

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

February 2023 Edition

Deadline for March: Tuesday 14 February

## Young Farmers Road Run is a huge success



### Sedgefield Young Farmers Club (YFC) organised a charity Christmas tractor road run on Sunday 18 December.

We had 52 tractors decorated with Christmas trees, decorations and lots of lights driving the roads through local villages to raise money for the Great North Air Ambulance (GNA) and Sedgefield YFC. The number of supporters on the route was amazing! We were delighted to see so many people out supporting us and two amazing charities that help the local community. In total we raised a total £2,698.86. WOW!!

Thank you also to everyone for donating food to support the Billingham food bank. If you would like to continue supporting our local food banks, with food donations or your time, it would be greatly appreciated.

We aim to hold the tractor run again in December 2023 as it was such a success this year. Many thanks to all who helped organise and to all of you for your very kind donations.



Photo credits: John Finlayson & Claire Darnton

## More tractors and more thank yous



A massive thank you to everyone who supported our fund raising event in January. Despite our volunteers being very wet and soggy (could the weather have been any worse!) everyone was in high spirits whilst collecting the trees on our decorated tractor. All money raised will go towards keeping Sedgefield looking fabulous.

Marie Etherington



Sedgefield in Bloom collecting Christmas trees



**Sedgefield**  
Primary School

Learning Together for Life

## Governor vacancy

**Do you have an interest in shaping the education of the children of Sedgefield and skills you could offer?**

Sedgefield Primary School is looking for a new member of our Governing Body who has skills to contribute (an interest in finance would be of particular benefit) and an interest in education. Training and support will be provided.

Our Governors are friendly, welcoming and dedicated. They thoroughly enjoy their role and find it interesting and rewarding.

If you are interested in finding out more, please ring the Headteacher, Andrea Cox, on 01740 620359 or send an email to [sedgefield.primary@durhamlearning.net](mailto:sedgefield.primary@durhamlearning.net) and she will be happy to discuss the role in more detail. The closing date for expressions of interest is 28 February 2023.

## Health & Well-being

Pupils at Sedgefield from Key Stages One and Two have had their well-being and mental health placed at the centre of their learning, through an innovative programme of yoga and well-being. All pupils have taken part in a sequence of targeted lessons taught by Laura Dixon from Kalmer Life in Bishop Auckland.

These sessions were tailored to the needs of each class. Lessons involved creating structured yoga movements to mood lifting music. Sessions also involved a bubble machine and created a calm atmosphere for pupils to self regulate and relax. Samson (age 9) described how he could repeat mini exercises at home to relax his mind.



These innovative and inspiring sessions have supported pupils following the pandemic. Sophie (age 10) said these targeted sessions have supported her in moments of stress and helped her focus her mind on her academic and sporting success. The PTFA has agreed to continue to fund this project, as it has proved so successful. Eva and Ben (age 9) say they can't wait for the next set of whole class sessions to continue.

## Animated!

Year 6 pupils at Sedgefield Hardwick have returned to school with a bang as they have been sculpting clay puppets over the past three weeks! The children have taken inspiration from Nick Park, the creator of Wallace and Gromit, to help them create their models. Initially, they practised manipulating and moulding plasticine to make small figurines. Once they had the hang of the new medium, they turned their attention to creating their very own medium scale model inspired by the style of Nick Park.



Subsequently, the pupils created armatures (essentially skeletons) for their puppets using wire, tin foil and tape. Next, they used plasticine to 'flesh out' their puppets. Finally, they added details to our puppets to help bring them to life! The images show their marvellous, individual creations! The children have thoroughly enjoyed this module and it might have even inspired some future career choices. Chloe, aged 11, said, "I want to be an animator when I grow up!"



## Community College festivities



Among the many events taking place at the end of the autumn term, one of the highlights here at Sedgefield Community College was the Carol Concert that took place on Thursday 15 December 2022. It was a wonderful evening with many parents and carers able to join us and celebrate what an exceptionally talented group of singers and instrumentalists we have at the school. As well as the concert, December also saw 40 of our students taking part in a performance at Sedgefield Methodist Church in an event to support people with dementia and Alzheimer's disease.



