving books.

BorrowBox is still available with membership.

**Tel: 0300 026 9521.**

## Power Pants Published!

My name is Rachel Lewis and I live in Sedgefield. Last year I was lucky enough to have my first book, Zupidee, published and sold in bookshops and most online bookstores. Due to a great response my second book, Power Pants has now been published. Written to encourage children to be confident and believe in themselves, it is selling in the same places including Waterstones, W H Smiths and Book Depository. I have donated copies to schools, libraries, also to Thornaby Foodbank and Safe Families for Children charity in Newcastle, so that children from all backgrounds get the chance to read it and smile!

## Lost & gained in a strange year... a story that may go on

**The best** - hearing the village come together to celebrate the NHS every Thursday during the early weeks of the outbreak of Coronavirus.

Reuniting with brothers' & sisters' children again after several months

**And the worst** - noticing how much their children have grown during the months we've spent apart; birthdays missed, precious time lost which can never be reclaimed.

*Geoff Millichap, Arts Editor.*

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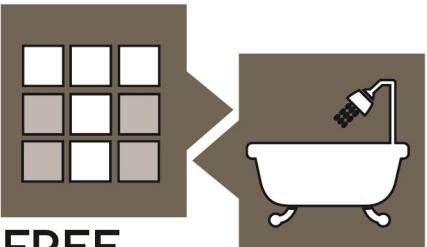
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## Church 'Friends' launch Sedgefield 2021 Calendar Just £7 and you don't need to leave home to get a copy!

The Friends of St Edmund's Church calendar is out now, in the familiar slimline, full-colour, hang-anywhere format.

With images by local photographers, the calendar comes in a plastic wallet and costs just £7 plus 50p for a robust cardboard envelope for posting – it has become a popular Christmas present. Coronavirus constraints are preventing people from getting out and about, so a free, socially-distanced delivery will be provided to people in and around Sedgefield. Orders can be placed from the comfort of your home.

Call Brian Mutch on 01740 622302, e-mail [b.mutch@btconnect.com](mailto:b.mutch@btconnect.com) or write to 6 Hasledon Grove, Sedgefield, TS21 2JW. For the first time the Friends have the facility for payment by credit or debit card.

### Church Clock Appeal

Brian Mutch is also the person to contact to donate to the Friends' appeal to restore the Victorian church tower clock to its former beauty and to correct working order.



AFTER REFURBISHMENT

The Friends are delighted with the initial response, saying it's clear from the donations already received that the plan is much appreciated.

The aim is to have the faded blue paintwork re-painted and the fingers re-gilded with gold leaf, returning the Victorian clock to its previous attractive state, as seen above.

**SEDGEFIELD COUNTY DURHAM**  
**2021 CALENDAR**

**The Friends of ST. EDMUND'S CHURCH SEDGEFIELD, COUNTY DURHAM**

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### In Memory of Mam by Steve Orwin

My mother, Margaret Orwin, passed away recently. A week before her passing she read an article in the Sedgefield News about the St. Edmund's Church clock refurbishment campaign and she asked my Dad to send a donation to the fund.

St. Edmund's Church was very close to Mam's heart. Her mother, Margaret Barratt, a sister at Sedgefield Hospital during the 50's and 60's, donated a flower stand which is still in place today.

The family will also be making a donation to the fund. It will be lovely to know that when any family visit Sedgefield village, we can look at the finished clock face in memory of Mam.

## SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### Cold Caller Warning!

Some Sedgefield residents have experienced cold callers recently trying to sell goods or services or attempting to relieve you of your cash with a confidence trick or sob story. This is widespread and Durham County Council have issued the following warning: Durham Trading Standards have become aware of cold callers trying to sell goods on the doorstep in various areas of the County. In some cases, their approach has been persistent, causing both upset and annoyance.

While it is not an offence to simply cold call, we would always urge residents to be extremely cautious when dealing with unsolicited visitors.

