

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

October 2024

Submission deadline for the next edition: Monday 14 October

Keeping busy this winter



Recent trip by the u3a Science and Industry Group

With the advent of winter and the loss of the Winter Fuel Payment, older residents may be looking for ways in which to keep warm and active. Fortunately, we live in Sedgfield and there is a wide range of activities aimed at the older person to fill your days. At your first visit to any of these groups, you may not know anyone but, I'd like to guarantee that you will have made at least one new friend by the time you leave!

The **WI** is possibly the longest running women's group in the village and offers a fun-filled mix of education and entertainment at their monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of every month in the Parish Hall at 7:15pm. For information contact Christine on 07813 831082.

The **Pop-in** meets on Tuesday mornings (10-noon), Wednesday mornings (10-noon), and Thursday afternoons (1:30-3:30pm) in the lounge at Ceddesfeld Hall. A time to catch up on all the latest news and gossip. Book a place at the regular lunches, afternoon teas or seasonal trips out and enjoy a warming drink, delicious biscuits and the occasional home bakes. Information from Wendy on 07843 896333.

If you like painting or would like to learn a little about it, an **Art Group** meets in Ceddesfeld Hall on Thursday mornings from 10-noon. The **SCA Craft Group** meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7:30-9:30pm and learn new skills as well as supporting each other with works in progress.

The **u3a** is another organisation focused on sharing skills and increasing knowledge and their various groups work in a supportive, encouraging and fun way to fulfil their motto of Laugh, Live and Learn. Monthly meetings with an interesting and informative speaker are held on the first Friday of each month 2-4pm in the Parish Hall, while groups meet regularly each month. See their new website for up-to-date details or call Maxine on 07774 690433.

A **Bridge group** meets in Ceddesfeld Hall on Monday afternoons (1:30pm-4pm) where members meet for instruction and to learn new conventions and practice play of pre-dealt hands. More experienced players meet on Tuesday evenings to play deal-and-play hands. Both of these groups play in a non-competitive and social way. Information from Pat 01740 620607.

We are so lucky to have the wonderfully supportive **Memory Cafe** in Sedgfield, too. This group, which meets in the Methodist Church Hall on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30-noon, aims to offer support and motivation to those suffering with dementia and their carers. They organise activities, host speakers, and enjoy meals out. Information from Dorothy on 07773 286743 or Carol on 07843 983071.

For the more active there is the weekly **Balance Class** on Wednesdays from 10-11am in the Parish Hall. A fun, relaxed and friendly group who use chair exercises and simple equipment to keep functional movement going as long as they can to maintain a good quality of life. This is followed by a **Pilates** class for those of you who are looking to maintain your flexibility or to increase your core strength.

Carpet Bowlers, new or more experienced, are very welcome to attend the sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:30-4pm in the main hall at Ceddesfeld.

DIDO (Days in, Days out) hold regular dance sessions during their meetings in the Parish Hall on the second Monday of each month from 1-3.30pm. They organise an action packed programme of events which include game days, competitions, quizzes, karaoke, bingo, live entertainers and regular trips out. It's always a happy and relaxed afternoon when 50-60 women get together to enjoy a cuppa and a chat. More information from Brenda on 07597 116847.

The **S-milers** is a local walking group which meets each Tuesday to enjoy walks of varying lengths organised by the members themselves. Often they follow local pathways and routes but they occasionally travel further afield to tackle longer or more complex tracks. For more information, contact Gene Dobson on 07493 425142.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Back to school

Here at Sedgefield Community College, we've been delighted with the positive start to the new school year and the brilliant attitude that our students have displayed in the first weeks of term. Before we even arrived back, we were also delighted at the successes of our former Y11 students in their summer exams and we wish them all every success in the future!



We've been particularly impressed with the way our new Y7 students have settled into life at secondary school. During the summer term, they enjoyed taking part in lots of activities during two transition days. Since September, there has been lots happening as the Y7 children settle into their new school. In their English lessons, students were all gifted with a book and this is part of our aim to encourage a passion for reading in all. As well as this, there has been much excitement as plans are made for the two residential visits to the Kingswood outward bounds centre. This year, we have more than 180 of our Y7 students who will be taking part! Finally, our Y7 students also have some changes to the Y7 courtyard to look forward to. Later in September, a range of new activity markings will be applied to the yard and there will be lots of new ways for the children to have fun with their friends at break and lunchtime.

New additions

We are delighted to welcome two fantastic new additions to our team at Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Academy.



