

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

February 2024 edition

Deadline for March edition: Monday 12 February

Ball Game exhibition

As we head towards another village ball game, this year on 13 February, I'm always looking for opportunities to show my ball game photographs to a wider audience.

I've photographed the game, on and off, since 1995, and it's rare that I've printed many of the photos so I'm delighted that the lovely Café Etch in Gilkes Street, Middlesbrough are hosting an exhibition of about 30 photos, some printed to poster size. These days, most of us only see photos on a small screen and it can be a treat to see prints of this size, so please come along if you can. The exhibition runs from Shrove Tuesday 13 February to 16 March 2024.

We have an opening preview, at Café Etch, on the evening of 13 February from 6.30pm, during which I will be talking about the photos and answering any questions. Everyone is welcome. So if you survive this year's ball game afternoon, come and join us in Café Etch, Gilkes Street, Middlesbrough from 6:30pm to celebrate the game some more. For further information, please contact me, Stephen Curry, on 07752 431883 or email curry.s@hotmail.co.uk.



Another successful Christmas Tree Festival

St Edmund's Church looked spectacular, adorned with 35 Christmas trees for the 2023 festival. Thank you to all the organisations and individuals who came up with brilliant ideas for the decoration of each of the trees on the theme: Christmas Around the World.

The judges, Pam Royle and Jack Smith, had a difficult job selecting the winners in each of the categories as the standard was so high. During the 10 days of the festival over 2,200 people came through the doors and £4,310 was raised, after costs. This has been shared between Feeding Families North East (a food poverty charity based in Sedgefield which provides emergency food boxes for individuals and families in need) and St Edmund's Church.

The festival was enhanced by other activities: carols at the snow parade, the music afternoon on Sunday with Alex Ord and friends, the Sedgefield Ukulele Group, the Ferryhill Town Band on the Tuesday evening, and the Civic Carol Service on Thursday evening. Thank you to all those who contributed to any of these events. The organising group is also grateful to Durham County Council Neighbourhood Fund (via our County Councillors), Sedgefield Town Council and the Sedgefield Veterans (who sponsored the band concert) for their financial support. Thank you also to all those who helped in any way as stewards, makers of refreshments and the squad who cleaned the church when all the trees were taken out. It was a fantastic week and it is hoped that another Christmas Tree Festival can be held in 2025.

Feeding Families would like to express gratitude to everyone involved in the hugely successful and enjoyable Christmas Tree Festival held in St Edmund's Church; all the event organisers, the local businesses and community groups who decorated trees, the volunteers within the church and everyone who attended the festival and associated musical events. We were thrilled to receive a donation of £2,155.



Community College update

We're in the early days of the spring term here at SCC and able to look back on some fantastic events that took place at the end of the autumn term as we approached the festive season. Amongst these events, a particular highlight was our annual carol concert that was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the many talented musicians that we have here at the school.

A wide range of different performances took place, ranging from those delivered by the whole school band to individual solo performances. All of the students should feel incredibly proud of their efforts. Whilst there were many highlights to the concert, the performance of 'Fairytale of New York' by Jamie, Libby and Mr Posmyk was one that will live long in the memory! As well as this, Mr Posmyk introduced a greater level of audience participation than in the past, with a number of carols where everyone was 'encouraged' to join in! As is always the case, our families were wonderfully supportive of the students and it was brilliant to see so many in school to share in the celebration of the musical talents of our children. The next musical showcase for our students will take place at the end of the spring term and families can look forward to this taking place in March.

