

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

November 2021 Edition

Deadline for December - Monday 15 November

Sedgfield blooms again

Sedgfield celebrated success once again at the recent Northumbria in Bloom awards ceremony.

On behalf of Sedgfield in Bloom, Mayor Ann Carr and Bloom Chairman Howard Smith accepted a gold award and Best Small Town, shared this year with Sacriston in County Durham. Describing Sedgfield as 'a delight for the senses, inspiring, colourful, creative and vibrant', the judges were impressed by the 'outstanding standards achieved in the most difficult of times'.



RHS judge Rae Beckwith with Ann Carr and Howard Smith

Despite the continuing constraints of the pandemic, Britain in Bloom managed to host virtual judging this year. As no visits were possible, all entries were submitted online with photographic and written evidence of work done. Instead of their usual criteria, Britain in Bloom had come up with five categories. Sedgfield received an Achievement Award for Cultivating your Community. Highly appropriate, as community is at the heart of everything done by our town council gardeners and volunteer Bloomers.

Come and see us at Sedgfield Farmers Market on Sunday 7 November, when our community stall will display the awards and some examples of the work which has yielded such great results at regional and national level. We really appreciate the support and encouragement of this great community and hope you will share our pride in maintaining the gold standard.

Local athlete qualifies for World Championship

In mid-September, Ellie Spink, a member of Sedgfield Harriers competed in a Duathlon World Championship qualifier.

Duathlon is a mixed sport event which takes the format run-bike-run. Ellie had to run 4.8km then cycle 18.3km and finish with a 2.4km run. To represent Great Britain at next year's World Championship in her under 20 age group, she needed to finish in the top four of the category and with a time that was no longer than 115% of the winner's. This is a tough endurance event which needs the athlete to work at their threshold for just over an hour.

In order to prepare for the race, Ellie had spent many hours on the indoor cycling app Zwift on her dad's bike! And in the absence of a local athletics track, she could be regularly seen running multiple laps of NETPark. Training had been going well, until Ellie contracted COVID in the first week of September. She was unable to train for a week and this dealt a severe blow to her overall fitness, as no doubt many people have experienced. Unbowed, Ellie returned to training and made it to race day.

After the first run, she was in third place in her category, 35 seconds behind second place, but a speedy transition reduced this to just 9 seconds as the bike leg started. The cycle leg is her strongest discipline and she proceeded to take over 3 minutes out of both the athletes in front of her, so that when she left transition she was in the lead, but only by a few seconds. Ellie was able to hold onto the lead until 800m to go, but was pipped to the line by her nearest rival. However, she comfortably held onto second place and achieved qualification for the World Championships in the under 20 female category. This was a great effort, especially after such a tough setback so close to the race.

Ellie now needs to raise money to fund her trip to the championships next year, which are due to be held abroad – details to be confirmed. If any local business is interested in sponsoring Ellie, our sports reporter (chrisjlines@aol.com) can connect you to the Spink family, so get in touch.

Year of the Pig

Congratulations to The Impeccable Pig which has been awarded the AA Inn of the Year 2021 at this year's AA Bed and Breakfast Awards.



The venue has 10 extremely comfortable rooms and each is subtly themed with a pig related tale and some extra special features.



SWINE, DINE & SLEEP



Ellie Spink in action

Diversity calendar

As part of our commitment to the personal development of the students at Sedgefield Community College, we have set up a 'Diversity Calendar' of events that will take place throughout the academic year, in order to ensure that our curriculum is inclusive of people of different backgrounds, cultures and identities.

The first event in our diversity calendar was Black History Month, which takes place every October. We held assemblies for each year group about this, and in form time students were asked to consider whether 'taking the knee' is an impactful way to make a stand against racism. Year 9 were also treated to a special assembly delivered by Hashi Mohamed, via live link from the Royal Grammar School. Hashi is the best selling author of *People Like US*, BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week. As a child refugee arriving in the UK in the 1980s, he was raised on benefits and attended some of the lowest-performing schools in the country. He is a passionate speaker and advocate of social mobility.

The highlight of the month was having Marsha Garrett (who is a researcher, public speaker and historian on the creation of race and racism) in school to run workshops for our Year 8s about Black history and the creation of race. Marsha shared her expertise with warmth and humour and the feedback from students and staff was very positive. We are hoping to continue working with Marsha to support further developments.

Revolve and evolve - a class way to learn

With single subject teaching of foundation subjects well underway at Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School, a new pedagogy is evolving within Key Stage 2. The classrooms are all based around a specific subject and are all led by specialist leaders within that field.



Each classroom has been renamed: the Studio will enable the children to release their creative side through art and design and design technology; the Lab will bring out the children's inquisitive, scientific minds; the children will travel across the world and through different time periods whilst they are in the Orb and in the Hive, the children will explore technological advances in computing.

