

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

December 2022 Edition

Deadline for January - Friday 9 December

Jack Smith surprised with freedom of Sedgefield

Paralympic gold medal winner Jack Smith received a big surprise when he returned to his old school in Sedgefield last month. Jack was invited into Sedgefield Primary School to talk to pupils about his life and career as a wheelchair rugby player. What he hadn't been told was that after presenting to the school assembly, a delegation from Sedgefield Town Council was on hand to award Jack the freedom of Sedgefield, in recognition of his achievements. Jack's family was also on hand to witness the presentation. Afterwards, Jack was taken outside to unveil a plaque that commemorates the gold medal that he won with his Team GB teammates at the Tokyo Paralympics in 2021.



Jack Smith comments: "This was a very surreal and unexpected experience. I play rugby because I enjoy it and don't really expect that all of these other things will come off the back of that. It's hard to believe that there's now a plaque up in my honour at Sedgefield Primary School, where I was a pupil.

"In the national squad, we've already moved on from Tokyo and had other tournaments. Occasions like this are a definite reminder of what we achieved, but looking forward, I hope that more people can be encouraged to try wheelchair rugby.

The North East Bulls train at the Community College here in Sedgefield and are always keen to welcome anyone who wants to give the sport a try.

"It was brilliant to meet and talk to the children at the school, and I feel very honoured to have been awarded the freedom of Sedgefield. Thank you to Sedgefield Town Council, the school and everyone else who was involved in this."

Cllr Mel Carr, chair of Sedgefield Town Council, comments: "The award of Honorary Freeman is the highest accolade Sedgefield Town Council can bestow. This award is only given to people who have given a significant contribution to public life in our local area. The town council has granted this award to Jack in recognition of his fantastic sporting achievements and his steely determination to overcome adversity in order to succeed at the very highest level. We are not only proud of Jack's sporting achievements, but also the way in which he represents Sedgefield by being an inspiring role model to young people. Jack Smith MBE joins a very small group of people who have been given the title of Honorary Freeman of Sedgefield".

Andrea Cox, head teacher at Sedgefield Primary School, comments: "I think that Jack has got an inspirational story. It's lovely that he was a pupil at our school and I often talk to our children about how they could go on to do something amazing by following their dreams and not giving up. Jack embodies that message of resilience that we teach everyone at Sedgefield Primary School, so having him here to pass it on in person was fantastic, and really important. It was also lovely to be able to celebrate Jack's success in this way and unveil the plaque at the school."

Find out more about the North East Bulls on Facebook at [BullsWRC](#).



Jack Smith with (l-r) mum Janet, dad Graeme, partner Emma, Cllr Dave Jasper, Cllr Ann Carr, Cllr Mel Carr

Mess Charcuterie & Bar

Did you know that the word Mess has been around since Roman times? The word originally comes from the Latin word Missum meaning something put on the table. It was then used in the Middle Ages for a group of people who regularly ate together, hence the Officer's Mess.

Now it is in the name of Sedgefield's newest eatery: Mess Charcuterie and Bar located at 6 North End. Although small, it has been designed for dining in relaxed and comfortable surroundings. It will offer charcuterie boards and caters for vegetarians and vegans. With a selection of great coffees and teas, it is also fully licensed, stocking a range of fine wines, local beers, gins and a selection of cocktails.

Sacha Orlandini is the General Manager. "We are so excited to be opening in Sedgefield. Charcuterie is becoming so popular and I have felt for a long time that Mess could become be an amazing addition to the other food establishments in Sedgefield."

"We are only small, but hope that people can come and feel welcome. Our staff are amazing and have been trained to focus on the customer experience."

At the moment they will be opening Wednesday to Sunday over the Christmas period. Now open, it is recommended that you ring before turning up as there is limited space.

Mess
CHARCUTERIE AND BAR

6 North End, Sedgefield
Opening hours are as follows:
Monday: Closed
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: 5-11pm
Thursday: 5-11pm
Friday: 11-11pm
Saturday: 11-11pm
Sunday: 12-9pm

Booking advisable, gift vouchers available, please contact us for details.
Telephone number: 01740 472242

Remembrance Day

Along with the rest of the nation, last month, Sedgefield Hardwick paid their respects to the fallen members of the armed forces this month. The children discovered all about Remembrance Day and the important reasons behind why this day is held annually.



On 11 November at 11am, the school joined in the national period of silence to commemorate the soldiers lost during conflict. Year 5 joined the Remembrance service at Winterton War Memorial with the other schools from the village as well as members of the public and local dignitaries. Pupils from Year 5 read a Remembrance Poem and, along with Sedgefield Primary, performed the war time classic, We'll Meet Again before impeccably observing the period of silence, which followed The Last Post. "It is vitally important that we continue to pay tribute to members of the armed forces who gave their lives to protect our country and our future," commented Jessie and Cameron, pupils from Year 5.