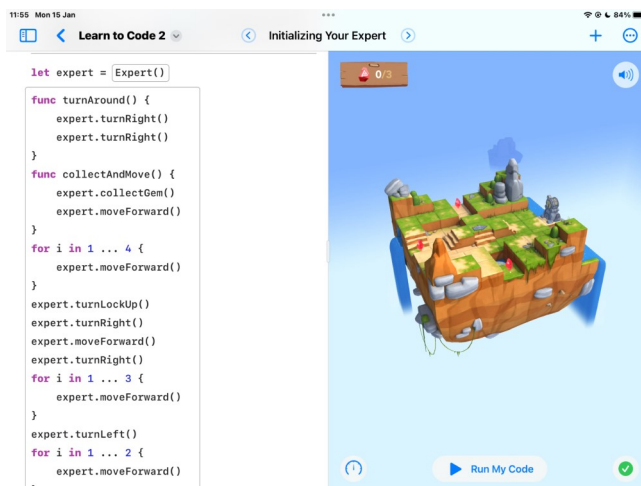


Computer Science

Since returning to school at Sedgefield Hardwick after the Christmas holiday period, we have been working hard in Year 5 on our Computer Science curriculum. We have been using our iPads to create written code which we have then used to execute commands and algorithms. We have used an Apple-developed app called Swift Playgrounds in our lessons. This cutting-edge application allows us to write, execute and debug our code in an environment that looks like a 3D platform-based game. The written code which we use is called Camel-case, and builds on the block-based code we have previously used.

We have utilised our technical computing abilities such as using for loops (repeating commands a set number of times), creating functions (a new set of commands put together in order to complete a task) and initialising types (giving a character a set role, a bit like a blueprint!) to create an exciting, immersive platform game level, which we are then going to present to our classmates!

Through building our understanding of written code through these lessons, we'll be ready to code more complex physical devices in the summer, like drones and Micro:Bits!! Keep an eye out on our social media for more pictures and videos of our creations!



Beads of Courage

One of our pupils has demonstrated amazing courage and resilience throughout her life. Rosa was diagnosed with child leukaemia aged two. Following diagnosis, she has undergone a wide range of treatments in her recovery programme, collecting a bead to represent each stage of this treatment programme.

The Beads of Courage programme was first introduced in the UK in 2011 and it is designed to support children through their treatment. It allows their story to be told using beads. The beads are meaningful symbols of courage that commemorate different milestones, such as chemotherapy, blood transfusions, hospital stays and radiotherapy.

The beads allowed Rosa to explain her journey to the class.



On 30 January, Rosa will commemorate her sixth year in remission. Sedgefield Primary was delighted to ring the bell for Rosa whilst she was a pupil in our Early Years Foundation Stage. The whole school took part in a fund raising event, a wig walk around Hardwick Park to raise money for this worthy cause. We are so proud of the resilience Rosa (now age 10) shows every day.

Amazing attendance

Amazing attendance is something we, at Sedgefield Primary, are very proud of. Class 5 were delighted to receive the best school attendance award in December. They thoroughly enjoyed being awarded additional playtime on the first day back at school in January and were thrilled to be able to spend time with their class mates, many of whom they had missed seeing over the Christmas holidays. Many pupils at Sedgefield Primary set new year resolutions stating they would like to support looking after their local environment. Ethan said he aimed to support his area and litter pick if needed. Serafina said she aimed to run to Sainsbury's weekly with Mum to support her fitness levels.



SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS



Sunday 4 February
on the Village Green
8:30am - 12:15pm

Most of our traders will be at the February Market. There will be fresh vegetables, cheeses, meat, fish and freshly baked produce including bread, pies and cakes. Our regular plant and flower stall will be there as well as Tony's coffee van where you can get a warming cup of coffee. The charity stall for February's Market is Bishop Auckland Girls Football Club; they will be providing information about the club and raising funds through a tombola. Follow us on Facebook for updates on the Market.

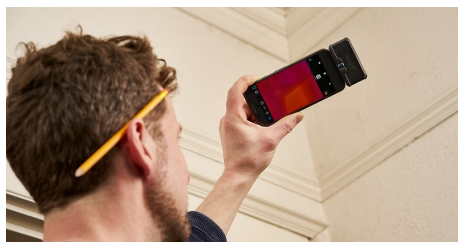


The December Farmers Market
 Photograph by Paul Heasman

Thermal cameras

There has been keen interest in loaning the Sedgefield Development Trust thermal cameras and our booking slots for this winter are now full.