Every three weeks, children will visit their new learning zone where they will expand their learning horizons and learn how to instil, inspire and innovate in every subject. "I love the new idea of moving round the classrooms because each one is linked to a specific subject and the learning environments inspire our creativity," stated a Year 6 pupil.

Sedgefield schools' partnership work

Partnership work between the two schools at Sedgefield and Hardwick took place this week in both Year 2 classes.

Sedgefield Hardwick pupils visited Sedgefield Primary and conducted mini interviews to explore healthy packed lunch options.

Pupils from both schools thoroughly enjoyed seeing established friends in their school environment. Also many used the opportunity to make new friends from the local area.

"It was exciting because they were kind. We got to meet new people. I also got to meet people I already know." Isaac W.

Scottish Author

Sedgefield Primary pupils were wowed this week by the acclaimed Scottish author, Stuart Reid. Stuart has performed in over 2,000 schools worldwide. He is the well-known author of the *Gorgeous George* series.

Lively creative writing workshops were presented to pupils from Year 2 – 6. The aim was to engage all pupils further in a love of books. Sedgefield Primary pupils thoroughly enjoyed this visit, alongside staff. Teachers were impressed by Stuart's ability to engage all pupils. In fact, some pupils were so inspired that they have produced their own poetry and mini books based on this visit. Perhaps these pupils will become famous authors later in life?



CEDESSELD HALL

Home of Sedgefield Community Ass'n

Most groups and sections are getting back to business here, with some new additions too. Long standing sections like Bowls, Pop In, Local History Society, Art, Youth Choir, Ladies Group, North Eastern Concertina Players, The Last Wednesday (acoustic group), Durham Deafened Support, Bridge, Handbell Ringers, Ceddesfolk and Northumbrian Pipers are moving forward with their programmes. Sedgefield Lyric Singers are using St Edmund's for the time being but hope to be back at Ceddesfeld soon. Sedgefield Squash Club is up and running, with home & away matches as well as the usual coaching and training sessions.

It is good to see people socialising again, whilst also being respectful of others, keeping a safe distance and keeping the place as well ventilated as possible.

New groups to Ceddesfeld include 'Pimms and Needles', who meet on the third Tuesday of every month. They are open to ladies aged 18 and above, who are invited to take part in a range of activities. Come with friends, family or on your own - you are very welcome and the group is a great way to make new friends in the local community. P&N offer a different activity each month; arts & crafts, dancing, beauty & wellbeing, an artisan food session or getting one's hands dirty with some gardening! It's all about having fun and getting involved – enjoying the journey rather than worrying about the outcome! Visit their website at www.pimmsandneedles.co.uk for contact details, programme & costs. There's also a new Home Education Group, where kids and parents meet every Wednesday from 1.00-4.00pm.

The bar is busier week by week, with many patrons happy to frequent the lounge as well as the smaller 'snug' bar. New volunteer bar staff are a great help as things move forward. SCA is currently updating their website and a pamphlet, giving information about the different activities, events and room hire which will be delivered to residents with next month's newsletter.

There is understandably still much caution around larger events, but plans for a Mediaeval Fayre on Saturday 21st May 2022 are going ahead. Plans to celebrate the Queens Jubilee on June 4th in a special community day (combined organisations) are also coming together. **Continued on page 8**



John Henry Fitzpatrick 1942 – 2021

John has been a highly effective Trustee and Company Secretary of Sedgefield Development Trust since the earliest days. Taking the trouble to qualify as a paralegal in order to do the job, he learned exactly how to keep us on the right track and we have much to thank him for.

When we first met John, he was travelling the world as a trouble-shooter for a chemical company. He enjoyed working with people of other cultures and was no stranger to Russia, India, South America, the Middle East and more. His busy travel schedule once saw him arrive in Australia 4 weeks too early and, jet-lagged already, having to get the next flight home, only to return 4 weeks later!

His family moved from Dewsbury via Durham to Hartlepool and John attended Brinkburn Grammar School before being taken on as an apprentice Chemical Engineer at Billingham ICI. After gaining a science degree at night school, he rose through the ranks to join the Catalyst Group, where he helped develop new catalysts and chemical plants for use in fertilizer production. It was at ICI that John met Lesley and they married in April 1972, moving to Sedgefield that year. He has been a devoted father to their daughter Anne, born in 1976.

John was busier in retirement than at work! After over 40 years at ICI, he became a Trustee of their Pension Fund. He also joined the Friends of Hardwick, volunteering regularly in the shop and as one of the editorial team here at Sedgefield News, he helped produce a memorable edition of Sedgefield News in May 2005, with a glossy, full colour 4-page supplement showing the redevelopment of Hardwick Park.

Finding time to play, as well as act as Treasurer, then Club Secretary for a snooker team at the Atheneum in Hartlepool, he and Lesley played at Middlesbrough Croquet Club. He won team and individual trophies in both sports, but his biggest love was his 500cc Velocette Venom, which he rode as often as he could.