PTFA events!

The start of this term began well at Sedgefield Primary with a back-to-school carnival event. This after-school Friday evening event was extremely well attended.

Several teachers were brave enough to volunteer to be placed in the stocks! This fun pupil verses staff event proved very popular! Teachers were grateful that the sun shone, as they received a soaking by wet sponges!

Last month our enthusiastic PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association) organised two brilliant discos for the whole school. A vast amount of our pupils chose to attend one of these events. A disco was targeted at both age groups, Key Stage 1 and the later evening disco at Key Stage 2.

Fun team games were delivered throughout the discos for pupils to win prizes! We are very grateful to have such a committed and well organised PTFA, who contribute a great deal to our thriving successful school.



And from the PTFA....

Sedgefield Primary School PTFA is part of the Co-op UK Local Community Fund, to find out more about our project and to choose us as your cause, visit membership.coop.co.uk/causes/67272

The funding will enable SPPTFA to run a peer mentoring programme for children and young people, certified by ASDAN, to offer emotional support to other children across the school.

1p of every £1 that Co-op members spend goes towards your chosen cause. Thank you to those who have already chosen us as your charity and if you are a Co-op member you can still choose us as your local cause.

If you are not a member it is easy to become a member via the Co-op app, website or phoning 0800 0234708.

The PTFA currently has a virtual Christmas market which has some local businesses, you can find this market on Facebook at [Sedgefield Primary PTFA virtual Christmas Market 2022](#).



Wheel of Wonder



The school has continued to enjoy an excellent start to the year and a key part of our approach has been increasing the range of extra-curricular opportunities that are available to students. Each Wednesday, every student takes part in our Super Curriculum activities during an extended school day. Among the many activities that are on offer this half-term we have Formula One Design, Pottery, The Greatest Dancer and Christmas Crafts all taking place.



For our students, one of the most exciting changes to the school week has been the introduction of our regular prize draws for excellent attendance and/or behaviour. On Friday lunchtimes, hundreds of our students gather to witness the 'Wheel of Wonder'. A big part of the excitement is waiting to discover which member of staff will be this week's 'Masked Spinner' – so far we have had teachers emerging from under the following masks: horse, unicorn, toad and duck!



We always want to further enhance our positive school culture, increasing the excitement and enjoyment that the children have in attending school...the 'Wheel of Wonder' is certainly working in this respect.

At the end of the half-term, we're also looking forward to our Christmas Rewards Assemblies and finding out whether or not Santa will be joining us once again!



SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS

WOODLAND & WILDLIFE

Co-op Christmas Trees for Habitats

On 7 January 2023, 10am to 12noon, we will be welcoming people to bring their real Christmas trees to the Woodland & Wildlife site. This year we will be using your trees to extend the dead hedges which we created last year. Dead hedges provide habitats for insects and small mammals and act as a barrier to allow areas of the site to regenerate.



Christmas trees can be dropped off with our volunteers on site at TS21 3FG or find us on Google Maps. Families and individuals are welcome to stay to help process the trees and have a look round. Thank you to those who have chosen us as their Co-op local cause we are really grateful. To choose your cause or become a Co-op member either sign up online, on the Co-op app or by calling 0800 023 4708.

If you would like to know more or volunteer with us please contact Melissa – woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or join our Facebook page - [Woodland & Wildlife - Sedgefield](https://www.facebook.com/Woodland&Wildlife-Sedgefield).



Homework Help

Homework Help has capacity to help more students, and the trial of "drop in" sessions in the library on Thursdays 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm continues. If you'd like some help, whether regularly or occasionally, contact us at homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or find us on Facebook at [Homework Help Sedgefield](https://www.facebook.com/HomeworkHelpSedgefield) - also if you could offer help. Thanks!

Sedgefield Development Trust Contact Details

3a Front Street, Sedgefield, Co. Durham, TS21 3AT. Telephone 07572 502904
email: secretary@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk website: www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Friendly Fixers

Sweet sweet music!

One of the things we aim to do at Friendly Fixers is to encourage repairs. This lovely family really got involved! They had been given an electronic keyboard which needed some tender loving care. Luckily our volunteers were able to help, and pass on valuable skills in the process.



Bring your broken, damaged or torn household or personal items for advice or repair - all completely free of charge.

Anyone can pop in, even just for a cuppa and a slice of cake. Repairs are free but donations are encouraged if possible to help with the running costs of Friendly Fixers. First Saturday of the month from 10:30am to 12:30pm at Fishburn Youth & Community Centre, TS21 4ED.