First, we are thrilled to introduce Miss Dixon, who has joined us as an Apprentice Teaching Assistant in Nursery. This is a particularly special moment for Miss Dixon, as she was once a pupil at Sedgefield Hardwick herself. Having joined us straight after leaving school, we are incredibly proud to see her begin her professional journey with us. Miss Dixon has already shown remarkable dedication in her role, providing excellent support to our youngest learners. Her enthusiasm and willingness to get involved have been evident from the start, and she is quickly becoming a valued member of the Nursery team.



We also warmly welcome Miss Snowden, who has joined us as a Year 5 teacher to cover Mrs Anderson's maternity leave. Miss Snowden has embraced her role with a positive attitude and has quickly established herself as an effective teacher for Year 5. Her determination to make a meaningful impact on her pupils is clear, and she has already started building strong relationships with both her class and her colleagues. Miss Snowden's commitment to delivering engaging lessons and supporting the school's ethos has made her a big hit with her class already!



We are excited to see both Miss Dixon and Miss Snowden continue to flourish in their roles and contribute to the success of our school community!

Get ready for Armistice Day

The Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group has formally replaced the Sedgefield Village Veterans Association and has widened its constitution. The group is dedicated to supporting and championing the needs of all current, retired and family members of all uniformed services. The group is primarily involved in raising funds for charitable causes and has recently donated over £3,600 to good causes ranging from grants for individuals in need to supporting local organisations such as Durham Christian Foodbank, St Edmund's Church, Sedgefield Youth Club and Sedgefield Bloomers. On the final Friday of each month the group organise a well-attended coffee morning in the Parish Hall.



Pictured at the St Lukes Memorial are two members of Sedgefield District Uniform Services Group, Laura and Steve and their children

On Monday 11 November, the Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group will host a commemoration of Armistice Day at the memorial located at St Luke's Church near NETPark. The service will be led by Reverend David Lucas and will complement the service at the St Edmunds Cenotaph on 10 November. All members of our community are invited to this short service that will commence at 10:45am on 11 November.

Durham County News



Durham County Council's magazine, Durham County News, is no longer delivered to people's homes. Instead, it is available as an online magazine and the Autumn Edition can be found at <https://t.co/Tf7tdyYhCT>.

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*



Sunday 6 October
on the Village Green
8:30am - 12:15pm

All our regular traders will be there so come along and get your meat, fish, cheese, vegetables, cakes, pies, sauces, drinks and so much more! Doggie Delights will be there so you can treat your four-legged friends to a tasty homemade treat. There really is something for everyone! Tony and his coffee van will be there so you could have a warming cup of coffee or tea whilst chatting with friends.



...is starting up again with the new term, so do get in touch if you would like help with homework or schoolwork, or if you could offer such help. That's what we aim to do: simply help students understand their topics in order to gain competence and confidence. You don't have to be a teacher to help - just have some knowledge and experience and a willingness to spend an hour a week, say, helping a student. We meet in the library or via video conference. All helpers are DBS checked, and helpers, students and parents/carers alike sign up to a Conduct Agreement. Contact us at homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.



**THERMAL IMAGING
CAMERA LOAN SCHEME**

A project by Sedgefield Development Trust

The Thermal Imaging Camera loan scheme is a project brought to you by Sedgefield Development Trust. We want to help you spot heat loss around your home with one of our thermal imaging cameras, which you can loan for free. They are simple to use and can help you to find where heat is either escaping or cold is entering your home.



Over the coming weeks, we will be contacting those of you who expressed an interest last year but we were unable to accommodate. If you are not yet on our list and you would like to borrow a camera then visit www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk/thermalimaging.html to find out more and to complete a booking form.

Energy Switch update

We have received a number of enquiries from residents recently regarding the current status of our Energy Saving Scheme. These enquiries have been prompted largely as a result of communication from their current suppliers offering Fixed Term Contracts. These offers aren't a result of our scheme but the suppliers' own tariffs of which the Development Trust do not have details so we are not in a position to provide individual advice.



We continue to consult with Ichoosr (who have managed the supplier auctions) and are informed that, in the current climate, suppliers do not wish to offer Fixed Term tariffs to collective schemes such as the one we have operated.

As all residents, who have been a part of the scheme, will be aware that it has now been more than two years since Ichoosr have been able to hold any of the traditional auctions to obtain the market leading tariffs that we became used to receiving. Also suppliers do not appear to be willing to offer tariffs to customers without access to online facilities who require paper bills. This would affect 25% of our participants.

It was January 2014 when the Development Trust explored the potential of collective bargaining to reduce resident's gas and electricity costs. Since its inception, it has generated savings of £182,284 to the residents of Sedgefield for which we must be grateful to Ichoosr for the development and continued support to all participants of the scheme. Sadly we have decided, because of the decisions made by the gas and electricity suppliers, we will no longer continue to operate the scheme. Sedgefield Development Trust would like to say a huge thank you to Peter Burnip who has been so active in pursuing energy savings for our community throughout this project. He has provided practical help and guidance to many residents and solved many complex supply issues over the years. Thank you, Peter, for your kindness and your tenacity.