John's illness was long, but only recently did it slow him down and gradually he had to give up his hobbies and interests. He always relished supporting this community and will be sadly missed by family, friends and colleagues.

BUSINESS UPDATE

Combustion Engineering Association

Formed in 1933, the CEA is a registered educational charity based at Sedgefield's NETPark. Through education, representation, promotion and specialist advice, the organisation aims to promote the science of combustion engineering and to encourage best practice.

Office administrator vacancy

This office administrator (or apprentice) will be involved in all aspects of running a very busy office, dealing with daily data entry into the accreditation schemes that the CEA run, being involved in organising and attending the conferences and events we host around the UK (if appropriate). Working with training providers and assessors for the accreditation schemes. Attending meetings with other staff members and taking minutes (if appropriate). Previous experience is preferred but not essential, general IT skills are required, good telephone manner is required in dealing with the very mixed range of people we communicate with daily.

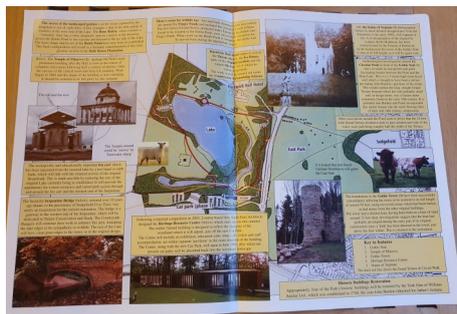
Hours: 35 - 40 per week

Application deadline: 05/11/2021

Job Types: Full-time, Part-time, Permanent, Apprenticeship

Salary: £18,000-£22,000 per year

COVID-19 considerations: NETPark is a modern office and research complex, it has COVID measures in place that we all have to adhere to including face masks in general public areas, hand sanitiser and social distancing.



DCC Care Connect

We continue to operate as usual and ask all customers to use our service if you need it and to recommend it to friends and family who may need extra support at this crucial time.

If you have concerns regarding the pandemic and your health, please get in touch. Staff will ask you on arrival if you have symptoms of Covid-19 or have tested positive.

Our staff wear full protective equipment (PPE) to protect both themselves and you. They use antibacterial gel for their hands and sanitise vehicles after visiting homes. We take all precautions to stop the spread of the virus.

If you want to join the service during Covid-19 restrictions and are concerned about staff entering your property, we can either deliver your equipment to your doorstep for you to plug into an electric socket or it can be installed by our staff using PPE and social distancing. If you are shielding, please let us know.

Get in touch today by emailing care.connect@durham.gov.uk or calling 03000 262 195.

Fishburn Academy Band (FAB) is back and looking for new members

Are you currently learning a brass instrument or gave up playing as a result of the pandemic? Would you like to continue playing with like-minded people in a band to improve your ability?

If you, or someone you know, are interested, then please contact us or anyone in the Fishburn Band.

Rehearsals at present take place on Monday evenings at 7pm in Fishburn Bandroom (TS21 4AJ) and all abilities are welcome.

Contact FAB Chairman Andrew Wilson at andrewwilson27@gmail.com or ushermalcolm@gmail.com.

FISHBURN ACADEMY BAND



SUSTAINSEDGEFIELD

Waste – is it sustainable?

Waste is a part of every natural system. Things die, are broken down and then provide material for new growth. However, in the UK we are producing so much waste it is putting pressure on the environment. The average person in the UK produced 409kg of waste each year, which is mostly made up of food scraps, cardboard, glass bottles and plastics. A study suggests that the average UK family throws away 20% of all the food they buy. Recycling rates for UK household waste are slowly increasing, but much is still sent to landfill or for incineration.



So what can we do about it? We can start by **RETHINKING** our attitudes and behaviour using the 5R's hierarchy below. The higher up the list the option is, the greater the environmental benefit!

Refuse: The best way to manage our waste is not to produce it in the first place. Rather than buying new products, can we borrow or lend them instead? Simple things like a tool library, or a toy loan scheme could work well for items which are needed occasionally or on a time limited basis.

Reduce: We can reduce the number of possessions we have and look at ways of passing them on when we no longer need them. The Sedgefield, Fishburn and Trimdon Larder group on Facebook is a fantastic way of finding new homes for items which still have life in them, 'clothes swishing' parties are a great way of recirculating clothes rather than buying new.

Repair: If we look after our possessions they will last longer. Some items can be repaired rather than thrown away. Repair Cafes are places where people bring broken items and learn how to fix them. If you know how to darn a sock, or fix electrical items, would you be willing to help to set up a repair café in the area?



STEVE'S NATURE DIARY NOVEMBER 2021

As reported in the Sustain Sedgefield column last month, COP 26 is where world leaders come together to talk about climate change and how to tackle it. This year marks the 26th COP summit – hence why it is called COP 26 and it takes place 1-12 November 2021 in Glasgow. It's held here this year because the UK were successful in their bid to host it – this means they have taken on the Presidency. So the spotlight is on the UK to provide global leadership that raises ambition and turn promises into desperately needed action to tackle the inseparable nature and climate crises. We are in the middle of a climate and nature emergency, and the two are inextricably linked. Climate change is driving nature's decline and the loss of wild spaces is leaving us ill-equipped to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to change.