For many years, the school has arranged a foodbank collection in the period leading up to Christmas. Carrying out the collection helps our students to reflect upon and appreciate the challenges that many people in our local community face and hopefully make a real positive difference through the donations. Our collection in 2022 was the sixth time that we have asked students, parents and staff to be generous and donate whatever they can and it was also the year with the largest number of items received yet. We estimate 4,000 individual items were passed on and we're very proud of and grateful to everyone in our community who supported the collection this year.



## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS



### Support the Sedgefield Development Trust

I joined the Sedgefield Development Trust (SDT) as I was part of the bee-keeping group. I must admit, I was a bit confused as to what the SDT was, but as I have become more involved in the charity I have realised how much the Trust does for the village. Groups such as Days In Days Out (DIDO), the Bicycle & Active Travel group and the Woodland and Wildlife group are all assisted by the Trust, not forgetting the Farmers Market, Citizen of the Year and this publication too.

Recently, the new repair cafe (Friendly Fixers) came to the Trust for help and advice in getting started. The Trust is so varied in assisting the different organisations in the village, I really had no idea how integral it is to the community of which we are so proud.

Without the help of the Trust, many of these groups would struggle. The bee-keepers rely heavily on advice from the Trust and it is good to be involved with an organisation that really wants us to succeed and be part of village life! They fill in the gaps with regards to the running so we can get on with the job of caring for our bees! It also helps to talk to the other groups to help and work with each other.

If you have any interests that you would like to share with others, do not hesitate to contact the Trust. They are only too happy to give advice. Alternatively, if you just want to get involved in the general running of the Trust by joining the committee, we are really keen to get a broad spectrum of people being part of our merry gang!

Lesley Edmenson



On the Green, First Sunday Morning Every Month.

**Sunday 5 February  
on the Village Green  
8:30am - 12:30pm**

A very happy New Year to all our producers, volunteers and customers, we are all looking forward to seeing you on Sunday 5 February for our first market of 2023.



We have an exciting new artisan cheese producer, Weardale Cheese, attending in February, as well as The Woodland Trust community stall, so please come along and support your local market.



### Homework Help

If you'd like some 1-to-1 help with homework or schoolwork, or if you could offer your experience and knowledge to help a student, please do get in touch. We'll do our best to match students and helpers. On-line sessions are available, or Thursday evenings in the library. We thank a couple of dedicated and experienced helpers who have moved on to other things; of course, those helpers who continue with us; and we welcome new helpers who are stepping up to the plate. Contact us at

[homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk) or find us on Facebook at [Homework Help Sedgefield](https://www.facebook.com/HomeworkHelpSedgefield).



Thank you to everyone who braved the wet weather to bring their real Christmas trees to the project site. We had around 35 trees delivered, which we have used to extend the dead hedging on site.



We found evidence that the existing hedges are being used by many insects and are host to a number of interesting fungi, both of which play an important role in the ecosystems.



Jelly Ear Fungi at the Woodland & Wildlife site

The area between the hedges has been given a chance to regenerate, as they are providing shelter in what was a bare patch of land.

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

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

This is to give notice that Sedgefield Development Trust will hold its Annual General Meeting on

**Monday 27 February 2023 at 7:45pm  
in the Oldham Room of Ceddesfeld Hall**

Any special or general resolutions proposed must be with the Company at its registered office, 3a Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 3AT, no later than 12 noon on Monday 13 February.

**This AGM is an open, public meeting. You are welcome to attend.  
SDT is owned and controlled by the community.**

Sedgefield Development Trust is a company limited by guarantee; Company Number: 4312745 and is a registered charity; Charity Number: 1100806

### Sedgefield Development Trust Contact Details

3a Front Street, Sedgefield, Co. Durham, TS21 3AT Telephone 07572 502904  
email: [secretary@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk) website: [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk)

*Don't ditch it, fix it!*

Friendly Fixers is a Repair Café where you can 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.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrical Appliances</li> <li>• Electronic Gadgets</li> <li>• Furniture</li> <li>• Toys</li> <li>• Ceramics</li> <li>• Jewellery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothing &amp; Textiles</li> <li>• Bicycles</li> <li>• Clocks</li> <li>• Garden Equipment</li> <li>• Tool sharpening and much more!</li> </ul>
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First Saturday of the month from 10.30am - 12.30pm  
FISHBURN YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE  
TS21 4ED