Anyone who has made a booking will be kept on the list for next winter when we plan to recommence loans in November.



You can find out more about the scheme and how to book at sedgefieldweb.co.uk/thermalimaging.html.



Christmas Tree Recycling Success

Thank you to everyone who brought us their real Christmas trees. We had trees from families, individuals, Sedgefield in Bloom, and Durham Young Farmers brought us some they had collected on behalf of Butterwick Hospice. The Woodland and Wildlife volunteers had a lovely morning meeting everyone and we had fun chopping up the trees!



The trees we received were used to extend our dead hedges which we first constructed 3 years ago. If you would like to know more about the project 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).

Friendly Fixers

We are a group of volunteers looking to repair items, and so reduce the amount of stuff going to landfill.

Repair sessions are held on the first Saturday of every month from 10:30am to 12:30pm at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, Butterwick Road, TS21 4ED.



Homework Help is still here! If you've made a New Year's resolution to get more stuck in to your homework and need a bit of a hand, or if you'd like to get involved in volunteering with us, sharing your knowledge and understanding with students then get in touch at

homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.

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 and an interest in education.

Training and support is 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 and Andrea will be happy to discuss the role in more detail. The closing date for expressions of interest is 29 February 2024.

Community walk of the Sedgefield Heritage 100



Sunday 4 February, 1pm, meet at the turning circle at St Edmund's



Sedgefield News has already reported on the launch of a Heritage 100 walk in Sedgefield by a charity called the Walk and Talk Trust. The three-mile figure-of-eight route starts and finishes on the village green outside St Edmund's Church, and showcases Sedgefield's unique historical landmarks and the natural beauty of the nearby countryside. Work will start soon on writing the story of the walk, which will be used to promote the route. Meanwhile, the Walk and Talk Trust will host a community walk around the route, on the afternoon of Sunday 4 February. The group walk will start at 1pm on the Village Green and will be led by the trust's operations manager, Keiron Young. Given the time of year, the route might be muddy in places, and suitable outdoor clothing and footwear is recommended. However, it's not an arduous walk and is mainly on clear, well defined tracks in and around Hardwick Park. Everyone will be welcome (along with well behaved four legged friends!).

For more information about the Heritage 100 walks, visit walkandtalktrust.co.uk or heritage100.co.uk.

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

SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



At a meeting held on Thursday 11 January in Ceddesfeld Hall, after long consideration, the difficult decision was made to disband Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch.

Despite efforts by the Committee and a valiant small group of regular members, we have seen attendance at meetings continue to dwindle and it was felt that little could be achieved with sometimes just three or four residents attending and general support diminishing. Funds and equipment held by the group will be distributed in due course between other volunteer groups within Sedgefield.

We hope that residents will continue to report incidents to the Police or post details on social media, as we know that Police response is data driven and any information given may be of value.

We would like to thank all those who have supported Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch over the last few years, including Durham County Council, Sedgefield Town Council, Sedgefield SCA, Durham Police and many other groups and individual residents who have helped at various times.

I would also like to express my personal appreciation to our Secretary Julie Magee and our Treasurer Colin Lowe for their unwavering help and support during my tenure as Chair of Sedgefield NHW.

I am sure that, with the continued vigilance of residents, Sedgefield will remain a safe and lovely place in which to live.

Many thanks

Ian Milne (Chair Sedgefield NHW)

Craft workshops

From Loft to Loved Workshops have spaces on their growing Wednesday craft groups. With a new time slot 10am to 12pm, a whole new group will be forming. If you enjoy crafting, cake and chatting with like-minded people please get in touch. The groups are very relaxed and we generally get on with different crafts. Bring your knitting, paint some furniture, cross stitch, decoupage, crochet, sew.... For more information or to book a place please call 07833 226676, pop into From Loft to Loved or email workshops@fromlofttoloved.co.uk.

Group times are 10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm, 5pm-7pm, 7pm-9pm.

We also run a weekly kids craft group every Tuesday 4pm to 5pm. This is also just £5.