For more information email us at: repaircafe@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk

SEDGEFIELD FARMERS MARKET

On the Green, First Sunday Morning Every Month.

December Farmers Market

Sunday 4 December

On the Village Green

8:30 - 12:30

A very warm welcome awaits you at the last market of 2022, where stalls will be overflowing with the very best produce, gift ideas and seasonal specialities.

With help from our friends in the Sedgefield Area Churches Together group the **free mince pies and hot ginger wine** are back after 3 long years. We're very grateful that SACT have made it possible for us to offer this seasonal thank you to our customers and traders. As ever it will be "while stocks last" so shop early and shop often, as they say! Also, around mid-morning you can enjoy festive singing from **Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir** at 10:15am and **Lirica** at 11am. Fingers crossed the weather gods oblige, because it should be a marvellous morning!

With an expert inside, **Facebook** has become really important to the success of the market over the last few years, but now we're struggling to keep our page up to scratch. We could really do with help from someone who understands how to use it to the full. If you have time and are willing to help, please message us on Facebook or call Roger on 07803 269956.

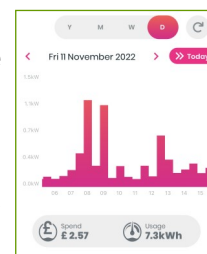
Finally, make the most of our December Market because it's the last until February. The first Sunday in January is New Year's Day – not a day for rising early, so we reckon to give that one a miss.

Merry Christmas, one and all!

Energy

If, like me, you have a smart meter but no in-house display then the app **Loop** can help, Loop can help you track back over hours, days, weeks, months and years. Get a better understanding of how your home uses energy.

On a related matter, do you have experience of using a thermal camera to identify where heat is escaping from your home? Or would you like to learn about your home by use of a thermal camera? Sedgefield Development Trust are looking to gauge interest. Please email treasurer@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.



Busy at u3a

u3a
40th Anniversary

Well! Another busy month for our members. There's really no need to sit at home feeling lonely and forgotten when you could 'join our club' to make new friends, arrange an outing to look forward to, or share your knowledge and experience in an encouraging and supporting environment. Our Pop-up Craft group meets periodically for a short group of sessions when we investigate new crafts. In October, we worked on beaded snowflakes and on folding old books to create some Christmas decorations. Don't worry, the candles are LEDs!



The Book Club discussed *The Dutch House*. With mixed results: Ann Patchett admirers loved the book but others found it rather odd and difficult to assess so a score of 7/10 was given.



The DCC Chief Archaeologist brought us up-to-date with all things Roman in Sedgefield at our monthly meeting. We were, however, disappointed to hear that future excavations are unlikely as funding has been diverted elsewhere in the County.

Tissues in hand, a group of us thoroughly enjoyed *Les Misérables* at Sunderland Empire and now look forward to our next outing to a Viennese Christmas Gala early in December.

With several group events planned for late November and throughout December it looks as if we're going to be busy until the new year. Check out our website to see what else is happening!

Chris Balfour

Les Misérables



STEVE'S NATURE DIARY DECEMBER 2022

As winter develops and dark nights are upon us, there is less time to get a fix of nature connection, or vitamin N, as some people call it. You sometimes have to find different ways to experience nature, so last week we went to a new exhibition at The Baltic, which did have an environmental theme and was particularly good. The exhibition also had a North East flavour and as the blurb says "Hinterlands is a group exhibition that invites us to consider our relationship with the land and its ecosystems. The artists showcase and explore complex histories, mythologies, legacies and potential futures for its custodianship. New commissions and existing works by artists connected with the area reflect on ideas of rootedness and belonging, human and more-than-human relationships, boundaries, land and time in the era of the climate emergency." The exhibition is multi-sensory with various innovative artistic processes and approaches with installations related to ancient woodland, the sound of electric pylons and a collection of material fragments from Industrial Teesside. Stand out experiences included: Foundations Press and its risograph prints entitled "Field Club" which celebrates one of the oldest naturalist groups in the North East of England, The Cleveland Naturalist Club formed in 1881; and Laura Harrington's "Fieldworking" - 6 artists, an ecologist, and 2 film makers who spent five days in an off-grid location surrounded by moorland and blanket bog - the result is fascinating sounds and pictures of a unique environment recorded in a unique way.