Keeping busy this winter (continued from Page 1)

The **Bloom Group** meet on Wednesday mornings and work extremely hard to plant and maintain the superb flower displays for which Sedgefield is so well known. Although the season is now drawing to a close they still require members to tidy and clear summer planting, collect fallen leaves and generally oversee their areas throughout the year. Contact Marie on 07764 194607.

I do apologise if I have missed any other interesting groups. If you, too, have a group are aimed at the older resident then please submit an item for the next Sedgefield News to publicise your group.

We are so lucky to have all these wonderful, supportive organisations on our doorstep. Just turn up at any of the meetings or groups and I know you will get a very warm welcome.

Chris Balfour

Fundraising thank you

We did it! Huge thanks to my amazing team of family and friends, who worked together to create a wonderful afternoon tea in Sedgefield Parish Hall.

I am delighted to say that there was an incredible turnout, we raised £1,200 on the day for the charity Breast Cancer Now and we raised lots of awareness into checking for signs of breast cancer. This is very close to my heart as my daughter has bravely fought an aggressive breast cancer and is benefiting from a new Targeted Treatment drug, whilst her sister has undergone 'Risk Prevention' surgery.



Fundraisers Carly, Angela and Kirsty

It was great to see a packed hall with friends meeting up over a cuppa and enjoying the delicious home baked cakes together. Massive thanks to friends who baked and to the local businesses who kindly donated raffle and tombola prizes.

Our 'Just Giving' page has reached its target of £500 - so we're over the moon with that too. I'm just overwhelmed by people's generosity. Thank you.

Angela Davidson

U3A UPDATE

u3a

We started our new year with a most interesting talk by Denis Fox on The Battle of Britain in the North East. Although at heart an artist, he is also an engaging and very well informed speaker. Denis painted a picture in words of the famous air battle that took place over the North East coast during WW2 while also describing the important part that servicewomen played in the victory. We look forward to hearing from him again.

Organised by Maxine, our Health and Well-being Group hosted an open Sleep and Wellbeing Masterclass when the insightful morning session provided valuable tips and strategies to improve the quality of our sleep. During the afternoon, we enjoyed a magical sound bath created by soothing soundscapes to promote relaxation and tranquillity.

Our Theatre Group visited Darlington Hippodrome on 12 September to see the brand new production of Sister Act. With songs inspired by Motown, soul and disco this show certainly lived up to its promise of a wonderful evening of theatre, music and dance. Busyness continues into October with our day trip to Alnwick on Tuesday 1st. See right for information.

Dave Dean will be returning as our speaker on 4 October and will be divulging some of the secrets of the Hidden North East. I wonder what interesting facts we'll learn then? On 16 October, Lucie Brownlee, a multi-award winning author and creative writing tutor will be visiting to lead a session on Prose Writing. If you're not a member of the u3a but would like to attend, please contact Maxine on 07774 690433 for information or advice.

And on 29 October, the Science and Industry group will be making a trip to Stanhope, via the Weardale Railway to have an evening stargazing. We'll be supported by experts from Bishop Auckland Astronomical Society, who will take us through what we can see in the night sky by using our own eyesight and also telescopes. We have already started praying for clear skies!

Hopefully our pop-up Craft Group will have started our Christmas sessions and we look forward to learning some new skills then.

And, of course, all the other groups will be continuing to learn new skills, expand their knowledge and enjoy laughing and living life to the full. See our new website. If you too are retired and looking to fill some time over the next few months, do come along to our meeting on 4 October, at 2-4pm in the Parish Hall. Guests are required to pay a cover charge of £3 but this is refunded from the yearly subscription if you become a member.

Chris Balfour

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY OCTOBER 2024

I write this after two rather chilly days, and it feels as though we have seen the last of the summer; but the forecast says it's going to warm up again so is it late summer or early autumn? Meteorologically speaking, September 1 marks the first day of autumn. The meteorological seasons are broken up neatly into three months each, so autumn lasts from September 1 until November 30. There is another definition of autumn however, which is astronomical, and splits the year using the two solstices, summer and winter, and the two equinoxes spring and autumn. The astronomical autumn begins on September 22, 2024, though it can differ year to year by a couple of days either side.

When you read this it will definitely be autumn and although we might associate wildflowers with spring, and while it's true that lots of our beautiful blooms blossom through the spring and summer seasons, there's many to be found in autumn. Some of the prettiest wildflowers to spot that might be in flower include Thyme-leaved Speedwell, Field Pansy, Red Clover, White Campion, Betony, Devil's-bit Scabious and Selfheal. It's not just flowers that are in bloom that are worth keeping your eyes out for in autumn. October means seeds and many of the UK's wildflowers will be seeding in autumn. And some of them produce seeds as pretty as their petals. Look out for Travellers Joy and Rosebay Willowherb.