*All welcome!*

*Can you help? Get in touch!*

For more information email us at:  
[repaircafe@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:repaircafe@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk)

Brought to you by volunteers of Sedgefield Development Trust  
[www.sedgefielddwt.co.uk](http://www.sedgefielddwt.co.uk)

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY FEBRUARY 2023

My garden isn't that big really, but I have tried to incorporate as many different types of habitats as possible and at this time of the year, I try to strike a balance between leaving seed heads, piles of leaves and twigs whilst having the garden looking slightly tidy. As I am pottering in the garden, I sometimes like to move pots and containers around, but not so much in the winter as I often disturb things. This includes Smooth Newts which hibernate under my pots, under rocks or in wood piles where they hide from predators and remain in a state of torpor when the garden is covered by snow or ice and insect food is harder to find. As the weather starts to warm up, they venture out and feed on any invertebrate that have also been lured out. If the mild weather continues, they may be even tempted to breed. They seek out water; I have a sunken washing up bowl which serves as my pond, surrounded by rocks and although it's small, I do get frogs and, of course, newts.

Before they breed, male Smooth Newts undergo a dramatic change of appearance. They change from looking lizard-like and grow a jagged crest which runs the full length of their body and tail and develop an orange belly.



A male Smooth Newt with jagged crest  
By Mark Hofstetter, CC BY-SA 3.0 de

With this new appearance, the male then performs a courtship display: he vibrates his tail, slapping it from side to side against his body. If the watching female is satisfied, she allows him to deposit a packet of sperm which she absorbs into her body to fertilise her eggs. Mating can happen any time during day or night. If the conditions are right, and you visit a suitable pond, you may see dozens of mating newts. A couple of weeks after mating, the females lay several hundreds of eggs, each of which is concealed in the fold of a leaf. They hatch between ten and twenty days later and the newt-pols, known as efts, stay in the birth pond until they finally turn into adults later in the summer. At least, that is what happens to the lucky ones - most get eaten! So, the next time you are tempted to move that pot or pile of stones or logs, just be careful you don't disturb your hibernating newts.

## Skerne Medical Group

As we welcome in 2023, we would like to thank patients for their support and kindness across 2022, which was another difficult year within General Practice. Following well attended Covid booster and flu vaccination clinics, we want to share advice and guidance on how to stay well this winter.

### Get your coronavirus (COVID-19) booster and flu vaccinations

If you're at greater risk from COVID-19 and flu, it's important to get the extra protection of vaccination in winter. Both vaccines are safe and effective and are the best protection from these viruses. It's important to get both vaccines if you're invited. You need to have the flu vaccine every year because the viruses that cause flu change each year.

Your immunity from the COVID-19 vaccine also reduces over time. Therefore, those at greater risk are being invited to get a booster. Although the best time to have your vaccines is in the autumn, we would encourage you to still book an appointment if you have not already been vaccinated.

### If you're 65 or over, you're also eligible for the pneumococcal vaccine, which will help protect you from pneumonia

People aged 65 and over only need a single pneumococcal vaccination. The vaccine protects against serious and potentially fatal pneumococcal infections. Pneumococcal infections are caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and can lead to pneumonia, blood poisoning (sepsis) and meningitis. Protect yourself by booking an appointment with a member of our nursing team; you only get this vaccine once, unlike the annual flu jab.

### Keep warm and get help with heating costs

Keeping warm over the winter months can help to prevent colds, flu and more serious health problems such as heart attacks, strokes, pneumonia and depression. Make sure you're getting all the help that you're entitled to. There are grants, benefits and advice available to make your home more energy efficient, improve your heating or help with bills. If you need help to apply for benefits or you are unsure what you may be entitled to, please contact a member of our reception team and ask them to refer you to one of our Social Prescribers.

### Make use of the additional support available to you

Not every condition requires a GP appointment:

**Community Pharmacies** can give treatment and advice for a wide range of minor illnesses, such as heartburn, diarrhoea, sore throat, cold and flu, headache and, most recently, they can treat urinary tract infections (UTI) for women between the age of 18 and 65 years.

**Opticians** can provide treatment and advice for red eye, conjunctivitis, lumps and bumps in the vicinity of the eye, to name but a few.

**First Contact Physio** can help patients with a new musculoskeletal (MSK) condition. You need to be over 16 years old to use this service, which can help with new joint pain or injury, minor trauma such as a sports injury, new spinal pain and also acute flare up of a chronic problem such as osteoarthritis.