Talking about moorland, Durham Wildlife Trust has marked its half-century by unveiling its 50th nature reserve. The Trust launched its '50@50' campaign two years ago - aiming to grow its number of nature reserves from 42 to 50 by the end of its 50th anniversary year. And its latest acquisition, which will be known as Cuthbert's Moor, a 300-acre site in Teesdale, means that the Trust can celebrate the success of its campaign. The 50@50 initiative is part of The Wildlife Trusts' wider objective to protect 30 per cent of land and sea for wildlife by 2030. The Trusts consider this essential to combat the decline of wildlife in the UK, considered one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth. Cuthbert's Moor, designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, is home to a variety of species, including curlew, snipe, meadow pipits, skylark, common lizard and stoat. This upland moorland is also the first nature reserve of its kind that Durham Wildlife Trust has acquired. The Trust will spend the next year surveying the site and its wildlife to inform its long-term nature recovery plans. I am looking forward to visiting the reserve and learning how the Trust will try to improve biodiversity on the site. Many people now value wildlife more than ever, and there's a growing understanding of just how important the natural world is to modern society. Nature will form part of any solution to the climate crisis; if we don't take action to restore wildlife, we won't stop climate change.

Sedgefield Area Churches Together invites you to

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Fishburn Band

FRIDAY
16TH
DECEMBER
2022
6.30 PM

followed by
REFRESHMENTS
IN
GEDDESFIELD
HALL

Come young and old! Everyone is welcome!

...are proud to bring you...

SYC SEDGEFIELD YOUTH CLUB

Saturday 17th December 2022
Sedgefield Parish Hall
9:30-11:30am

BREAKFAST WITH Santa

AS PART OF Sedgefield Snow Party

£12.50 per child
Includes: a personalised invitation from Santa, Christmas cookie decorating on the day, group storytelling & singalong, a gift bag and a 1:1 Santa experience.
Breakfast includes a child's portion English breakfast (egg, bacon, sausage, hash brown, beans and toast) or Pancakes with a choice of sauces.

£7.50 per adult
Includes: an adult's portion English breakfast (eggs, bacon, sausage, hash brown, beans and toast) or Pancakes with a choice of sauces (bacon can be added for an additional £2). Tea / coffee / orange juice.

Limited spaces available!

Tickets available now from sedgefieldyouthclub2022@outlook.com or at Sedgefield Youth Club sessions. Tickets must be paid in full on the date of purchase.

All profits go directly to Sedgefield Youth Club

SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

CHRISTMAS

A time for giving.....but sadly a time for taking too !
Durham Police are working hard over Christmas to keep you and your family safe, but here are a few simple steps we can all take to help.

When you are out shopping:

- Keep valuables in inside pockets of clothing or bags.
- Only carry the cash and cards that you need.
- Avoid returning to the car to leave your shopping half way through your trip.
- If you have to leave presents in the car, make sure they are locked out of sight in the boot and keep the receipts with you, not with the presents.

At home:

- Don't leave presents under the Christmas tree or valuables lying around, especially if they are visible from windows or doors.
- Keep doors and windows locked at all times and keys out of sight.
- If you go out at night, make sure your property looks occupied by using a light timer or TV simulator (available at NHW meetings) ,or leave a radio on.
- Mark your possessions with your postcode. You can register your property for free on the National Property Marking Database immobilise.com.
- Don't open the door to anybody you don't recognise.

VILLAGE SAFETY ISSUES

Durham County Council will shortly be launching a public consultation regarding our village safety. Questions will be asked on a number of issues, including pedestrian safety and the proposed construction and location of further zebra crossings in the village; traffic calming measures and the possible introduction of selective 20 mph areas; and increased accessibility for pedal cycles and mobility scooters and their safe parking. These are just some of the areas up for your discussion so make sure you look out for the publication of details, join in and have your say.

VILLAGE GREEN DAMAGE

I'm sure we were all saddened and disappointed to hear of the recent damage caused to the numerous flower tubs on the village green, particularly those in front of our War Memorial the week before Remembrance Sunday. Numerous reports have been received of school children removing plants and throwing them at each other or passing vehicles. Other than an Offence of Criminal Damage, the destruction of these plants has a cost issue for our Council, who don't have extra funding to keep replacing flowers and plants.

The Police have been informed. If anyone has any information regarding this damage please report it on 101 or email photographic evidence to amyjorgeson@durham.police.uk.

In the new year our Neighbourhood Watch meetings will be moving to a Thursday evening and we look forward to Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen attending a meeting in either January or February. Further details to follow.

Remember you can report matters to the a police on 101 or 999 in an emergency or any Crime information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

A very merry and safe Christmas to all, and a happy and healthy new year from your Neighbourhood Watch team.

Remembrance Poppies

Once again a big thank you to the Ladies of the SCA Craft Club and other Voluntary helpers for the Poppies both knitted and crocheted for this beautiful display - see right.

Jean Easson

Sedgefield in Bloom Christmas Tree collection



Sedgefield in Bloom volunteers are planning to do the Christmas Tree Collection again in January 2023. Please look in Sedgefield News January edition for further information.