It is also the start of the autumn fungi season and Plantlife have launched their Waxcap Watch! Britain is home to some of the most important waxcap grasslands in the world. However, many species are becoming rare and declining; they need identifying and protecting.

Waxcaps are an indicator of rare, species-rich grassland. Knowing where waxcaps and other grassland fungi are thriving helps pinpoint where fragments of ancient meadows survive, so they can be protected for the future. Plantlife are asking people to get out in the field (and the woods, and the meadows) to find fungi. Having data on where waxcaps are can help to protect them as well as the rare, species-rich important grasslands they call home.

Waxcaps are known for their ecological importance, but they are also known for being some of the most beautiful, bright and colourful fungi you can find! From bright Scarlet Waxcaps to Ballerina Waxcaps, there's never a dull moment. To get you started on your waxcap journey, and make your contribution the citizen science project Waxcap Watch visit: plantlife.org.uk/waxcapwatch/.



Bus trip to Alnwick

u3a

On Tuesday 1 October, there is opportunity for a perfect Autumn day-out with the u3a in Alnwick. Visit the Castle, of course, and it's wonderful gardens but also the interesting museum in Bailiffgate, the extensive second-hand book selection in Barter Books, the great choice of small independent shops and a lots of lovely places for coffee or lunch, particularly in the 'old' town. Leaving from the Parish Hall at 10am, we will be returning from Alnwick at 4pm. Courtesy of our local AAP grant towards various Interest Group transport costs we are able to offer this trip for only £8. You do not need to be a member of the u3a to take part in this visit. Please contact Alison (01740 629276) or Carol (01740 469324) for more information or to book.

The Inner Wheel Club
of Sedgfield presents

A Century of Wedding Gowns

FASHION SHOW

An evening of historical wedding gowns
modelled on the catwalk.

Featuring the royal wedding dresses of
Princesses Diana, Kate & more

Thursday 31st October 2024
SEDGFIELD PARISH HALL
Doors 6pm. Seats 7pm
Show starts at 7:15pm

TICKETS £15
INCLUDES PROSECCO OR
SOFT DRINK ON ARRIVAL

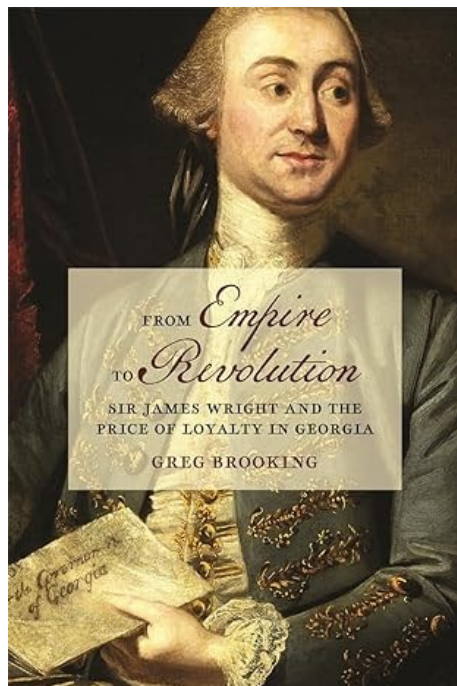
CONTACT... ANN CARR
H: 01740 629070
M: 07831452011

PROCEEDS TO GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE & BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

LETTERS

From Empire to Revolution

I would like to bring to your attention a fascinating book recently published which references The Manor House in Sedgefield and the indirect, but important role, it played in the life of Sir James Wright who was Attorney General for the colony of South Carolina and then Royal Governor of the colony of Georgia before the American Revolution.



Sir James Wright was born in 1716, the son of judge Robert Wright who built The Manor House. The book 'From Empire to Revolution: Sir James Wright and the price of loyalty in Georgia' is by a correspondent of mine in Georgia, historian Greg Brooking and it provides a fascinating insight into Sir James Wright, slavery and the lead up to the American Revolution.

My research into the history of The Manor House and Greg's into the life of Sir James Wright overlapped. Without The Manor House in Sedgefield it is arguable that the eminent career of Sir James Wright, who is interred in Westminster Abbey (incidentally, the tomb of Robert Wright's first wife from Sedgefield is in St Edmund's Church) may never have come about. The Manor House has a fascinating hidden history and I recommend Greg Brooking's book as an enjoyable and informative sequel to the story of Robert Wright and the house itself.