Some top tips to keep yourself and others safe:

- DON'T accept uninvited callers
- DON'T be afraid to say 'No'
- DON'T be rushed or feel pressured. Genuine traders will always be happy to return when a friend or family member is present
- DO keep an eye on your area and especially vulnerable neighbours. Has work started unexpectedly on their homes? Is the work visibly poor or been left unfinished? Is the person anxious about what has happened? Has a trader accompanied them to the bank?
- DO report suspicious cold callers to the Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 11 33 or to the police on 101

Learn more about how to protect yourself and others from scams by becoming a Friend Against Scams at: [www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk/elearning/durham](http://www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk/elearning/durham) and at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/scams>

Follow Durham Trading Standards on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/durhamts](http://www.facebook.com/durhamts) for updates on local scams affecting your community, consumer awareness campaigns and top tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of a scammer.

### Clocks Changing

The arrival of Autumn means that the days start to grow shorter and the clocks change on Sunday 25th October, meaning longer nights which are attractive to criminals operating under cover of darkness.

As the nights close in, here are a few actions you can take to prevent criminals spoiling your build up to Christmas.



- Adjust the settings on your light timers so that lights come on as soon as it is dark outside.
- Ensure external lights keep your property well illuminated.
- Ensure light timers keep your property interior well-lit so that if you are still at work when night falls it looks as though the property is occupied.
- Keep blinds tilted however, so that the interior of your house does not become a showcase to prospective burglars.
- Make sure equipment, toys, bikes and other valuable items used during the day are safely and securely stored indoors before it is dark.
- Make sure your car is secure and if possible parked off the street, preferably nose first on a drive, or better still in a garage.
- Always keep entrance doors, garden gates, garages and outhouses securely locked.
- Take garden furniture, barbeques, hose pipes and other summer garden items indoors for the winter.

**For Crimestoppers, call 0800 555 111 (anon)**

**CPO Rona Stocks** [rona.stocks@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rona.stocks@durham.pnn.police.uk)

**Police Community Cohesion Officer Faye Callan** 101 Extension 742317:  
[Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk)

**Confidential email address:** [John.lamb@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:John.lamb@durham.pnn.police.uk)

**Crime isn't as common as you think... but don't be a victim.**

**Please lock up, stay safe, sleep well.**



### Bicycle crime

Valuable items such as bikes are targets for theft generally but especially on dark nights.

Those without a secure lock are an easy target so make sure you lock it with a good quality secure lock such as a chain and padlock, D-lock or cable lock.



Keeping your bike indoors is the most secure solution but if you need to park your bike on the street here are a few tips on what to avoid:

**Dark Alleys** – even if it is locked a thief will have an ideal opportunity to break through the lock.

**Butterfly Racks** - avoid parking which only allows you to secure your front wheel to the stand, even if you do not have quick release wheels, a thief will find it very easy to detach your wheel and make off with the rest of your bike.

**Short posts or even tall posts that a lock can fit over** – your bike will be lifted over the top. Even if there is a sign at the top that the lock can't fit around bear in mind that a very determined thief will unscrew the sign and lift your bike over.

**Drainpipes** – these are easily shattered or removed.

**City or Town Centres Overnight** – avoid leaving your bike in these locations even if there is CCTV coverage.



**Security Marking** your bike will greatly increase the chance of the police identifying and returning it if you ever have your cycle stolen.

This also acts as a visible deterrent to thieves by making the cycle less attractive to steal.

**If you witness any incidents please report them as quickly as possible!**

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY

This week I revisited Hardwick Park for the first time since lockdown was lifted and with autumn coming it had changed quite a bit. I had forgotten how pleasant it was for an early evening stroll. It had been quite damp and as a result some fungi had appeared, including one of my favourites the Shaggy Ink Cap (*Coprinus Comatus*).

An unmistakable fungus - its tall, white, shaggy cap providing this name, but I much prefer the name 'Lawyer's wig' and if you ever see one you can see how it gets that name. It is relatively widespread and common on roadside verges, parkland, grassland and gardens, growing in small groups, quite often found in the same place from year to year. It is edible when young but you do need to use it fresh - if you leave it overnight you will come down to a black stain on the kitchen bench! (\*Always check with someone who knows their mushrooms before you pick any). The Shaggy Ink Cap displays a tall, narrow, cylindrical cap that is white and very 'shaggy' with 'scales' over its surface. The cap gradually opens out to a bell shape. The gills are very crowded; they are white at first, then turn pink and eventually black, dissolving from the margin of the cap until it is almost entirely gone. The Shaggy Ink Cap has a tall, smooth, white stem with a moveable ring.