Marie Etherington



Your LETTERS

Care in our community

A few weeks ago there was an accident outside our house. An elderly lady in a malfunctioning wheelchair had come down the steep slope outside the Social Club and been tipped face down into the road, hurting her face and her neck. An ambulance was called and we were told it would take 2 hours. It was a very cold day; so, with some other neighbours (including a retired doctor) we covered the lady with blankets and gave her four hot water bottles. We were really worried about her getting hypothermia. The local police arrived and stayed a while, providing a heat-reflecting cover and some cones on the road to protect her. They tried to put pressure on the ambulance to come more quickly, but were told it would now be 3 hours! In the meantime many of the people walking or driving past came to offer help. I joked with the lady, saying if she had £5 for every offer of help, she would be rich. We managed to call the lady's sister in Darlington and they were able to exchange a few words (not easy when you are lying on your face). We also contacted her carers who came straight over and waited with her, in spite of the cold. After 2¾ hrs an ambulance arrived, but it was not in answer to our call. Some schoolboys had walked past our little group on their way through the village. As they walked past the fire station, they had seen an ambulance and its crew having a rest. The boys went up to the ambulance and reported our casualty. Bless the crew, they gave up their break and came straight over. Our patient was soon put onto a stretcher. As she looked up at some birds circling overhead our patient cracked a joke in a weak voice. 'Tell those birds I am not ready to go yet!'

You will be pleased to know the lady concerned is now back home and travelling about the village again. This letter is not aimed at the difficulties being faced by ambulance crews. We all know only too well about them. It is meant to celebrate the kindness and care offered by the community in Sedgefield. Long may it continue!
Alison Manning



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.

ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

email: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

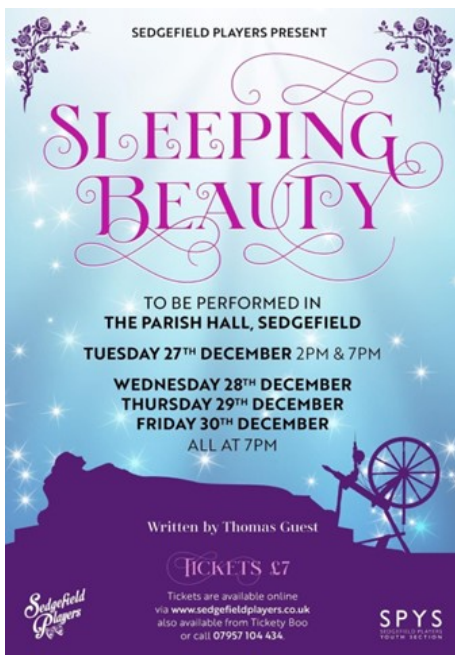
Sleeping Beauty

Why travel, when you can watch a great panto here in Sedgefield? The Sedgefield Players are performing Sleeping Beauty, an original pantomime written by Tom Guest, who also takes on the part of Dame Lucy Lavage.

Playing the part of the evil fairy, Sarah Legender provides plenty of chances for the audience to boo and hiss. The Prince is played by Lucy Atkinson and Sleeping Beauty by Kelsey White. Of course there's always a double act to provide the laughs and Hilary Ramful and Ste Edgoose-Clubley as Folle and Fou provide just that.

No pantomime is complete without songs, bangs, flashing lights and surprises and as usual the Sedgefield Players will deliver. With tickets at only £7 it's great entertainment for the whole family. Tickets can be bought from Ticky Boo, from sedgefieldplayers.co.uk or from our ticket line 07957 104434. Please note that both the matinee and the Wednesday night tickets have all been sold.

Sedgefield Players



But I'm A Cheerleader

Regular readers will remember the recent successes of Sedgefield's professional musician Tim Jasper chronicled on these pages, and will no doubt wish to join us in congratulating him on his success in being appointed Musical Director for the revival of the show 'But I'm A Cheerleader' at The Turbine Theatre in London. Congratulations Tim & here's to many more.

Amid The Falling Snow

Stay warm this winter by joining Sedgefield Lyric Singers, Lirica and SLYC for a Seasonal Concert, Amid The Falling Snow. With a programme packed full of Christmas cheer and winter wonders, this festive delight is a not-to-be-missed evening of heart-warming song and Yuletide treats. A special SLYC performance of Christmas songs from the movies promises to get your toes-a-tapping and hands-a-clapping, to defrost even the most frozen of fingers. Meet us in the Parish Hall to take your fill of winter warmth and make merry, musical memories.

Don't delay, We look forward to basking in seasonal song with you there!