Ean Parsons, The Manor House

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

Anniversary wishes



Congratulations to Ronnie and Angela Bannister who celebrate 60 years of marriage on 31 October. They met through a mutual friend and were married at St Edmund's Church. They have one daughter, Susan.



Ronnie worked in the coal industry and has been a life long member of Fishburn Brass Band. Angela worked at Sedgefield General and the Community Hospital. She enjoys country and western music and rock and roll along with socialising with family and friends.

Pat Howe

STARZ THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

THE DOLLY MIXTURES

BOOK & LYRICS BY TOM KELLY, WITH MUSIC BY JOHN MILES

2ND - 5TH OCTOBER 2024
EVENINGS 19:00, SATURDAY MATINEE 14:00 - TICKETS £16

BASED ON A TRUE STORY, THIS MUSICAL COMEDY FOLLOWS THE LIVES OF 8 INCREDIBLE WOMEN, WHO IN THE 1970'S OVERCAME ALL ODDS TO RAISE £100,000 FOR CANCER RESEARCH.

THERE WILL BE LAUGHTER
THERE WILL BE TEARS
THERE WILL BE CHICKENS

TICKETS PURCHASE BY VISITING <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/starz-theatre-company> OR VIA THE QR CODE

noda
Inspired by amateur theatre

THE CITY THEATRE FOLKLESS YARD DURHAM CITY CHI 38A

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY JOHN HUDSON DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY ENID GALE CHOREOGRAPHY BY LISA PETRIE

SACT Bring and Share Community Barbecue

It was never guaranteed to be the sunniest time and unfortunately the wettest of British weather landed on the day, in line with the forecast!



It didn't stop many friends and members of the congregations from the Sedgefield Area Churches Together area from turning out, suitably dressed for the inclement weather and equipped with large umbrellas, thankful also for the gazebos erected in the garden. Although some others enjoyed running in the rain and splashing in the puddles! Lively music from Janet and Philip got some dancing. It was a very friendly time.

Thank you to everyone involved in organising the event and especially to Revd. David Lucas, Hanna and family for hosting the barbecue - we hope that the carpets recover after all the wet feet made their way to the delights available in the kitchen. It was a great success and a fabulous feast for everyone to share. Hopefully, others will follow.

St Edmund's Church Annual Memorial Service

St. Edmund's Church will hold the annual memorial service on All Saints Day, Sunday 3 November at 4pm. This is an opportunity to remember those who have died in the past year, or in other years. If you would like the name of a loved one who has died read in church and prayed for, please send their names to: Michael King on 01740 620910, by email to mkassoc@yahoo.co.uk or sign the sheet which will be on the table at the back of church from Sunday 13 October.

Revd. David Lucas

Christmas Trees!

We know! It's too early to be thinking about what to do with your real Christmas tree once the festivities are over. Sedgefield in Bloom group are again organising a collection of trees on Wednesday 8 January. It couldn't be easier, for a donation of £5, we will collect it from you and recycle. All monies will go directly in funds for planting and projects in and around Sedgefield. Details to follow in the next edition.



ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Sedgefield Players' 46th Drama Festival in September

Well, what a week of great theatre. The 46th Sedgefield Drama Festival was a great success with the Players and SPYS coming away with awards. With full houses every night the audience were treated to a variety of plays from Vikings to cocktail waitresses and miners to bad actors. Sarah Atkinson (pictured below) was awarded Best Director for both *A Day in Fimbulwinter* and for *Shakers*, both of which also received other awards.



Cliffe Theatre took the overall prize of Best Production with *Marrers*, a play which has previously won in 1984, 2004 and now 2024. The Audience Award, voted for by season ticket holders went to *Shakers* and Lucy Atkinson who played Niki was also given Best Actress. Lucy also won the Adjudicators Award for *A Day in Fimbulwinter* – a new play she wrote for SPYS.

Other awards were:

- Best 30 seconds: Tammy Smith, George Nott and Charlie Lines in *Idyll*
- Tim & Anne Jeanes Ensemble Award: SPYS for *A Day in Fimbulwinter*
- Best Cameo: Eve Edgoose-Clubley, - SPYS in *A Day in Fimbulwinter*
- Best Supporting Actor: Paul Walker, Sedgefield Players in *Idyll*
- Best Supporting Actress: Elizabeth Flanagan, Sedgefield Players in *Idyll*
- Best Under 21; Millie Malloy, Sedgefield Players in *Shakers* & Bea Edgoose-Clubley, SPYS in *A Day in Fimbulwinter*
- Runner up: Sedgefield Players in *Shakers*.

Rehearsals now start for the Pantomime. This year is Dick Whittington, written by Tom Guest. Expect the usual fun, songs and boos. In the Parish Hall on the 27/28/29/30 December.