STEVE'S NATURE DIARY FEBRUARY 2024

On my last walk in January, I came across some very early catkins which are always nice to find. They were on a Hazel tree. Hazel is a small, shrubby tree that can be found in a variety of habitats, such as woodlands, gardens and grasslands. It is famous for its long, yellow, male catkins (known as 'lamb's-tails') that appear in spring, and its green, ripening to brown, fruits (familiar to us as 'hazelnuts') that appear in late summer. These nuts are a favourite food of grey squirrels, dormice and wood mice, and some small mammals will cache their finds, storing them in burrows or old birds' nests. When I looked closely at the catkins I noticed further along the branch interesting red flowers. Hazel is monoecious, meaning that both male and female flowers are found on the same tree, although hazel flowers must be pollinated by pollen from other hazel trees. The yellow male catkins appear before the leaves and hang in clusters from mid-February. Female flowers are tiny and bud-like with red styles and it is these that I found.

Hazel is quite often managed by coppicing - this gives a source of wood and can provide an improved habitat for wildlife. Coppicing is the practice of cutting the stems of a tree down to the base every few years, allowing new shoots to grow and providing a crop of wood. Hazel has been coppiced for 4,000 years and the poles have been used for wattle (canes woven into a lattice pattern) to make fencing, hurdles and the foundation of wattle-and-daub walls for houses. Hazel is still used today for making crafts, screens and even bean poles.

Bees will occasionally collect pollen from catkins and speaking of bees, for the fourth year in a row, British Sugar have asked Defra to allow the 'emergency' use of a banned pesticide. Farmers were promised support to move towards nature-friendly farming and should not have to choose between pesticides or pollinators. The Farming Minister, Mark Spencer, will decide whether or not to allow this banned chemical on the crops AGAIN. Say 'yes' to healthy bees. Say 'yes' to healthy rivers. Help to urge the Farming Minister to say 'No to Neonics' by visiting action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/139962/action/1.



Tree collection

Happy New Year to you all. The Bloomers have been busy collecting real Christmas Trees from Sedgefield. This service has been in operation now for four years and this one has been the biggest one yet, with over 85 trees collected. Once collected they were chipped by AW Treecare (with our grateful thanks) and used on projects around the village. If you have been through Ceddesfeld you will have noticed the wonderful pine aroma.



It's not all hard work though - here are the Bloomers taking a well deserved coffee break.

Your LETTERS Players' panto

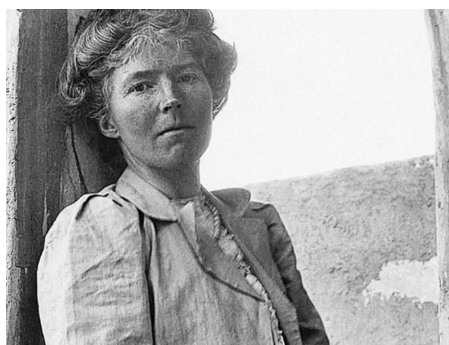
I have just returned from seeing our village panto for the second time and both performances were outstanding. I have been going to these pantos for over 40 years with my children and grandchildren and every year I think it can't get any better but the Sedgefield Players and SPYS never disappoint and every performance is so much fun. We are so lucky to live in a village where we have people giving their time willingly week in, week out to put a smile on our faces. I would just like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone, actors, front and back of house and anyone who helped in anyway. It was especially nice to see all the children being included and enjoying themselves. It can't have been easy to organise but they were all fabulous. So once again thank you and looking forward to next year's production.

Pat Jackson

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.

U3a update

We welcomed members and visitors to the New Year with an extremely interesting and informative talk by Lynn Lampert on the Edwardian traveller, archaeologist and writer, Gertrude Bell. Born in Middlesbrough, she travelled widely from a young age, eventually making her home in Baghdad. Through her extensive travels over many years in the Middle East, she became embedded in local politics and was highly influential through her contacts and knowledge in helping to decide the territorial boundaries and governorship of post WWI Middle Eastern countries. Working with others such as T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) she was instrumental in the formation of the independent Arab States of Jordan and Iraq.