**Musculoskeletal (MSK)** if you have a long standing MSK problem, patients aged over 16 years can self-refer by calling 01388 455200, you don't need to be referred by a GP.

**Emergency Services** should be used for any suspected fracture or being unable to weight bear, road traffic accident or if you have an open wound that may need stitches.

We ask that, if you are unable to attend an appointment in the surgery, please let us know as soon as possible which will allow us to offer to another patient rather than it go to waste. The easiest way to do this is by signing up for on-line services.

Thank you again for your help.

### Obi Tattoo - Lucky Friday 13

I just wanted to update you about our charity tattoo day. We raised a grand total of £466 which we will be split between the Ellen Timney Foundation and Stray Aid. We hope to continue to do Friday 13th as a charity day in future and appreciate the support of all who came. *Abigail Wells*



## SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

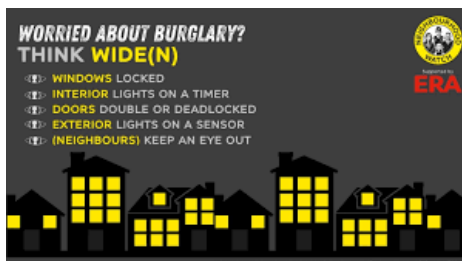
### Neighbourhood Watch meeting, Thursday 12 January

Many thanks to all who attended the above meeting, despite the atrocious weather. The Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, Joy Allen, was among those present, as was Councillor Stephen Winter. Numerous local issues were discussed, including the Town CCTV coverage, traffic issues, the Active Travel Survey and the possibility of a new Police Constable being assigned to us, which the PCC promised to take up with the Chief Constable. Updates will follow on these matters as they are progressed.



### Worried about Burglary?

There have been recently, although it must be stressed not in Sedgefield itself, a number of so called "2 in 1 burglaries" in County Durham. This is where premises are entered, property stolen but also duplicate keys are taken. The perpetrators then return, some days later, to steal a car. This is a timely reminder to us all not to store duplicate vehicle keys where they can easily be found by intruders.



### NEW: Government Emergency Alert System going live soon

This new system will be going live early this year and you should expect to receive a text message to warn you in the event of emergencies, such as severe flooding.

They don't track your location or collect any data and you will be able to opt out of the system, if you wish. Further information can be obtained at [gov.uk/alerts](http://gov.uk/alerts).

### Scams

Phishing scams are scam emails or messages 'fishing' for your personal data. You can report phishing websites by forwarding email or message to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) or forward a suspicious text to 7726.

- Never provide personal information over the phone.
- Always check URL's when visiting websites.
- Never click on a link in a suspicious website.
- Don't pay individuals with gift cards

And remember, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is!

If you receive scam mail through your letter box, don't put the letters in the bin, send them on free of charge to the National Trading Standards Scam Team to be investigated, using the address "NTSST, FREEPOST, MAIL MARSHALS".

### Next meeting

Our next Sedgefield NHW meeting will be on Thursday 9 February at 7:30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall, which will be attended by Police Inspector Sarah Honeyman, our Area Community Police Inspector. I'm sure Sarah will be interested to hear your views and questions on local policing issues.

Keep reporting any problems to the police on 101, call in at the Police Station, or call 999 in an emergency and together we can keep Sedgefield a safe, secure and lovely place in which to live.

## Your LETTERS

### A slippery problem

Rectory Row can be an exciting but sometimes dangerous place to live. Last time, I wrote a letter about the way villagers tried to help a woman in a wheelchair who had had an accident there. This story is not so positive.

On 27 December an elderly resident of Rectory Row, whose husband is in a nursing home, was unable to park her car outside her own home, so she parked nearby at the end of Cross St. It was a frosty night. At 11:30pm there was a loud bang. Another neighbour looked out of his window and saw a white pick-up truck outside on the road. The following morning the lady discovered her car had been badly damaged and pushed up onto the pavement. It is probable that the driver of the pick-up was driving too fast down the Rectory Row hill and skidded on the icy road as they turned into Cross St.