Details: Friday 9 & Saturday 10 December. Parish Hall, Sedgefield. 7:30pm, tickets £7 / £5 U16 from Ticky Boo, calling 01740 621196, or from members of the choir.



More Local Events

Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story at Gala Durham

Dickens classic filmed live for cinemas, starring Mark Gatiss. 1 December 7:45pm galadurham.co.uk/galapost/a-christmas-carol-a-ghost-story/



Durham Christmas Festival, Durham

3 Days of independent traders shopping, entertainment and unique Christmas gift ideas across Durham's Market Place and Palace Green.

2 to 4 December durhamchristmasfestival.com

The Genius of Charles Dickens, Barnard Castle

Chris Foote-Wood's one-man Edinburgh Festival show.

2 December 7:30pm thewitham.org.uk/event/the-genius-of-charles-dickens/

Toddler Tales and Trails - The Night Before Christmas, Sedgefield

90 minutes of outdoor craft, storytelling & exploring Hardwick Park for 2-5 year olds. Ticket price includes admission for one adult. 30 November & 3 December 10am & 1pm

Civic Carol Service, Spennymoor

Spennymoor Town Hall hosts traditional carol service & festive cheer.

4 December 3pm to 5pm spennymoor-tc.gov.uk/index.php/events/civic-carol-service-5/

Illuminating Ushaw: Land of Enchantment, Ushaw House

Illuminations & art installations in the gardens & St Cuthbert Chapel at Ushaw house.

3 to 18 December ushaw.org/whatson/illuminating-ushaw-land-of-enchantment/



DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

December 2022

- Thursday 1** **Carol Service**, St. Edmund's Church beginning at 7pm. The choirs of Hardwick & Rectory Row schools will be contributing to the service. Everyone is welcome. We are asking people to bring an item of no-perishable food for the local foodbank and there will also be a monetary collection.
- Friday 2** **Mayor's Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-11:30am. £2 for coffee and biscuits. Cakes and scones on sale.
Sedgefield and District U3A, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Christmas Party.
- Saturday 3** **Tom McConville & Michael Biggins**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm. Music from one Britain's finest fiddle players. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions), children £6.
- Sunday 4** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am-12:30pm.
- Monday 5** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall at 7:45pm. Members Evening. Please contact Suzanne Hopper for details, 01429 882250.
- Wednesday 7** **Sedgefield WI**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm. Musical entertainment by Cardiac Arrest. Please remember your contribution for the pooled supper. Members competition is Christmas Tree Decoration. Visitors welcome (£4).
- Thursday 8** **Whist/Domino Drive & Christmas Raffle**, Mordon Village Hall at 7pm.
- Friday 9** **Sedgefield Lyric Singers, Lirica & SLYC** perform Amid the Falling Snow, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Tickets £7 (£5 for under 16s), from Tickety Boo, or call 01740 621196, or from members of the choir.
Sedgefield in Bloom, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-11:30am. Come and join us for tea, coffee and loads of Christmas treats.
- Wednesday 14** **Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm.
DIDO, Christmas Party at Hardwick Hall from 12pm. 66 members will enjoy Christmas Lunch and the Jersey Boys (with probably a dance or two).
- Thursday 15** **Citizens Advice**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-1pm.
Sedgefield Memory Café, Sedgefield Fire Station, 10:30am-12pm. For those living with dementia and their carers.
- Friday 16** **Carols on the Green**, Sedgefield Area Churches Together, 6:30pm. Fishburn Band. Followed by refreshments in Ceddesfeld Hall.
- Saturday 17** **Sedgefield Youth Club, Breakfast with Santa**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 9:30am-11:30am. See poster for full details.
- Sunday 18** **Christmas Carols**, Mordon Village Hall at 5pm.
- Tuesday 20** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Members Night. Information from Sandra 07533 752870.
- Tuesday 27** **Tim Lowe from 101 and OasisJam**, is doing a solo gig at Hopper House Brew Farm, Sedgefield. Starts at 7:30pm with free entry.
- Saturday 31** **The Mayor's New Year's Eve Dance**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 8pm-12:15am. With Mamma Said, cash bar, bring food to share and games. Tickets are £10.

Letters to Santa

Someone special is coming to Sedgefield Library and delivering letters to good boys and girls. There will be a direct line to Santa via the special post boxes at Sedgefield Library and Loft to Loved, and then, if you are very good, he might write back!

SEDFIELD LIBRARY

Tel: 0300 026 9521

Wednesday 9:30 to 12:30

Thursday 10:00 to 18:00

Friday 13:00 to 19:00

Saturday 9:30 to 12:30

Little Movers every Thursday from 10am, places need booking at the library.

Craft Group, 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 1:30pm.

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

Lego Club

Sedgefield Library is starting a weekly Lego drop-in group after kind donations from the Ellen Timney Foundation and Sedgefield residents.