Gertrude Bell

As well as their usual fortnightly meetings, our Photography Group took the opportunity to visit the Railway Museum at Shildon where they were able to study and photograph The Flying Scotsman engine which was staying there for several weeks as part of its centenary tour. We look forward to seeing some of their work in their next exhibition.

Members of the Book Club, having read *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig over Christmas, met to share their thoughts and perceptions of the book. After a long, thoughtful and detailed discussion they gave it a score of 7 out of 10. So, mixed feelings, perhaps?

We were delighted to hear just before Christmas that our extremely complicated and detailed bid for funding towards transport costs for several of our Interest Groups had been successful. Over the past five years, we have had to severely curtail journeys outside the local area because of excessive charges and are delighted that our Lunch Club can resume visiting various eateries up to 20 miles away, our trips to great gardens and interesting houses can occur more regularly, our Science and Industry Group will be able to engage in a greater range of sites and settings once again and the Theatre Group will be able to take further advantage of the superb choice of venues and events in the North East. Thank you, Alison!

As the days lengthen and the weather begins to warm up, retirees may be looking for an activity which gets them out of the house for a few hours each week or would like to share their skills and knowledge with like-minded people. Do come along to any of our meetings on the first Friday of the month from 2-4pm in the Parish Hall when approximately 50-60 of us meet to listen to a talk, enjoy a coffee and a chat and catch up on the Group info. The wide range of topics are sometimes serious, sometimes humorous, some are of local interest, some of wider appeal. They're all interesting, informative and entertaining. The February talk will be a Cleveland Police Officer talking about Fraud Protection. Do come along and join us; the fee from your first three visits is subtracted from the Subscription if you become a member!

BHF Coffee Morning



Stuart Watt is raising money for lifesaving research for the Durham branch of the British Heart Foundation.

At Sedgefield Methodist Church Hall on Wednesday 21 February from 10am to 12pm with a cakes stall and raffle.

Child Bereavement UK



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

At Hardwick Park, Sedgefield on Sunday 25 February 12pm-3pm. Entry is FREE, however donations will be gratefully received. 0800 02 888 40 childbereavementuk.org

Veterans need you



Sedgefield Village Veterans Association was formed in 2006 by a small number of ex-service personnel who were residents of Sedgefield. The original aim was to provide a social circle and mutual support for like-minded people. Social meetings (meals out, visits to pubs & cafes) and cultural events (visits to military museums, etc.) soon followed. Over time, the membership numbers expanded by including military veterans from surrounding villages. This enabled the team to commence charitable support and raising funds, also becoming a member of Sedgefield Community Association. The monthly coffee morning held on the last Friday of each month in the Parish Hall is the main source of income. The popularity has risen—it now attracts up to 100 visitors each month.



We are well known in the village from laying wreaths on Remembrance Day in Sedgefield, at Middlesbrough Football Club and for our service every Armistice Day (11 November) at the cenotaph outside St Luke's Church, Winterton. As listed in last month's edition, the Association has made numerous donations to a wide range of causes. The majority of the founder members are sadly no longer with us and, after a recent accident, our active member numbers have dwindled. This meant the January coffee morning was unfortunately cancelled. Luckily, we've received offers of assistance from the good people of Sedgefield to enable February and March coffee mornings to go ahead.

In 2023, our constitution was amended to include any ex- or serving civilian uniformed people (Fire Brigade, Merchant Navy, NHS, Police, etc.) and their partners to become members. The current situation is unsustainable and, without new blood, the group is likely to fold. To join us please contact our Chairman, Neil O'Connor on 07713 778059, neil.du2@gmail.com or at Facebook [Sedgefield Village Veterans](https://www.facebook.com/SedgefieldVillageVeterans).