On this subject, I read an interesting article this week about one of the commoner garden birds that most of you will probably see in your garden if you feed the birds or when walking in our local woodlands such as Hardwick Park – the Great Tit.

A trio of researchers at the University of Oxford have been studying the interrelationships between Great Tits, oak trees and caterpillars in Wytham Woods, near Oxford. They have revealed some of the complexities involved in changes wrought by global warming. They obtained data from multiple studies of the birds and discovered that temperatures in the area have increased by 2.6 degrees Celsius over the past 60 years and that has led to the Great Tits moving their mating and egg laying to earlier in the spring each year. The data showed that on average, the birds are currently laying their eggs approximately 16.2 days earlier than they did 60 years ago. But they also found that there was much more to the story. They found that oak leaves in the area have been appearing earlier as spring has come earlier each year, and that caterpillars have begun appearing on the leaves earlier each year as well. They also found that the caterpillars and leaves were arriving slightly earlier than the tit nestlings, which suggested that they could soon be out of sync with them and the Great Tit chicks could end up starving. This is just one species that is being affected by climate change and we don't really know exactly what will happen. The Wildlife Trusts are having a very special episode of #WildLIVE, from COP26 when Craig Bennett, the Chief Executive, will be joined by a great panel of climate and nature experts and activists on Sunday 7 November at 7pm. Sign up to watch at www.wildlifetrusts.org/events/2021-11-07-wild-live-let-nature-help.



Great Tit at Hardwick Park



Recycle: We have a fortnightly doorstep recycling system which makes it very easy to recycle in County Durham. Most supermarkets have places to recycle specific items such as batteries and lightbulbs, and look out for local initiatives such as the one Sue Walker is involved in asking for old spectacles.

Greener Sedgefield Facebook page is a rich source of information and inspiration.

Re-use: Making new products uses energy and raw materials, so re-using or repairing things keeps valuable materials out of landfill and incinerators. Old clothes can be made into patchwork, or bunting or you could do a 'Sewing Bee style transformation'; washing machine drums make great fire pits; yoghurt pots make good containers for seedlings. Before you throw something away, are there any components which could be used in a different way?



If you would like to help set up a Repair Cafe, run a tool library, hold a clothes swishing party or if you have any other ideas, please get in touch with us at news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.

Your LETTERS

Art Group

Following the enforced shut down of the Art Group over the past 18 months, it is with considerable regret that the group has now agreed to bring the class to an end. The Art Group has been in existence for almost 20 years. It initially ran from Sedgefield Community College prior to moving to Ceddesfeld Hall before establishing its base in the Methodist Hall.

The class was led by Derek Slater, a well known 'Pitman Painter' who provided an insight to a variety of artistic skills to a cohort of between 10 and 15 members. These skills were displayed to the community during Mediaeval Fayre Day with an annual exhibition of the work of the Art Group.

The retirement of Derek as group tutor, combined with the retirement of a number of members, notably Derek English who worked tirelessly as Treasurer/Secretary, prompted the decision to bring the class to an end.

One of the founder members of the Art Group was Barry Armstrong a well known local resident whose images of Sedgefield past and present were very much admired. Sadly, Barry passed away during 2020. In memory of Barry it was felt appropriate that remaining Art Group funds be donated to the Alzheimer's society.

Many thanks to all members who supported the group over the years with a special vote of thanks to the two Derek's for all of their unstinting efforts.

C. McGowan

Mayor's Christmas Appeal

I am organising an appeal for a Christmas present for a homeless person or a child in need.

Some ideas for a homeless person are: biscuits; socks; gloves; scarf; soap; toothpaste; sweets; a puzzle; towel; or t-shirt.

Alternatively, a small gift for a child whose parent is in prison. All gifts will be delivered discreetly. Just put the gender and age of the child on the front of the parcel and wrap in Christmas paper.

You can deliver gifts to my home at 3 The Square, Sedgefield or leave it at the Town Council Office on Front Street. Thank you very much, I do appreciate your support.

Councillor Ann Carr, Mayor

Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher. We strive to be impartial & independent. We reserve the right to edit copy & will not publish letters of unknown authorship. Please send your contact details with correspondence.

A sad loss

What a real shame it is that Sedgefield Harriers have seen fit to get rid of their fundraising arm, known to us as 'Friends of Sedgefield Harriers' (FoSH), and replace it with EDCAT, 'East Durham Community Athletics Track' (EDCAT) (Registered CIO, Charity No 1154064). This did not happen, however, until all funds held for Sedgefield Harriers, and retained for their benefit by the Town Council, had been transferred to them under their previous registered name of Friends of Sedgefield Harriers. Sedgefield Harriers is now an unincorporated, voluntary/ community group and I sincerely hope they all know that they have no legal charitable status.