Another pretty obvious fungus, especially on the boardwalk which works its way through the damp woodland or carr at Hardwick, was a bracket fungus growing on the Silver Birch. Bracket fungi cause decay and rot in the heartwood of trees and produce bracket-shaped fruiting bodies on the trunk or main branches. They are found on dead and decaying trees and usually lead to weakening and sometimes to the eventual breakage or fall of affected trees. The ones growing on the Silver Birch may be the Birch Polypore. As its name suggests, it is a bracket fungus that only grows on Birch trees! It is a fleshy fungus that is round or hoof-shaped, with a rounded edge and leathery look. It is a milky coffee-colour on top, and has white pores underneath. It is also known as the 'Razorstrap fungus' because its rubbery, leather-like surface was once used to sharpen knives and razors. Should we get another lockdown, make sure Hardwick Park is on your list of places to visit and keep an eye out for the fungi!



## NOVEMBER 2020

### Sedgefield In Bloom

#### Christmas Tree Collection



Sedgefield in Bloom volunteers are planning to run a Christmas Tree collection service for the disposal of real trees on 06/01/21, 09/01/21 and 13/01/21. For a small donation of £5.00 per tree the volunteers will collect it from your home, saving you time and the effort of clearing up the needles from your car. All monies raised from the collections will be used in Bloom activities.

The trees will be taken to be recycled at the **Woodland & Wildlife Project** site at NETPark.

Anyone interested in this service can contact Alice Hobson for further information. Call 01740 622706 or email [alicehobson.ah@googlemail.com](mailto:alicehobson.ah@googlemail.com)



More fabulous fungi by Rudolf Reichel



## Some community group efforts are continuing through Coronavirus

### Sedgefield Handbell Ringers

have not been able to meet socially, as they share music and bells. They have however met up virtually by Zoom, usually each fortnight and have enjoyed chatting.

### The Local History Society

have only had one meeting, in September, when Martin Peagam gave a virtual talk. They have been investigating more chances to do this. However, we have had a flood of people joining the Local History Facebook page, with quite a few conversations going on regarding the History of the village.

### U3A Activities

While naturally disappointed that we haven't been able to use our usual venues, including Ceddesfeld Hall, members of Sedgefield U3A have continued to organise many of their groups and to meet virtually, using Zoom. We have continued our

monthly Speaker meetings since June and have a further programme already arranged into early next year. Our Wine Appreciation Group have had three meetings over recent months and have enjoyed a wide variety of wines from many regions of the world as well as learning a lot about viticulture and oenology through quizzes and games.

Our Book club has continued to meet on a monthly basis and have discussed in great depth and with often very differing views, books chosen by the members, the Lunch Club have organised two picnics in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall but are disappointed, now that the weather has turned, that we are not now able to continue to meet in village pubs or cafe because of local restrictions.

While it has not been possible for our House and Gardens group to visit our usual venues we have had a

very interesting visit to the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall, where local Bloomers explained the history of the landscape and told us about the more recent renovations and planting of the area.

Our biggest success this summer, however, has been the publication of a book of short stories and superb photographs, illustrating the history and times of Sedgefield.

**'Beyond the Village Pump'** is a joint effort by our Creative Writing and Photography groups; originally aimed at this autumn's Book Festival, it was completed ahead of schedule and can be purchased for just £6 by contacting the local group on [SedgefieldU3A@gmail.com](mailto:SedgefieldU3A@gmail.com).

As you can see, we are still a really, pro-active group of older residents who are continuing to make the very best of a difficult situation while looking forward to returning to our regular haunts in due course.

## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS



A Project of Sedgefield Development, Trust in collaboration with Business Durham and the Woodland Trust

We are excited to announce that we have been granted another community tree pack from The Woodland Trust.

The pack will form a hedge along the western boundary of the woodland and wildlife site and will connect to an existing edge line.

There will be a planting day in early March, if you would like to help out please look out for more information nearer the time.

To keep informed of other news and events please join our facebook page – Woodland & Wildlife Sedgefield or email Melissa - [woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk)



A project of Sedgefield Development Trust

Homework Help has made a start with remote sessions.

Currently, we have various students and helpers working on maths, English, chemistry and physics.

History and politics are also available, as is advice regarding university applications (e.g. personal statement) and careers information.

If you'd like help with your homework, or could offer help to students, please contact us at [homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk) or find us on Facebook.