A fuller version of this article can be found at: sedgefieldweb.co.uk/news.html

ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

email: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Calendar Girls

After a three year wait due to Covid and licencing issues, the Players are finally rehearsing Calendar Girls. Based on the true story of eleven WI members who posed nude for a calendar to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund, Calendar Girls is a much loved play.

*Sedgefield
Players*



When John dies of leukaemia his wife Annie (played by Viv Jacobs), and her best friend Chris (Sarah Legender) resolve to raise money for a new settee in the local hospital waiting room. They manage to persuade four fellow WI members to pose nude with them for an 'alternative' calendar, with a little help from hospital porter and amateur photographer Lawrence (Ste Edgoose-Clubley). The news of the women's charitable venture spreads like wildflower but the success of the calendar puts Chris and Annie's friendship to the test.

Viv and Sarah are joined by regulars Rosemary Jones, Meg Edgoose-Clubley, Jacqui O'Meara and Liz Flanagan as the other calendar girls with a supporting cast of Peter Hook as John, Jason Legender as Rod, Gill Hook as Marie, Hilary Yeoman as WI speaker Brenda and Jean Hewling as Lady Cravenshire. Stage managing and supporting are Amy Henery, Lucy Atkinson, Emily Legender, Millie Malloy and Kelsey White.

This will be a popular show, with tickets selling already for performances in the Parish Hall, Sedgefield on 14, 15 and 16 March 2024 at 7:30pm. Tickets are £8.50 from Tickety Boo, sedgefieldplayers.co.uk or ticketsource.co.uk.

Sedgefield Players

Fire and Ice Display

Free exhibition of ice and fire sculptures and demonstrations scattered across Durham City. 23 and 24 February from 10am to 4pm each day. Free. lifeindurham.co.uk/event/fire-ice-2024/



More Local Events:

Guided Art Tour, The Faith Museum Auckland Castle

Artist Jilly Johnstone showcases some of the remarkable pieces in the wonderful Faith Museum at Auckland Castle, the only museum of its kind in the UK. 28 February, 13:00, £15. Booking required. aucklandproject.org/venues/faith-museum/

EDAN Members Open Exhibition, Seaham

Leaning In (to what you love) is a free exhibition of the work of the East Durham Artists Network, and forms part of the celebrations marking 20 years since the founding of EDAN. Open Tuesday through Saturday, from 11am until 3pm at EDAN Gallery, 75 Church St, Seaham. 5 February to 2 March (except Sundays and Mondays). Free. Call 0191 6499431 for more details.



SPORTS UPDATE

Email chrisjlines@aol.com

By the time you read this, Sedgefield will have hosted the English Northern Cross Country Championships in East Park, welcoming runners representing clubs from the North East, Cumbria, Yorkshire, Humberside, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and the Isle of Man. Among them will have been many of the country's best club athletes, some of whom have represented their nation at international events. The championships are organised by Northern Athletics, but can only go ahead with support from an army of volunteers, host club Sedgefield Harriers, landowners such as Durham County Council, and local organisations and businesses such as Sedgefield Racecourse, Sedgefield Cricket Club and Number Four (marshals need their packed lunches!). Hopefully, everything went to plan and there was also a good turn out of spectators on hand to enjoy the action!

Football

Sedgefield St Edmund's FC enjoyed an excellent start to the season, and at the time of typing this had gone unbeaten in all 16 games played (over 90 minutes), losing just one cup tie 13-12 on penalties. The weather has played havoc with the fixtures, so the team has only completed two fixtures in seven weeks up to 20 January.

There is loads to play for in the second half of the season, with the club still in three cups (facing two quarter finals and the last 16 of the Durham County Cup). St Edmund's have only played seven league games, so if they continue to progress in other competitions, they could be playing three games every week towards the end of the season, which will bring its own challenges.

Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers hosted the club's winter handicap race for the Gerry Kearsley Trophy on Sunday 14 January. There was a record number of runners for the free to enter event, with 141 tackling the multi-terrain two-lap route of around six miles, starting and finishing at Bishop Middleham Village Hall. In the handicap format, athletes set off at intervals based on their declared best time over 10km during the previous 12 months, with the slowest starting first. As a result, most of those who took part finished within a few minutes of each other, making for an exciting race and a challenging job for the volunteers who were recording the results.