It saddens me greatly to see no reference whatsoever in this new track name of EDCAT to Sedgefield, especially as we have such a wonderful array of community and voluntary sector charities and organisations within our community who are proud to display their association with Sedgefield by adding it to their title, e.g. Sedgefield Development Trust, Sedgefield Players, Sedgefield in Bloom, Sedgefield Community Association, etc.

People may disagree with me and say it is 'only a name' however to many people the name EDCAT implies that the beneficial area will be, East Durham. Sedgefield is not in East Durham, according to the County Durham Local Plan adopted in October 2020, and I am sure the County Council will not have got this designation wrong??

It is more concerning that some of the Harriers themselves don't even know that they are giving their hard earned donations to EDCAT whose area of benefit covers Durham, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees and Sunderland.

Perhaps there is a perfectly good reason for this but, for me, EDCAT has no attachment to the Sedgefield family and it is an insult to the many people of Sedgefield who have supported Sedgefield Harriers over the years, including me and my family members, in its fundraising efforts.

We may be asked to support them again very soon, and we will be very happy to do so.

Let's hope we get some snow, and Ray can get the tractor out again!

Gloria Wills

Christmas Tree Festival

The festive season may still be months away but enterprising members of Sedgefield's St Edmund's Church are already hard at work planning a Christmas Tree Festival for the town while keeping their fingers well and truly crossed that there won't be another COVID lockdown.

"We've responded to requests from several people who thought it would brighten up their lives after all the challenges they have had to face during the COVID lockdown", said emeritus warden Brian Mutch this week.

And to kickstart the celebration, festival organisers have decided not to charge local companies and organisations of various kinds who want to dress a tree.

More than 30 have expressed an interest in staging a display which all things being equal, will be open to the public from Friday 26 November to Friday 3 December.

During the festival, it is hoped to arrange a Civic Carol service and a brass band concert.

Further information, including expressions of interest in acquiring a display site, can be made by contacting Brian on 01740 622302.

Sedgefield Christmas cards



Packs of Christmas cards with a difference are now on sale in Sedgefield as part of the ongoing efforts by the Friends of St Edmund's Church to help preserve the fabric of the centuries-old building. The tri-fold cards depict the doorway entrance to the church.

The cards come in a pack of five and cost £5. The Friends are also offering a mixed pack of eight cards in four different eye-catching designs for £6 per pack or an option to choose eight identical cards for the same price.

They can be obtained from Brian and Christine Mutch on 01740 622302 or via b.mutch@btconnect.com, any member of the Friends' committee or at the Hive in Rectory Row.

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

Lumiere Returns Across the County 2021

In November, the Lumiere lights will make a long-awaited return to Durham, with spectacular light and sound sculptures from around the world, interactive installations, and community led projects cheek-by-jowl with some of the city's most celebrated historic buildings.

The festival began in 2009, originally intended to be a one-off event, but public demand saw it return, each year growing in popularity. In 2017, the displays attracted a record 240,000 visitors.



For the first time in 2021, the lights will be extended beyond Durham City to selected sites around County Durham, transforming Raby Castle, Peterlee's Apollo Pavilion, & Finchale Priory (among others) into nocturnal extravaganzas.

In another novel innovation for *Lumiere 2021*, the festival will also feature the poetry of ten leading contemporary poets; Michael Rosen, Kae Tempest and TS Eliot prize-winner Roger Robertson are among those whose brand new commissions will be projected onto the walls of Durham Castle throughout the 4-day weekend. As usual the star of the show will be the architecture and local businesses of Durham itself.

Lumiere opens 4:30pm until 11pm from 18 to 21 November. The event is still free and 24 of the 37 installations can be visited without a ticket but for the full experience up to 6 free tickets per household can be booked at www.lumiere-festival.com

LUMIERE

Mark Thomas at The Witham

Mark Thomas performs at *Funny Way to Be* comedy club at The Witham, Barnard Castle on 18 November as part of a star-studded season that has already featured established acts like Simon Brodwin & *Britain's Got Talent* winner Jon Courtenay, with further talents Gary Delaney, Robin Ince & Jenny Éclair still to come. The venue really does go from strength to strength in attracting first-rate talent to the county.

A veteran on the UK comedy circuit for 34 years, Mark Thomas is a household name and master of thoughtful humour, well-known for delivering political comedy around heavyweight themes and for his knack of informing & subverting while entertaining his audiences.

His new show *50 Things About Us* serves a potted history of the United Kingdom, and an examination of some of the national myths that feed our sense of national identity with belly laughs and some silliness alongside weightier ideas about what it means to be British in the 21st century.

Tickets are available at funnywaytobe.weebly.com



the
witham
Culture • Community • Commerce

Tim Minchin At Stockton Globe



Tim Minchin, the much-loved musician and comedian brings his nationwide tour *Back Encore* to Stockton in November.