All helpers are DBS checked.



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DDS rapidly became aware that our service users were amongst some of the most isolated people, unable to use the phone and take advantage of some of the telephone befriending services or groups that were operating by Zoom which exclude many deafened people. DDS have throughout this difficult year kept in touch via E-mail, via a member only Facebook Page and for members who did not have the means to communicate electronically, via a weekly information and activities sheet.

We are now able to offer visits to people who may be struggling with their hearing loss, risk assessments are in place and our staff have visors to enable people to lip read. We offer a 'try before you buy' for hearing aid compatible equipment and can offer support with tinnitus and loneliness/ isolation as a result of hearing loss.

If you require help at this difficult time, please do not hesitate to contact us by either E-mail – [admin@ddsupport.org.uk](mailto:admin@ddsupport.org.uk) or via telephone 0191 5183358. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Sedgefield Farmers Market : Sunday 1st November

Last month went well despite the restrictions imposed upon us by the virus. Traders were pleased with customers and customers pleased with traders! So far we have had no reports of transmission of Covid19 at the Market and we will of course follow safe practice again this time. The Bees of Hardwick hope to be back this month, plus Lovesome Hill with their cold pressed rape seed oil, and a cautious re-start of the charity stall with St John Ambulance. So all in all the Market will be slightly larger, but we will be sure there is enough space for your visit to be comfortably socially distanced. Dryden Farms can't do the usual turkey & goose tastings, but you can contact them about an order on **0191 526 3287**. We're aware that when stalls sell out before the end of the Market it can leave customers disappointed. We are working with our traders to get over this problem so hopefully there will be less disappointment and more satisfied customers in future. We would like potential new traders to know that until we are more confident that Covid19 is not a threat we can only grow slowly and have not yet welcomed back all our regular stalls, because of the need to keep things spaced out. Over recent months we have received many requests from new traders to come to our Market. We are very pleased you want to come, but we must grow back to the size we were, carefully. Of course we would love to accommodate more stalls as soon as we can.

In 'normal times' Durham Deafened Support run two very successful groups in Ceddesfeld Hall in Sedgefield, a Craft Group each Wednesday and a Local Community Support Group including Lip Reading each Thursday.

## Ceddesfeld Hall News

**Home of Sedgefield Community Association**

### 50 Years of the SCA

Sedgefield Community Association celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in October. We had planned a party but Covid restrictions mean this has to be postponed until next year.

Initially, SCA was without a home and held meetings in rented halls and rooms around the village. In 1974 Sedgefield Parish Council (as it was then) purchased the Old Rectory for £30,000 and agreed a 30 year lease with SCA whose members themselves undertook much of the repairs needed, as well as obtaining grants to pay for more major work. The building, now known as Ceddesfeld Hall opened to the public as Ceddesfeld Hall in 1975. SCA remains responsible for all running costs and maintenance of the building and car park. If you were involved in these early days, please send your memories to [pbuckleyat@hotmail.com](mailto:pbuckleyat@hotmail.com)

### Who runs Ceddesfeld Hall?

SCA is a registered charity known as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). A group of members comprise of a Board of Trustees who are responsible for running the building. A secretary and a treasurer are elected by members and the Board elects a member to chair its meetings. This group of unpaid volunteers undertake all the work of managing a building for public use. They carry responsibility for all maintenance, ensuring that Charity Commission and health and safety regulations are met, bills paid for heating, lighting and maintenance, as well as lettings and organising community events. Most importantly, as SCA do not automatically receive any grants, they ensure that enough money is raised to pay for this expenditure. Given the building's size and listed status, such works can be costly. Between 2004 and 2007 a major revitalisation was undertaken. The kitchen was updated and refitted, the lounge was refurbished and new toilets were installed. The lift between cellar and attic was put in. This latter has proved a boon both to voluntary workers and people finding the grand staircases a challenge. This programme cost a total of £250,000, of which £130,000 came from grants and the balance raised

**Continued on page 12**

## SPORTS UPDATE

Recently, I took part in an open track and field event in Morpeth, a rare commodity this year, and a welcome opportunity to compete for athletes of all ages. The meet was organised by the North East Counties Athletics Association (NECAA), which had put in place robust COVID-19 related measures that were clearly communicated to everyone in advance. From what I witnessed, these were well observed by athletes and officials. While I was there, I caught up with a couple of acquaintances from the grass roots scene, and those conversations once again brought home how challenging the current situation is for everyone.