First across the line and winner of the Gerry Kearsley Trophy was Andrew Lilley of Runfit Hartlepool in a race time of 51 minutes and 38 seconds. First female Harrier over the line was Samantha Foreman in 57:06 and first male Harrier was Chris Lines in 40:17. The fastest runner overall was Ryan Watson of Sedgefield Harriers in 36:49 and the fastest female runner was another Harrier, Sadie Abel, in 45:04. Refreshments sold before and after the race raised around £300 for the food poverty charity Feeding Families. The club is grateful to Bishop Middleham Village Hall for allowing the event to be hosted there, and to all of the volunteers who helped out on the day.

Cricket



At Sedgefield Cricket Club, the first main pre-season event is on Sunday 4 February when the annual 'Kit Day' is held at the clubhouse. Kit suppliers Icon Sports will be in attendance from 10am-2pm to help players size themselves up for the club's branded clothing and equipment. Indoor pre-season practice gets underway in February too. Parents should have been notified of the session times for each junior age group, but if not, then get in touch with the club.

Back in off-season mode, the club continues to offer bar and social activities, including all the main televised sports fixtures such as football and Six Nations rugby. Social membership is available to anyone wanting up to 50p per pint discount on their drinks orders. Send any membership enquiries to sccmemberships@outlook.com.

Squash



2024 has started with a flurry of new members joining Sedgefield Squash Club. Junior coaching has resumed, and the club now has a much-improved walk from Ceddesfeld Hall car park down to the building. The latter was a jointly financed project between the SCA and Sedgefield Squash Club, with free labour being supplied by the club. Improvements to the path will also benefit the wider community.



In terms of competitions, several Sedgefield players will be participating in the County Masters, hosted by Nunthorpe Squash Club. Hopefully, I will be able to report back on success in the competition next month, along with news of the winners and runners up in the club's internal Individual Handicap, which is coming to its conclusion.

Anyone who is interested in joining or volunteering at Sedgefield Squash Club can email info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk, or visit the website at www.sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.

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

CEDDESFELD HALL

Sedgefield Community Association

The traditional Burns Supper was well attended and enjoyed by all. Special thanks must go to Paul Cook the Piper, to Ian Sutherland for the Selkirk Grace and his Toast to the Immortal Memory, to Jim Sutherland for his Address to the Haggis, to Tim Jeanes for his Toast to the Lassies and to Pat Buckley for the Response. A rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne ended an enjoyable evening!

Ceddesfeld Hall Community Bar offers a warm welcome to all members and residents. Two real ales are regularly on offer, supplied by local breweries Hopper House Farm, Durham Brewery or Consett Ale Works. These are proving to be very popular, as are gins and sparkling wine, all at very reasonable cost! Check the SCA Facebook page for which 'Beers of the Week' are on offer and 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. Please do get in touch if you are interested in getting involved.

The popular Open Mic Night takes place on Saturday 17 February. It starts at 8pm, and features the Holkey Folkies, £3 entrance. Entrance is free for the various performers from the floor who will also entertain. The bar is open and there will be a raffle.

It's going to be another busy springtime for the community in Sedgefield. SCA will be hosting the Easter Picnic with egg hunt and decorated egg competitions on Monday 1 April, a quiz with pie & peas on Saturday 20 April, and the Mediaeval Fayre....

Mediaeval Fayre, Saturday 18 May 2024 – Save the date

The planning has begun. Anyone who would like to be involved with the organising committee is very welcome - please do get in touch. 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 special SCA tombola. This is a useful place to pass on your unwanted Christmas and birthday gifts!