Minchin is a regular face on British TV through his many musical and comic contributions to shows like *Never Mind The Buzzcocks*, and *The Jonathan Ross Show*. He is also a star of musical theatre for his performing roles in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Hamlet*, as well as for his writing; having composed musical adaptations for *Groundhog Day* and *Roald Dahl's Matilda* – which won a record 7 Olivier awards and several Tony's.

His much-celebrated *Back* tour from 2019 is now being restaged at the iconic art deco Stockton Globe venue, which hosted the Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Stevie Wonder before closing its doors in 1975. The Globe recently reopened after a 46-year hiatus and a £28m facelift, with a full programme of comedy and music, and is already attracting an array of big names to the area. Minchin showcases his truly unique blend of heartfelt ballads and surreal comedy for two nights on 21 and 22 November, tickets are available for both nights, visit www.atgtickets.com/shows/tim-minchin-back-encore-2021/stockton-globe for details.

Save the Date for Panto this Christmas...

Is it too early to think about the return of pantomime season to our local theatres? Oh no it isn't. Durham's Gala theatre will showcase their production of *Robin Hood* from 24 November, with the usual live music and knockabout thrills and spills. Tickets available now at galadurham.co.uk/galapost/robin-hood.

The Witham Barnard Castle will be running *Sleeping Beauty* over the Christmas period—more details next month.

Sedgefield Lyric Singers: Honorary Life Membership



At the Lyric Singers' AGM on Zoom back in February, 4 long-standing choir members were nominated to receive honorary life memberships for outstanding service to the choir. Now the choir has resumed rehearsals in the safe space of St Edmund's Church, all four nominees were presented with beautiful, framed certificates by Choir Chairman, Clare Reid. The four members are former conductor and bass David Jasper and sopranos Elaine Thomson, Connie Spring and Alwyn Pearson. All four were absolutely thrilled to receive such splendid mementos, recognising their sterling contributions to and great support of the Choir over very many years.

DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

November 2021

- Monday 1** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. Norma Neil and "Sedgefield through the eyes of Youth".
- Wednesday 3** **Sedgefield Women's Institute Meeting**, Parish Hall, 7:15pm. New members welcome.
- Friday 5** **Sedgefield and District U3A**, Parish Hall, 2pm. Rich Garside and "The Durham Miners—Adjusting to Decline". Guests welcome, £3.00 at the door. Contact 01740 629674 for details.
Sedgefield Cricket Club Quiz Night, 7.30pm. All welcome.
Sedgefield Blues Club: Ben Poole + The Rain Kings, Sedgefield Parish Hall, doors 6:45pm, only 10 tickets left.
- Saturday 6** **Café COP Caring for Creation**, Parish Hall and St Edmund's Church, 10am - 12pm. See details below.
- Sunday 7** **Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am - 12:30pm, featuring Sedgefield in Bloom as the community stall.
- Friday 12** **Sedgefield Women's Institute Coffee Morning**, Parish Hall, 10am - 11:30am. Homemade cakes & crafts, books, bottle tombola, and raffle. All welcome. Homecare Clothing are in the Fletcher Room at the same time.
- Sunday 14** **Remembrance Sunday Service**, St Edmund's Church. Limited numbers, see article below for details.
- Tuesday 16** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club Open Night**, Parish Hall, 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm). Flower demonstration by Jan Faulkner, "Christmas Time". £5 for members, £8 for guests. All welcome. Tickets from 07533 752870 or 07721 767408.
- Friday 19** **Sedgefield Blues Club: Eliana Cargnelutti + George Shovlin & George Lamb**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, doors 6:45pm, Italy's finest female guitar player touring the UK. A winner of the Introducing stage at Skegness Rock and Blues Festival.
- Thursday 25** **Sedgefield Show AGM**, Sedgefield Social Club, 8pm. All welcome.
- Friday 26** **Sedgefield Veterans Coffee Morning**, Parish Hall, 10am. Tea, homemade cakes and raffle. Everyone is welcome.
- Tuesday 30** **SOLD OUT**—Mayor's Flower Demonstration

Save the date

- Sunday 5 December** **Carols in the Car Park**, keep an eye out for more details nearer the time.
- Monday 6 December** **Days In and Days Out (DIDO)**, Parish Hall from 1pm - 3,30pm. Please bring along a plate of food for our Xmas buffet. We ask that everyone wears a mask on entry and that you wear something warm and cosy as the Hall will be ventilated for COVID. For more information phone Brenda on 01740 629574 or just come along.
- Friday 17 December** **Carols on the Green**, keep an eye out for more details nearer the time.
- Early January** **Bloom Christmas Tree Collection**, £5 per tree, collected and recycled. Further details in next month's edition.
- Saturday 19 February** **A Murder Mystery Evening**, Parish Hall. Part of the Mayor's Charity Events' Calendar and is in conjunction with Sedgefield Players. Further details will be available in next month's news.