The first session is on **Friday 9 December** from 4:30pm to 6pm, initially for Junior age and older children. Please contact the library for spaces.

Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

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

Female Hormone Deficiency Support Group

Sedgefield Social Club every Thursday from 7:00-8:30pm

Sedgefield Social Club

Singer every Saturday night

Sedgefield Lyric Singers

Community choir Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30-9pm. Join us for a sing, then some light refreshment afterwards, in the bar. Fridays, term time only. In December: Friday 2, 9, 16

Sleeping Beauty

The Sedgefield Players Pantomime, at the Parish Hall.

Tickets £7 from Tickety Boo, www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk or telephone 07957 104434.

Tuesday 27 at 2pm (sold out) & 7pm

Wednesday 28 at 7pm (sold out)

Thursday 29 at 7pm

Friday 30 at 7pm

Making Tracks

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

Christmas Tractor Road Run

Sedgefield Young Farmers are organising a charity tractor road run raising funds for the GNAA, and the club. Sunday 18 December meeting at Hardwick Hall at 3:30pm, setting off at 4pm with all the tractors lit up in Christmas lights, going through the local villages and back to Hardwick Hall for photos and some mulled wine at about 5:30/6pm. We will also be collecting tinned food for the local food bank.

CEDESFELD HALL

Sedgefield Community Association

SCA was very sad to hear of the death of Keith Wells, on Friday 4 November, aged 92 years. Keith was integral to the growth and development of Sedgefield's community life, as part of the Parish Council, and within SCA, where he played a pivotal role. He was a very dedicated, active and respected Trustee for many years. Keith was always the same: polite, cheerful, friendly, hardworking, and generous, and in recognition of his long service, wise counsel, and valued contribution to SCA, he was awarded life membership, several years ago. Keith remained active and supportive well into his later years, along with his wife Nancy. Sedgefield has lost a true friend, who served his community well.

December Events and Looking forward to 2023!

Following the Churches Together 'Carols on the Green' on Friday 16 December (6.30pm to 7pm), the bar and lounge will be open. Mulled wine will also be served, at £2.50 a glass.

A Christmas Kanika Pila with Sedgefield Smile Time Ukulele Band also on Friday 16 December begins at 7pm, in the main hall. This is a free event. There will be a range of well known, popular tunes and Christmas songs to enjoy, performed by this very popular group.

It's great to see the return of the popular Christmas Eve Quiz on 24 December at 8 pm. Come along to enjoy a great, social evening with quiz master Peter Hinde. This is also a free event and, of course, the bar will be open.

SCA are very pleased to host a Burns Supper in true Scottish tradition, on January 28 starting at 7pm. Tickets are £30, to include a drinks reception, followed by a 5-course meal (choice of haggis or roast beef + vegetarian option) with a cheese board and coffee. There will be 'pipes, toasts, talks and quotes' too! Tickets can be purchased by contacting Pat, on the number below.

SCA are looking forward to a busy 2023! In next month's edition of Sedgefield News, you will receive the 2023 SCA pamphlet which provides an outline of the regular, interest group activities and events calendar, as well as room hire and booking information, for the year.

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. Follow us [facebook.com/Ceddesfeld](https://www.facebook.com/Ceddesfeld).

Mayor's Corner

December is looking to be an extremely busy month for me but November had fewer events in the diary, the calm before the storm, so to speak! There were two Remembrance Day Services within the village, in which we were honoured to participate; one outside St. Luke's Church and a second in St. Edmund's Church.

My Moondogs event was repeated by popular demand, just as successfully as the first time around, when a packed Parish Hall was bouncing as my patrons rolled back the years to the threesome's 50s and 60s music. You can catch them again at my Mayor's Ball at Hardwick Hall Hotel on 3 March.



Dave with Great Aycliffe Mayor Ken Robson



It was a real pleasure for us to meet up with the other area Mayors, firstly at the Spennymoor Mayor's Civic Service and then again at Hartlepool Cricket Club for the Hartlepool Mayor's Charity Night.

The Snow Party is always a popular event in Sedgefield's calendar and heralds the approach of Christmas, as our village children's excitement begins to mount. Father Christmas was able to squeeze in an appearance too, in spite of his busy schedule ahead of the big day. It would be lovely to see as many people as possible at the Mayor's Carol Service on 1 December in St. Edmund's Church, when children from our two primary schools will be singing their hearts out with carols old and new. The following morning is my second Mayor's Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall so do come along to that too.