Unfortunately, the car was a 'write-off'. Apparently, the owner had not taken the option offered by the insurance company to provide a courtesy car, so she had to rent a car to enable her to visit her sick husband. She has had help from neighbours but no contact from the driver of the pick-up. The neighbour who saw the pick-up truck contacted the police the following day but they did not follow up the call.



As local residents know, the hill on Rectory Row can be treacherous when it is icy. In previous years, a four-by-four slid down the hill and crashed into a stationary car, giving one driver a back injury and a nearby house a broken window, from a flying wing-mirror. In a later event, a car skidded into a house on Cross St. So far, there have been no fatalities. Neither the police nor the highways department show any interest in the problem. So I am asking drivers in the village—please DO NOT drive down Rectory Row when conditions are icy. You might save someone's life, including your own!

Alison Manning

*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.*

When can I get advice?

Access information 24 hours a day at [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.org.uk)

Citizens Advice at Sedgefield

Sedgefield Parish Hall, Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 3AT

Thursday 15th December - 10am to 1pm  
Thursday 12th January - 10am to 1pm  
Thursday 9th February - 10am to 1pm  
Thursday 9th March - 10am to 1pm

Email [outreach@citizensadvicecd.org.uk](mailto:outreach@citizensadvicecd.org.uk)  
Adviceline 0808 278 7821  
Debt Adviceline 0300 323 2000  
Help to Claim Universal Credit 0800 144 8444  
Visit our website at [citizensadvicecd.org.uk](http://citizensadvicecd.org.uk)

Citizens Advice County Durham is a registered charity.  
Registered charity number: 1151790.

Snowdrop Walk

Enjoy a walk in beautiful scenery and plant snowdrops in support of Child Bereavement UK

- Snowdrops available to purchase
- Book of Remembrance in quiet corner of Visitor Centre

Hardwick Park, Sedgefield

Sunday 26th February 2023

Entry is FREE, however donations will be gratefully received

0800 02 888 40  
[childbereavementuk.org](http://childbereavementuk.org)

Charity No is registered and made available and audited accounts

## ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

email: [sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com](mailto:sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com)

### Players' Sleeping Beauty - a roaring success

The Sedgefield Players performed to a full house for every night of their Pantomime run this year.

Sleeping Beauty, written by Tom Guest was well received by the audience:

*'Never fails, Just Brilliant. Possibly the best ever. Thanks guys.'*

*'Brilliant performance, the effort that the team put in is amazing'.*



There was singing, dancing, audience participation, water guns, booing and hissing. The whole cast were amazing, and thanks must also go to CDB Production Solutions and Adam White for providing the group with amazing sound, pyrotechnics and confetti cannons. These enhanced the production to a professional level. Thanks must also go to the other tech and backstage crew, Glen White, Richard Flanagan, Alex Taylor and Otis Moran, without whom no performance would run. The biggest thanks must go to Sarah Atkinson for directing yet another great Sedgefield Players Panto.

After such a hectic December, the group gave themselves some time off. Well, they didn't rehearse on New Year's Day, but were back on the Wednesday to start on their March Productions of Blithe Spirit.



This wonderful play is being performed in the Parish Hall on 16, 17 & 18 of March 2023 in the Parish Hall, Sedgefield.

Tickets are £7, available at Tickety Boo, online at [www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk) and from 07957 104434.

The group will soon also be taking part in two one-act festivals at Nidderdale and Stanley, so no time for rest.

Sedgefield Players

### From Loft to Loved: February Workshops

There are plenty of activities to fire our creative imaginations in February, including kid-friendly workshops for the half-term week. Decoupage, upholstering and furniture painting workshops are all scheduled for this month, as well as an opportunity to make your own silver filigree jewellery, and slots are also available for the Mothers' Day Mosaic Workshop (Saturday 4 March). Spaces are limited so do book early to avoid disappointment, learn a new skill, have fun, meet new people and leave with a unique item to gift or to cherish.

Visit [www.fromlofttoloved.co.uk](http://www.fromlofttoloved.co.uk) for dates and prices.

### More Local Events

**Ancient Egyptians: Secrets of the Afterlife** at The Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough

This fascinating exhibition ends this month.