Remembrance Sunday

There will be a service in St Edmund's Church on Remembrance Sunday, but with restricted numbers. Representatives of the uniformed organisations, the Veterans, Town and County Councillors have been invited. Others may book on a 'first come, first served' basis by contacting Brian Mutch (01740 622302). Spaces are limited to 50 to ensure social distancing. There will be the usual gathering at the War Memorial at 10:50am with the Act of Remembrance and the laying of wreaths. Due to restrictions on numbers there will be no refreshments in Ceddesfeld Hall following the service.



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.

See www.durham.gov.uk/libraries for updates and information about any service changes.

Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group



Methodist Church on alternating Mondays and Tuesdays. All sessions run from 9:30am—11am.

Mondays: 1 Nov, 15 Nov & 29 Nov

Tuesdays: 9 Nov, 12 Nov

Café COP - Caring for Creation

Everyone of all ages is warmly invited to come along to Café COP - Caring for Creation, an event around the climate change conference, organised by Sedgefield Area Churches Together in the Parish Hall and St Edmund's Church on Saturday 6th November, 10 am to 12 noon.



In the Parish Hall, there will be fair-trade refreshments and home-made cakes (pay as you feel), a fair-trade stall, information on low-carbon issues and things we can all do to help the climate situation; low-carbon and recycled craft activities; stands by Sedgefield's Woodland & Wildlife group and by Durham Wildlife Trust. "Letters for Creation", drawing and prayer spaces will be in St Edmund's.

Proceeds will go towards the Climate Stewards charity and this year's Carols in the Car Park.

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS

WOODLAND & WILDLIFE

Sunny Autumn Woodland Days

Unfortunately, we have had some damage to trees and posts which were funded by Discover Brightwater and County Durham Community Foundation, and installed by our volunteers.

A large vehicle, roughly 3m wide, has driven through the site, snapping 3 posts (pictured right) and flattening around 10 trees.

Despite discovering the damage at our last volunteering session, we had a lovely, sunny morning working on site. It's fascinating to see the site change during each season.

We found many varieties of fungi, like the hare's foot inkcap shown here and we laid a new woodchip path.



Volunteers have also been looking at how well some of our newly planted trees are growing. The goat willow in the photo was one of our first trees, planted in February 2018. Many of the trees which we planted on the same weekend are doing fantastically well. Maybe you were one of the many locals who braved the snow and the bitter wind that weekend!

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



Homework Help is well underway, with some new students and some returning. We are pleased to welcome them all.

Maths and English are particularly in demand. If anyone could help with either of those, please e-mail homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.

We are particularly looking for English up to GCSE level and secondary school maths. Thanks. We aim to help everyone who asks and will do our best to find help in whatever topic.



Sedgefield Energy Switch: Important notice

To anyone who registered for our Energy Switching Scheme at the October Auction, you should have received an email or letter regarding the results of the auction, with a recommendation that you should follow.

As you will probably be aware, the energy market is very volatile at the moment and costs are increasing almost daily. Right across whole industry, all suppliers are increasing their prices to such an extent that fixed price contracts do not, financially, represent the best option at this point in time.

In a complete change from the previous 7 years, the general recommendation now is to remain with your existing supplier and move to their Standard Tariff, rather than opt for a fixed tariff.

If you have any concerns or require any assistance, we are here to help.

Please email admin@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or call the SDT number, 07572 502904. Leave a message with your phone number and we will arrange for our energy switch organiser to call you back.

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

DIDO returns!

Days In and Days Out (DIDO) will be back for a long overdue get together and to celebrate Christmas on Monday 6th December at the Parish Hall. All the details about the party are on page 7 in the Diary.

DIDO is a club for us golden-agers, and we'll meet on the second Monday of every month throughout 2022, with lots of fun, dancing, games and singing, not to mention our much-loved day trips out.

I know lots of members are looking forward to meeting up with old friends and acquaintances once again, but we're a lovely bunch and we warmly welcome new members to join us at any time.

Brenda, Ina, Avril and Ruth will be taking the reins and we hope to be as successful as our predecessors. Please come along on 6 December for our Christmas Party.

We ask that everyone wears a mask on entry and that you wear something warm and cosy, as the Hall will be ventilated for COVID.

For more information, phone Brenda on 01740 629574 - or just come along!



Sunday 7 November

We're looking forward to the usual busy market in the run up to Christmas.

Hand sanitiser will still to be provided at the entry points to the market and are grateful to traders, volunteers and customers for helping us to keep it safe.

CEDDSFELD HALL



continued from page 2

Other events such as the annual Beer Festival and Easter Picnic are pencilled on to the calendar. We keep our fingers crossed that all will be well and that events like this will be allowed.

On Friday 17th December the Churches Together 'Carols on the Green' will take place at 6.30 pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies at Ceddesfeld Hall A Christmas Ukulele Kanikapila, performed by Sedgefield Ukulele Smile Time will follow. More details on this will be posted around the village and through social media.