The Players are also putting on a 'Halloween Spooktacular' for the Mayor on Friday 25 October in the Parish Hall and details will be out soon from the Council Offices.
Sedgefield Players

New Musical: Speak Soon

Tim Jasper is returning to Sedgefield with the original musical 'Speak Soon'. Sarah, an 18 year old high school student, is ready to leave behind what she knows, to embark on a journey of possibilities. However, her bubble could pop at any minute and the secrets of her past are threatening to get in her way.



Sedgefield is the first stop on the UK Tour, going on to Brighton, London, Nottingham, Ormskirk and Belfast.

This is an original musical featuring Mountview graduates Tim Jasper and Rebecca Demmer. Tickets are available from Dave Jasper on 07791 030886 priced at £12 or £10 concessions or from TicketSource. The show will be performed on Friday 8 November at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall and tickets are sure to be in high demand. Don't miss it.

Lirica in Concert: Songbird

Lirica's annual October concert is coming soon to Ceddesfeld Hall, The choir will be sharing new songs alongside more established favourites. Tickets are available now from Tickety Boo and from choir members, priced at £6.



More local events

Hartlepool Folk Festival

There will be a special emphasis on the 40th anniversary of the 1984 miners' strike at this year's gathering. 4 to 6 October

www.hartlepoolfolkfest.co.uk

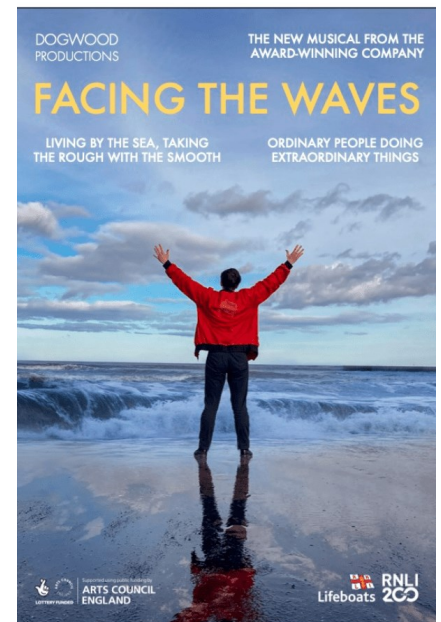


Facing The Waves, Everyman Theatre, Spennymoor

This new musical of a Victorian North East coastal community navigating choppy waters will come to Spennymoor in October.

6 October at 7:30pm, £10

www.dogwoodproductions.co.uk/facing-the-waves



Durham Book Festival, Durham

Local writers Terry Deary and Pat Barker are among the highlights of this year's festival, featuring workshops, readings, and Q&As. Many events can be attended either live in-person or remotely.

From 10 October.

newwritingnorth.com/durham-book-festival/

SPORTS UPDATE with Chris Lines chrisjlines@aol.com

The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games were amazing, both in general and for Team GB, which won a huge haul of medals. Unfortunately, Sedgefield's Jack Smith and the wheelchair rugby team missed out on silverware. After a tough semi-final loss to the USA, the team were beaten to the bronze medal in a very close match with Australia. It was another valiant effort by the Tokyo champions, and Jack and his teammates once again represented their country (and in Jack's case Sedgefield!) brilliantly.

Netball

Liberty Park Netball Club has returned to Sedgefield and hopes to bring together women of all ages to celebrate fitness, teamwork, and community spirit. The club was founded in 2019 by a group of enthusiastic women with a shared love for the game. Over the years, it has grown significantly and now boasts three adult teams, playing across divisions 1-3 of the Durham Netball League. After a short stint on Sedgefield's outdoor courts during the Covid-19 restrictions, Liberty Park has finally returned to Sedgefield to make its home at Sedgefield Community College. The netball season runs from September to August and the last one was particularly exciting for Liberty Park. The first team won division 1 of the Durham League in both winter and spring, while the second and third teams cemented their positions in divisions 2 and 3 respectively. Liberty Park Netball Club welcomes new members, whether you're an experienced player or a complete beginner. The club offers a weekly training session and members can also join one of the teams and compete in matches.



Liberty Park Netball Team in action

The club meets for training every Wednesday from 7:15-8:45pm at the college. Matches are held on Thursday evenings at venues across County Durham. As the 2024-25 season gets underway, Liberty Park Netball Club looks forward to more exciting matches and welcoming more members. The start of a new season is a perfect time to join. Visit the club's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Libertyparknetballteam, or contact the team directly via e-mail on LibertyParkNetballClub@gmail.com.