10am to 4pm until 26 February  
[www.britishmuseum.org/exhibitions/ancient-egyptians-secrets-afterlife](http://www.britishmuseum.org/exhibitions/ancient-egyptians-secrets-afterlife)

**Mark Morriss (of The Bluetones)** at Old Cinema Laundrette, Durham.

The 90s indie frontman turned solo performer plays 2 nights in February. 3 & 4 February 7pm  
[www.wegotickets.com/event/558383/](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/558383/)

**The Government Inspector - City Theatre, Durham**

Nikolai Gogol's excoriating comic satire of petty bureaucratic corruption, as fresh now as it was in 1836.

5 to 11 February  
[www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk](http://www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk)

**St. Valentine's Disco at Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield**

Enjoy a 3-course meal with drinks and a disco at fabulous Hardwick Hall.

11 February 7:30pm  
[hardwickhallhotel.co.uk/upcoming-events/](http://hardwickhallhotel.co.uk/upcoming-events/)



**Fire & Ice in Durham City**

The annual Fire and Ice sculptures, demonstrations and displays return to Durham in for one weekend in February; this year with a Steampunk theme. No tickets required.

24 & 25 February 10am to 6:15pm  
[gonortheast.co.uk/fire-ice-durham](http://gonortheast.co.uk/fire-ice-durham)



## DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to [diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com](mailto:diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com)

February 2023

- Wednesday 1** **Sedgefield WI**, 105th anniversary birthday dinner, Dun Cow, members to arrive 12:30pm for 1pm.
- Friday 3** **Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Peter Hinde on "52 years working in retail and buying alcohol around the world", visitors welcome, £3.
- Saturday 4** **Mayor's Charity Night with the Cardiac Dodgers**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm-11pm.
- Sunday 5** **Candlemas Ecumenical Taizé Service**, Sedgefield Methodist Church at 6pm. Sedgefield Area Churches Together warmly welcomes everyone to come along.
- Monday 6** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. AGM and "The History of Fishburn" by Martin Peagam
- Thursday 9** **Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm. Sarah Honeyman, our Area Community Police Inspector will be attending.
- Sunday 12** **Singles Club**, Hardwick Park, 1pm. Details in right hand column.
- Monday 13** **DIDO**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 1pm-3:30pm. Bring and buy with quiz and bingo.
- Friday 17** **Sedgefield in Bloom**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am. A belated Valentines Coffee Morning. Come along and meet up with your friends for our renowned refreshments.
- Saturday 18** **Sedgefield Community Association, Open Mic night**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm. See page 8 for details.
- Tuesday 21** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Pamela Alexander demonstrates "Just for you", members - no charge, non-members - £5.
- Friday 24** **Sedgefield Village Veterans**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.
- Saturday 25** **World Day of Prayer**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Methodist Church Hall, 10am-11am. All are welcome.
- Tuesday 28** **Alex Ord Concert**, Mordon Village Hall, 7:30pm. In aid of Alzheimer's/Dementia. Tickets £7.

### Keep the date

**Sedgefield Players** are performing Blithe Spirit at Sedgefield Parish Hall, at 7:30pm on **16, 17 and 18 March**.

**World Day of Prayer** at St. John Fisher Church at 2pm on **3 March**. All welcome.

**Spiritual Spa Day** at Parish of Upper Skerne on **11 March**. Details to follow. All welcome.

**Mayor's Ball** at Hardwick Hall Hotel with The Moondogs on **3 March**. Black tie, 3 course meal, tombola, auction, bottle draw. Tickets £35 from STC Offices (weekday mornings).

### 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, under 13 to be accompanied by an adult.



Everyone is warmly welcome

Taizé-style ecumenical service  
A reflective, meditative service at Candlemas followed by refreshments

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 6:00 pm

Sedgefield Methodist Church

*Sedgefield Area Churches Together*

### Cosy Coffee (and Tea!)

Mondays 1 pm to 3 pm  
Sedgefield Methodist Church Hall  
Meet your friends or make new ones!  
*A warm welcome in a warm place.*  
Simple, hot food is available free.



Sedgefield Area  
Churches Together

### SEDGEFIELD 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. Places need booking at the library.

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

### Lego Club Drop In

Every **Friday** from 4:30pm to 6pm, initially for Junior age and older children. Please contact the library to book a place.

### Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

Methodist Church every Monday from 9:30am to 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 February: Friday 3, 10, 17.

### Singles Club

Roses are red and violets are blue,  
Single on Valentines, is that you?  
Do you need a change this year?  
To get off those dating apps  
we all fear.