For the first time in well over a decade, I have resurrected a New Year's Eve Dance in the Parish Hall featuring a live band, 'Mamma Said' plus a surprise guest appearance. Tickets are just £10 from the Town Council Offices and all are welcome. Bring your own food to share, there will be a cash bar, a raffle, games,



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party poppers and a whole lot of fun, as we welcome in 2023.

In conclusion, Julie and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

David Jasper

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SPORTS UPDATE

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On the wider sporting front, it's really tricky to keep a track of the various global events that have taken place recently, or are happening now. There have been close calls and agonising defeats for the national team in some events, but also some fantastic results. I'm typing this a week after the England men's cricket team won the T20 World Cup in Australia and the day after England triumphed in a bruising/brutal final of the men's Wheelchair Rugby League World Cup. Both events were brilliant to watch and the teams were very deserving winners. Another world cup is now underway, but for various reasons, I can't bring myself to write about that. Instead, let's get back to Sedgefield.

Athletics

In November, Sedgefield Harriers held an annual celebration event at Hardwick Hall, reflecting on a busy and successful year for the club. During the event, a series of annual awards were presented, for achievements in the time trial, Grand Prix and also in categories that were voted on by members or decided by the club committee.

The award winners were:

- Time Trial: Fastest Male - David Bentley
- Time Trial: Fastest Female - Jane Spink
- Time Trial: Best Age Grade Performance - Susan Milburn
- Time Trial: Committed Improvement - Phil Houghton
- Grand Prix: Elite Male - Mark Raine
- Grand Prix: Elite Female - Lisa Darby
- Grand Prix: Division 1 - Dave Walker
- Grand Prix: Division 2 - Mark Chapman
- Grand Prix: Division 3 - Dave Round
- Grand Prix: Division 4 - Graham Darby
- Volunteer of the Year - Mike Wood
- Dave Sawyer Endurance Award - Chris Lines
- Individual Performance of the Year - David Bentley
- Newcomers of the Year - Peter and Susan Milburn
- Track and Field Athlete of the Year - Frances Barlow
- Club Runner of the Year - Rory Letts
- Club Member of the Year - Beth Raine

During the evening, the club held a raffle to support the Harriers' chosen cause of the year, suicide prevention charity If U Care Share, which raised £280. The club is grateful to everyone who helped organise the event, or supported it.

Squash



Sedgefield Squash Club has been a hive of activity in recent weeks. Several new members have joined, and previous members re-joined, firmly returning the club back to pre-Covid numbers. Sedgefield now attracts many players from around the county, playing their squash in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall.

Junior squash continues to thrive on a Saturday morning under the watchful eye of the qualified coaching team. The England Squash Stars programme also helps promote the sport for youngsters and the club has just finished its second intake. Currently, most of the young players who have taken part have enrolled on further coaching sessions, ensuring that a stream of new talent is flowing. All juniors get a chance to try out their new skills in the monthly internal box leagues, and the club is grateful to parents for scoring these matches.

All five senior teams and the ladies team are competing in the Durham & Cleveland League. The ladies are top of their division with some great results against Yarm and Bedale, and a narrow defeat to Durham University. Sedgefield 2nd team are top of Division 2 and strong favourites for promotion. The 1st and 3rd teams are in comfortable positions in their divisions. The 4th and 5th teams are in the same division this season, resulting in some friendly/fierce competition when they come to play one another. The first internal derby match between the two went to form - well done to the 4th team.

In other news, Edinburgh Sports Club hosted its annual Octoberfest competition and once again Sedgefield entered a team to go north of the border. The weekend event is a mixture of playing squash and socialising with other players from all over the country and beyond.

Football



The Sunday league season is well underway and Sedgefield St. Edmund's FC started on the back of some changes in the club set up. With Neil Marley and Stephen Marshall stepping down from the roles of manager and assistant at the end of last season, Graham Kime has now taken over as the new manager.

After four friendlies, the season proper kicked off in the middle of August, with the games coming thick and fast. Seven were played by early September (four on Sunday and three mid-week). St. Edmund's have had an indifferent start in the league, with one win from four games, but in the four cup competitions that the club has entered, it is a different story. St. Edmund's have played 11 cup games so far and won all of them. The club is through to two quarter-finals in the league cups, and progressing nicely in both the County Cup and the Heart Foundation Cup.

Off the field, another welcome addition to the management team is the experienced Sean Tarling, who also plays for St. Edmund's, and will be a great help to Graham.



Sedgefield's second intake of Squash Stars

Sedgefield Nomads won two out of their four matches, and also gained success off the court by winning the team karaoke with an unforgettable rendition of 'Somewhere In My Heart' by Aztec Camera. The icing on the cake was club chairman, Gordon Peden, winning player of the tournament (not that he's mentioned it very much). It was a very tired bunch of players who returned home at the end of the event, but they are already planning next year!

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