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.sedgefieldsca.org.uk .

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SPORTS UPDATE

Email chrisjlines@aol.com

This is a bumper month for sport, with loads of great success to report, a lot of it driven by the talented youngsters of Sedgefield (supported by adult coaches and parents/taxi drivers of course!). And this is just a snapshot. I'll be reporting the latest from football, rugby union and more in future months. It's really exciting to hear about so much endeavour and achievement in our local grass roots sports community.

Squash

Now that the summer is well and truly behind us, squash is once again back to full throttle. The past few weeks have seen Sedgefield Squash Club host many events to celebrate Women in Sport and World Squash Day. England Squash, the national governing body, has been impressed with the club's ideas and sessions to get more people involved in the sport, so much so that they will be mentioned in an article to be distributed nationally among clubs. Over 40 women and girls tried squash for the first time, with many saying it certainly won't be the last. The club has also won the Dunlop Women's Squash social media photo competition, with the prize being about £500 worth of adult and junior equipment.

Team squash has returned across Durham and Cleveland, with Sedgefield entering five senior teams and one ladies team (current league champions). This is a fantastic effort by the club and its players, moving from being one of the smaller clubs to one of the largest. Currently, all the teams have only played a couple of games, but it has been a promising start to the season. Anyone interested in joining or trying out squash can contact info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.



Athletics - seniors

On a September Sunday, over 100 runners from across the North East took part in Sedgefield Harriers' annual Sedgefield Serpentine race. The undulating 10k course saw athletes take in the sights and sounds of the footpaths around Sedgefield and Bishop Middleham. With livestock safely out of the way, first across the line was Sedgefield Harrier James Oldfield, with first female home being 15-year-old Emily Patterson. Prizes were awarded for veteran categories too and this year saw the introduction of team prizes which made for interesting competition as they included craft beer courtesy of new local business Lost Robot. With the event being a victim of the pandemic in 2020, it was great to see the race take place and be so well supported by local athletics clubs from around the region.



Athletics - juniors

Junior coaching is back in full swing at Sedgefield Harriers, with the main focus being the popular Wednesday evening sessions at Sedgefield Community College, from 6pm to 7pm. The sessions are broken down into Minors (school years 3, 4 and 5) and Juniors (school years 6 and above), and take a multi-discipline approach to the sport, giving young people the opportunity to develop in running, jumping and throwing. This allows all girls and boys to participate in the activities that they like best and also helps identify and nurture specific interests and talent. There are also separate sessions for dedicated Sprints and Endurance groups.

As with any grass roots club, Sedgefield Harriers needs volunteers to support its activities, so if any parent would like to offer their services as a parent helper, they will be welcomed. The club will support those who are keen to become a coach or assistant, by providing funding for completing the relevant accredited courses.

Older junior athletes are also encouraged to get involved in some of the senior sessions, including strength and conditioning with coach Ean Parsons at the college on Monday evenings, from 6pm to 7pm. These sessions are restricted to athletes from school year 9+ who also attend Ean's Thursday evening sessions at NETPark (or who are in the process of being invited to those). Ean is supporting a cohort of young athletes who are keen to progress in the sport, providing guidance and coaching and making the best use of the venues available locally in the continued absence of proper athletics facilities in Sedgefield.

To find out more about the junior sessions available and opportunities to be an adult volunteer, contact Sheree Lyons on shereelyons77@googlemail.com. For details of junior membership at Sedgefield Harriers, contact the membership secretary Andy Featherstone on a.p.featherstone@hotmail.co.uk.



Cricket

September saw the conclusion of the 2021 cricket season, and what a season it was for Sedgefield Cricket Club. The three senior sides all had very good league campaigns, with the 1st XI finishing fifth in a very strong Division 1, and both the 2nd and 3rd XIs narrowly missing out on promotion in third place in their divisions.

But the undoubted stars of the show were the Under 17 juniors who won an incredible four trophies. Having earlier in the season won the Junior Cup North and League North Division, the team entered their last two matches with a chance to make history. They did not disappoint. First up was the overall Junior Cup, with the final played at home against Whitby. Batting second, the team were never in serious trouble chasing their victory target and won with something to spare. Then the team travelled to Saltburn to compete in the final of the Pallister Cup, a play-off format between the winners of the four area league divisions. This was the season-ending prestige match and once again the team delivered victory to mark the end of a quite superb campaign. It isn't stretching a point to suggest the team is the most successful ever produced at any level by Sedgefield CC and everyone at the club is very proud. Congratulations to all of the players and to everyone who has helped them to achieve so much so quickly.

Congratulations must also go to the girls Under 11 side who won the regional softball league, and all of the club's junior sides performed extremely well throughout the season. Thoughts now turn to close-season training and indoor junior coaching, with plans already in place - the summer successes have only come about because of the year round planning which takes place. You can follow the club on social media to find out more

If you have any queries or would like to join, then please get in touch sedgefieldcc@outlook.com.

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