Athletics

As always, plenty of runners from Sedgefield made the pilgrimage from Newcastle to South Shields for the Great North Run. Among them were 15 members of Sedgefield Harriers, led home by the youngster Rory Letts, who finished in a great time of 1:26:35 (a huge personal best after his debut last year). First lady from the club was Harriet Morris in 2:08:26 and once again, John Tomlinson completed the world's biggest half marathon. He is one of the small number of athletes who have finished every single Great North Run. Ean Parsons was also there – he's run all but one. There were loads of other runners there from hereabouts who aren't members of the Harriers, taking part for a variety of reasons, from tackling personal challenges to raising money for good causes. Well done to everyone who ran, was a volunteer, or turned out to cheer on the runners, on what was a pretty damp day!

A week after the Great North Run, Sedgefield Harriers hosted the annual Sedgefield Serpentine race, held in memory of former club member Gail Bell. Starting and finishing in Hardwick Park, the event took 129 runners on a multi-terrain route of around 10k between Sedgefield and Bishop Middleham. The race was won by Andy Love of Billingham Running Club in 36:13, with John Surtees of Aycliffe Running Club second (37:34) and Paul Weir of Washington Running Club third (38:48). First Sedgefield Harrier, and fourth overall, was Ben Potter in 40:16. The women's race was won by Harrier Sadie Abel in 41:38, followed by Carol Moss (42:30) and Kate Storey of Crook & District AC (42:44). Various local individuals and organisations supplied items for the goody bags and the usual army of volunteers made it possible to host the event. Sedgefield Harriers is grateful to everyone who supported the Serpentine.

Rugby Union

Sedgefield District Rugby Club began the new season with an opening fixture against Gateshead. Despite a promising first half performance, the game ended in a 7-39 defeat, with the Sedgefield try scored by Jack Wiffen.

Over the summer, the club started running touch rugby sessions every Monday at 7pm. These are free of charge and open to all ages and genders above 14 years. It's a fun way to get involved in rugby and get a bit of exercise.

This season marks the club's 40th anniversary, having been formed in 1984 at Winterton Hospital. A programme of events is being planned to mark the occasion. Keep an eye on the club's social media accounts for further information.

Squash

The nights are drawing in, the summer is well and truly over, and Sedgefield Squash Club is once again gearing up for the new season. Over the summer months, the squash ladder has kept the courts ticking over with probably the busiest out of season period in the club's recent history. Racket ball is also proving very popular, with a group of players in action at least three times a week. Congratulations go to Colin Langley for finishing top of the ladder and Craig Muller for most matches played at 28. It was also great to have former world number one James Willstrop down at the club for a morning's training session with a few of the members.

Those of you who walk through the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall may have noticed a new floral addition. The squash club recycled the old door off court two and transformed it into a planter box, enhancing the entrance to the club.

Durham and Cleveland County leagues have just started, so look out for updates on the teams' progress in future issues of Sedgefield News. The club is proud to once again field five senior teams (with some juniors included) and our current county champion ladies' team. Junior coaching packages are again on offer this season, with no price increases, and work out at a very competitive rate for each session.

If you are interested in joining or volunteering or even sponsoring the club, please contact info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.

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

CEDDESFELD HALL



It's been great to welcome back the regular interest and hobby groups to Ceddesfeld Hall following the summer break. The hall is busy with groups each weekday and evening, with activities within the main hall and upstairs rooms. New groups are always welcome, with very competitive room hire rates. The community bar (snug and lounge) is open to everyone, Monday to Friday evening from 7:30pm, with a good range of wines, spirits, beers (now including a choice of two real ales) and soft drinks on offer; all very reasonably priced. A pint of beer is £3.00, a large 250ml glass of wine is £4.50 (175ml £3) and a gin and tonic is £3.50. The bar is run wholly by volunteers and a small, busy bar committee meet regularly to ensure everything runs smoothly, from week to week. New volunteers are always welcome and can help in 3 main ways; by joining the organising committee, by becoming a keyholder (who will open and close the bar on weekdays and weekend events) or by serving, alongside the keyholder on the bar. Anyone wishing to get involved, please contact Tony on 01740 622185 or email SCA - info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk.

Events @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Lirica in Concert present 'Songbird' on Saturday 5 October at 7:30pm
Tickets £6, from Tickety Boo or from choir members.

Model Railway Exhibition on Saturday 19 October from 10am to 4pm
Adults £5 under 13s, £2 - Refreshments and Bar.

Fireworks and Halloween Howler on Friday 1 November at 6.30pm
Admission into Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds (with pumpkins for judging) from 5:45pm to 6:20pm. Adult £3, child under 16, £2 - tickets from STC offices (9am to 1pm) and Ceddesfeld Hall bar (7:30pm to 10:30pm). Sedgefield scouts will be selling hot chocolate and hot dogs.