You've been there, done that,  
fed up with the pub,  
Join me and lets start a singles club.  
Lets get together for a local walk,  
A friendly mixed group  
where we can just talk.  
With an age range of  
thirty to fifty five,  
Everyone welcome when they arrive.  
So before Valentine's Day  
make that change,  
With a walk of about  
a two mile range.  
Meet outside Hardwick cafe at 1pm,  
I look forward to seeing all of you  
then.

P.S. Don't be shy!

Richard Fearnside, 2023

Event date – 12 February  
Hardwick Park, Sedgefield, 1pm

## CEDDSFELD HALL

### Sedgefield Community Association

SCA was delighted to see the return of the traditional Burns Supper. The evening was well attended and enjoyed by all. Special thanks must go to Paul Cook the Piper, to Ian Sutherland for the Selkirk Grace, to Jim Sutherland for his Address to the Haggis and his Toast to the Immortal Memory, to Peter Hinde for his Toast to the Lassies and to Pat Buckley for the Response. There was indeed a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne to finish!

Ceddesfeld Hall Community Bar offers a warm welcome to all members and residents. Real ales are proving to be popular as well as the flavoured gin and sparkling wine, all at very reasonable prices! Check the SCA Facebook page for which 'Beer of the Week' is on offer and the SCA website for the price list. The bar is run by a small committee of dedicated volunteers and is open from Monday to Friday, from 7:30pm. Get in touch if you want to get involved!

The popular **Open Mic Night** takes place on Saturday 18 February, starting at 8pm. Sedgefield's Lirica are opening the evening, and popular duo Whisky and Wine are closing the night. In between, there will be a variety of performers from the floor to entertain. Of course, the bar is open and there will be a raffle. The event is free.

Everyone is looking forward to the better weather and it's going to be another busy springtime for the community in Sedgefield. SCA will be hosting an **Easter picnic** (10 April), a **Quiz, pie & peas night** (22 April), the **2023 Mediaeval Fayre** (20 May) and, in partnership with Sedgefield Town Council, **King Charles III Coronation celebrations** (8 May).

### Mediaeval Fayre, Saturday 20th May 2023 – Save the Date!

The planning meetings have begun and anyone who would like to be involved with the organising committee is very welcome. We are open to new suggestions and ideas on how to promote and improve the day for the many visitors. SCA relies wholly upon the support from its sections, groups, and members as well as other community groups and associations, local businesses, traders, and organisations who support the event by volunteering to help, provide sponsorship or donate gifts and prizes for the tombola.

### Support SCA – Anyone can become an SCA member!

There is a lot on offer at Ceddesfeld Hall. Sedgefield is fortunate to have numerous groups who plan and organise a varied timetable of special interest and social activities in service of the community. The fees are £7 for over 60s, £8 for adults and £4 for young people and students. The benefit of SCA membership provides reduced cost for room hire as well as insurance protection for any group activities and events. Because the SCA is a registered charity, any SCA sections may also use this charitable status, when applying for grant funding. The annual fees are crucial as they provide SCA with necessary funds to go towards the planning, running and upkeep of Ceddesfeld Hall. A membership envelope can be picked up from behind the bar or contact one of the numbers below.

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](http://www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk). Follow us [facebook.com/Ceddesfeld](https://www.facebook.com/Ceddesfeld).



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## SPORTS UPDATE

### Cycling

Sedgefield Velo Cycling Club recently hosted round nine of the North East Cyclo Cross League, racing around Hardwick's East Park on New Year's Eve. Across the various events, 72 riders competed for up to an hour in slippery, wet conditions, competing in three age categorised races: U8/U10/U12, U14/U16, and seniors/veterans/women's. There was some exciting action, which involved riders from Sedgefield, including Chris Dobson of the host club, and a decent crowd of spectators turned out to offer support.

Cyclo cross was invented by professional bike riders to keep fit in the winter off season. The sport is dominated by Belgium and Dutch riders, but Great Britain's Tom Pidcock won the elite men's race of the UCI Cyclo Cross World Championship in 2022. The 10 fixtures in the North East Cyclo Cross League are held at venues around the region, from September to January. If you are interested in getting involved in the future, find '[NECCL - North East Cyclo Cross League](#)' on Facebook.