One chat was with a self-employed photographer, who covers events year round and earns his income from selling his action images to the media. He would normally expect to attend multiple events every week. Morpeth was his fourth job since March. In the meantime, one of the regular customers for his photos, Athletics Weekly, temporarily suspended publication and has only just returned, but as a monthly title, and with much less coverage of events like the one we were both at in Morpeth. The future is very uncertain for folk like him. The other conversation I had was with a senior NECAA official who has been part of the team that has worked tirelessly to stage at least some athletics this year. While accepting the inevitability of the shifting rules, he despaired: "We take two steps forward and then four back". He wasn't whingeing or advocating actions that could risk health, but was simply articulating the logistical impacts and stress for event organisers caused by the ongoing uncertainty, and the sometimes sudden changes to rules and restrictions.

Those were just two discussions with people who I know well and respect hugely, and they represent the sharp end of experience in only one sport.

I continue to be amazed at the effort and commitment being made by so many everywhere, to keep grass roots sport going amidst the mayhem. Bravo.

Email your reports to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)

### Youth Football

The teams at Sedgefield Youth FC march on! The U11s (*photo below left*) have started their new Russell Foster league campaign in great style and currently sit at the top of the division, with a 100% win record in five matches, scoring an astonishing 47 goals in the process. Now in their fourth year, the team go from strength to strength and have attracted the support of two new sponsors, The Pacifica Group and Chris Ford's Sliding Door Wardrobes. The club would like to thank both companies for their amazing generosity. Meanwhile, the U12s won their league last season, without losing a game. The team was promoted two divisions and currently sit second in League 6, winning four out of their first five games.

Many of the players in the U11s and U12s have worked their way through the age groups at Sedgefield Youth FC and the club has real strength in depth, with the young players supported by a passionate and dedicated coaching set up, and very supportive parents. The club has recently started up an U7s team, so expect more news of junior footballing success in Sedgefield soon.

**That's all for this month. As always, please send any sports news to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com).**



Sedgefield Youth FC Under 11s

## Temporary Bridleway Closures at Butterwick, Sedgefield

### Bridleway Nos 42, 47 & 57

As posted on our Facebook page, following recent damage to one of the wind turbines alongside the A689 near Butterwick, Durham County Council have announced that the adjacent bridleways nearby needed to be closed for safety reasons, whilst repairs were undertaken.

The repairs have been unavoidably delayed during the recent virus outbreak and the temporary closure has been approved for up to a further 6 months from 17/10/20. It is hoped that the works will be concluded in a much lesser timeframe and the bridleways will be re-opened at the earliest opportunity.

We have found it difficult to reproduce the map in readable form in Sedgefield News, but the map can be seen on our website, [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk).

**1. A 1055 metre length of Bridleway No 42 that extends eastwards from Butterwick Road / Waterloo Plantation**

**2. A 2075 metre length of Bridleway No 47 that extends between the A689 and bridleway No 43**

**3. 880 metres of Bridleway No 57 that extends between Bridleway No 47 and Public Footpath No 58 / the road leading to Green Lane Cottages, Butterwick.**

As the works have not yet been completed, it will be necessary to continue the closure in force by means of an extension of the Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The extended closure will be effective **from 17 October 2020 for a period of up to 6 months or until the bridleways are safe to fully re-open, whichever is the sooner**. The closure may be phased to allow for the making safe of the wind turbine and later final repairs. This continuation has been approved by the Secretary of State for the Transport.

**There is no signed alternative route for traffic during the closure period.**

### Who runs Ceddesfeld Hall cont'd

by members' voluntary efforts. In recent years there has been a programme of redecoration and carpet replacement throughout the building's interior, and this cost around £4,000 in total.

Recently, external works have been undertaken covering roof pointing, fascia and guttering repairs, as well as a complete external redecoration. These cost almost £9,600. The building size meant that a full scaffold was required.

In recent years, the Trustees have carried out a full review of policies appropriate to a modern community association. These range from health and safety to safeguarding and financial regulations.

More information about community sections and groups plus details of popular community events will appear in next month's article.

**For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall please call Wendy: 01740 620206, Pat: 620607, John: 620042, Sarah: 622185 or visit our website.**