Mayor's Quiz on Saturday 23 November at 7:30pm
Tickets £5, from STC offices.

Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 30 November from 1pm to 4pm
This event is part of STC Snow Party & Parade. The Fayre will take place in the main hall with the community bar open until 7pm.

Mulled Wine & Mince Pies on Friday 20 December at 7pm
This event will take place following the Churches Together 'Carols on the Green' in the bar and lounge. Sedgefield Smile Time Ukulele Band will perform at 7pm in the main hall.

SCA Christmas Eve Quiz on Tuesday 24 December at 8pm

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 www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk or on Facebook [Ceddesfeld Hall 'Home of SCA'](https://www.facebook.com/CeddesfeldHallHomeofSCA) for updates.

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DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

October 2024

- Wednesday 2** **Sedgefield WI**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm. A talk on beekeeping, members' competition is a decorated honeypot. Visitors are always welcome, fee is £4.
- Friday 4** **Sedgefield Memory Café Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-12pm. All welcome.
- Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. A talk by Dave Dean, The Hidden North East. Non-members £3.
- Saturday 5** **Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club presents Connor Selby, Smokin' Gun**, Sedgefield Parish Hall.
- Lirica presents Songbird**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm. Tickets £6 from Tickety Boo and choir members.
- Friendly Fixers**, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Repair café.
- Sunday 6** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am to 12:30pm. See page 3 for more information.
- Monday 7** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. The Battle of Trafalgar with Martin Peagam.
- Saturday 12** **Mayor of Sedgefield's Ceilidh**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, doors 7pm. Featuring Angels of the North, dancing, BYO food and drink. Tickets £10 from Sedgefield Town Council Office.
- Tuesday 15** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Flower demonstration by Liz Bishop - "Autumn at your door". Members free, guests £5.
- Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers.
- Friday 18** **Sedgefield Social Club presents 101**, 8:30pm. Playing songs from Oasis, The Jam, The Killers, and many more.
- Saturday 19** **Autumn Railway Exhibition**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 10am-4pm. Up to 10 model railway layouts and two traders. Various gauges (from micro to '0') and a selection of hot and cold refreshments available. Bar facilities from 12pm-4pm. Adults £5, concessions £2, children £1, family ticket £8.
- Coffee morning with Nicola's Christmas Cards**, Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall, 10:30am.
- Friday 25** **Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group coffee morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.
- Saturday 26** **Sedgefield Games Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, from 6pm. Come along and play a variety of board games. £2.50.
- Children's Spooky Halloween Party**, Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall, 5pm. £5 per child, see Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall Facebook page for full details.
- Thursday 31** **Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield presents A Century of Wedding Gowns**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, doors at 6pm. Tickets are £15 and all proceeds go to Great North Air Ambulance and British Heart Foundation.

Save The Date - Mayor's Events

The Mayor's Quiz will be held on Saturday 23 November at Ceddesfeld Hall. Doors open at 7:30pm, the quiz starts at 8pm. Tickets cost £5.

New Year's Eve Party is on Tuesday 31 December at 7:30pm. Tickets cost £12.50.

Tickets for both events are available from the Sedgefield Town Council Office.

Save The Date

Sedgefield in Bloom will be holding a Halloween Coffee Morning at Sedgefield Parish Hall, starting at 10am on Friday 1 November.

From Loft to Loved

Craft groups every Wednesday (10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm, 5pm-7pm and 7pm-9pm). Sewing groups every Thursday (10am-12pm, 12:30pm-2:30pm). Places need to be pre-booked.

SEDGEFIELD LIBRARY

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Thursday 10:00 to 18:00

Friday 13:00 to 19:00

Saturday 9:30 to 12:30

Craft Group, 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 1:30pm, places need to be booked at the library.

Book Circle, 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 2pm.

Electricals and Battery Recycling
If you have an electrical item that no longer works and is no bigger than a microwave, we are collecting.

Lego Club

Every Friday from 4:30pm to 6pm. Places need to be booked.

Digital Drop-In

Every Thursday 2pm-3:30pm.

Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

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

Little Movers

Fletcher Room at the Sedgefield Parish Hall every Thursday from 10am, places need to be booked on the Little Movers' (Stockton) website. A second class for babies follows the session.

Making Tracks

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

Sedgefield Social Club

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

Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

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

Pop-in Club at Ceddesfeld Hall

Tuesdays 9:30am-12pm
Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm
Thursdays 1pm-3:30pm

Speed Quiz at Hardwick Arms

Every Thursday at 8pm in the Hardwick Lounge Bar.

Quiz at The Dun Cow

Every Monday at 8:30pm, hosted by the Sedgefield Mayor, Peter Hinde. £1 per person and each team gets a bowl of chips at half-time