*Chris Dobson of Sedgefield Velo in action*

### Athletics

January was another busy month for Sedgefield Harriers, on fell, trail, cross country and road. New Year's Day saw the return of the year's traditional curtain raiser, the Captain Cook's Races. Starting and finishing in Great Ayton, this challenging five-mile fell race sends participants all the way up to Captain Cook's Monument and then back down again. It's a great, if tough, way to clear the cobwebs at the start of the year, but hadn't been on the race calendar since 2020. Sedgefield had representatives this year, with Chris Lines finishing 40th in 39:09 and Andrew Swinbank 236th in 56:04.

The following weekend saw the latest event in the cross country season and the Harriers fielded teams at the Sherman Cup (men's) and Davison Shield (women's) in Temple Park, South Shields, which featured clubs from all over the North East. In the vet category races, the men's team finished 9th and the women's team 25th. Meanwhile, Sadie Abel put in another great individual performance, finishing 21st out of 309 in the women's race. Before the senior races, three of the club's junior runners competed. Tilli Lewis was 21st in the U11 girls' event, while Matthew Graham and Samuel Lines were 31st and 41st respectively in the U11 boys' race.

A weekend later and there were plenty more Sedgefield runners involved in races. On the Saturday, Stuart Park, Geoff Hill and Chris Lines all tackled a very hilly and muddy trail half marathon (actually a little longer at 14 miles) in Hamsterley Forest. Chris finished eighth overall in 1:48:11, and Stuart (2:40:09) and Geoff Hill (2:40:14) enjoyed running alongside each other, finishing 161st and 163rd respectively.

On the Sunday, seven Harriers headed to York for the 40th anniversary Brass Monkey Half Marathon road race, and a couple came back with personal bests. In the women's event, Fay Uphill took five minutes off her best to finish in an excellent time of 1:48:51, while David Bentley recorded a very rapid 1:13:40 in the men's race. The other Sedgefield Harriers who ran were Ian Hedley (1:42:51), Mark Chapman (1:48:12), Emma Featherstone (1:48:52), Pete King (1:51:42) and Elaine Noakes (2:28:54). On the same day, the club hosted its own winter handicap race – more on that next month.

### Cricket

Despite the winter weather, pre-season preparations are now underway at Sedgefield Cricket Club. Indoor coaching begins for the junior teams in early February - parents should have received information about their children's session times - and kit supplier Icon will be at the club on Saturday 11 February from 10am-2pm for sizing and order placements for all players. Kit day is always well attended and members are encouraged to pop along.

During the close season, the clubhouse remains open, showing all significant football matches on multiple big screens. Apparently, there are some who are hoping that this schedule will include Newcastle United winning silverware at the end of February.

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## Squash



The past few weeks have been very busy down at Sedgefield Squash Club. Members, young and old, have been engaged in a hive of activity on the warmest courts in County Durham and beyond. Junior coaching is back after a short festive break and fresh junior leagues are up and running, with parents helping to organise matches. Throughout January, the courts have had record usage, during both the day and evenings, and it's great to see so many people participating and enjoying this thriving sport in Sedgefield.

Team squash has also returned, with all of the club's teams back in action in the Durham & Cleveland leagues. The first match in Division 4 for Sedgefield's fourth and fifth teams was a head-to-head. An absolutely packed balcony with friends, family and club members partaking in refreshments, ensured it was a lively evening. The fourth team got off to a great start by winning the first two matches, but as often happens in sport, the joy was short lived. The fifth team won the next match, leaving two matches on court that were both evenly balanced. The final two matches both finished 3-2, one win to the fifth team and one win for the fourth team resulting in a narrow overall 3-2 win for the latter. It was an exciting and nail-biting occasion for all involved.

The second and third teams are still pushing hard for promotion in their respective leagues while the club's first team is mid table in the Premier Division. Meanwhile, the club's ladies' team pulled out all the stops to win their match against Durham University, despite major injuries to top ranked players.

Anyone who is interested in playing squash can send an email to [info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk).

### Football

St Edmund's FC was disappointed to lose a County Cup game to a last minute penalty, but the team remains in three cup competitions. As I write, with the weather having an impact and cup competitions taking priority, the team has only played five league games, with 15 still to play. There will be a lot of mid-week games to squeeze in when the clocks go back an hour.

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