Support SCA – Anyone can become an SCA member

There is a lot on offer at Ceddesfeld Hall. Sedgefield is fortunate to have the groups who plan and organise a very varied timetable of special interest and social activities in service of the community. 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. Annual memberships, due on 1 January, are crucial as they provide SCA with necessary funds to go towards the planning, running and upkeep of Ceddesfeld Hall, for the community. A membership envelope can be picked up from behind the bar or contact one of the numbers below. . The fees have remained static for several years at £7 for over 60s, £8 for adults and £4 for young people and students. However, given the increasing cost of heating and lighting, to name but a few, the Trustees will be carrying out a review of charges in the near future.

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.



Mayor's Corner



It's hard to believe that there are just four short months left of my second year as Sedgefield's Mayor. I still have a number of spectacular events left in the Parish Hall for people to enjoy. These nights are inexpensive but are a great night out for residents and friends alike. Still to come is a Race Night where you won't lose your shirt. Closely following that, the local Gastric Band are guaranteed to please with their great mix of music.

1 March sees Hardwick Hall hosting my Mayor's Ball with The Travelin' Band and top magician, Tom Bolton bamboozling diners at their tables. The same weekend you will catch me on a charity stall at the Farmers' Market with toys, books and DVDs. By popular demand, the brilliant Redcar trio, The Moondogs also return in March and the Mayoral year concludes with a Fashion Show and Craft Fayre in April, hosted by Lily Ho from Betty's Boudoir with a Prosecco bar.

I look forward to distributing cheques in May to my headline charity, The Red Sky Foundation and to the many local community groups to give them a helping hand.

Thank you for supporting me again this year by providing bottles, donating raffle prizes, attending my events and helping me both beforehand and after.

Take care.

David Jasper



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DIARY & EVENTS

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February 2024

- Friday 2** **Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. A talk by Kelly Close of Cleveland Police Fraud Protection. Visitors welcome, £3.
- Saturday 3** **Friendly Fixers**, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Repair café.
- Mayor's Race Night**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Tickets £12.50 including pie and peas from Sedgefield Town Council Offices. Cash bar.
- Sunday 4** **Sedgefield Area Churches Together**, Taizé-style reflective service, St Mary Magdalene Church, Trimdon Village, 6pm. Everyone is warmly welcome.
- Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am to 12:30pm. See page 3 for more information.
- Monday 5** **Sedgefield Local History Society AGM**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. The society convenes regularly on the first Monday of each month and new visitors are welcome.
- Wednesday 7** **Sedgefield Women's Institute**, is celebrating it's 106th anniversary with a birthday lunch at the Dun Cow. Would members please meet there at 12:30pm.
- Friday 9** **Mayor's Music Night** with the Gastric Band, Sedgefield Parish Hall, from 7:30pm. Bring your own snacks. Tickets are £10 from Sedgefield Town Council Offices. Cash bar.
- Tuesday 13** **Shrove Tuesday pancakes**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am to 12pm. Proceeds in aid of church funds.
- Friday 16** **Sedgefield in Bloom**, belated Valentine's coffee morning. Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am. Join us for refreshments and homemade treats.
- 101**, Sedgefield Social Club, 8pm. See poster on Page 6.
- Saturday 17** **Sedgefield Games Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, anytime from 6pm. Come along and play a variety of board games. £2.50.
- Tuesday 20** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers.
- Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Flower demonstration by Val Guest – "Back to basics". Members free, guests £5.
- Wednesday 21** **Go Red for Heart Month**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10am-12pm. Raising money for the British Heart Foundation.
- Friday 23** **Sedgefield Village Veterans**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.
- Sunday 25** **Snowdrop Walk**, Hardwick Park, Sedgefield, 12pm to 3pm. See poster on Page 5 for details.

Everyone is warmly welcome

Taizé-style ecumenical service

A reflective, meditative service at Candlemas

Sunday 4th February, 6 pm

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

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

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Lego Club

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Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

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

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 Wednesday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. The first 3 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

Save the date—SACT

Sedgefield Area Churches Together, Lent Event on Saturday 2 March at Sedgefield Methodist Church including a light lunch. All welcome. Please keep an eye out for information nearer the time.

Save the date - St Edmund's

Friday 19 April—coffee morning
Friday 8 November—coffee morning