

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

January 2024 edition

Next Deadline: Sunday 14 January



Photo: Paul Heasman

Happy New Year



THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA LOAN SCHEME

A project by Sedgefield Development Trust

The **Thermal Imaging Camera loan scheme** is a new project brought to you by Sedgefield Development Trust.

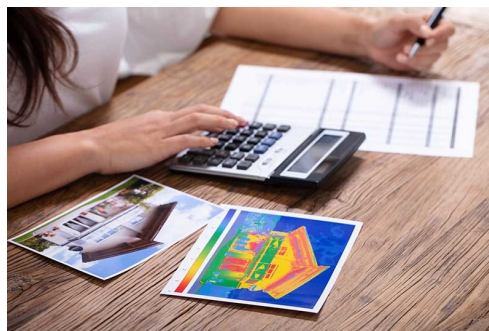
We want to help you spot heat loss around your home with one of our FLIR thermal imaging cameras, which you can loan for free. Its simple to use though your smart phone and it helps you to find draughts in your home.

These nifty gadgets connect to smartphones to quickly spot where heat is either escaping or entering. The cameras work best in the winter when the weather is cold and draughts are easier to spot.

So far, 13 families have loaned the cameras and there are 13 more with bookings. We currently have availability from February to April. Here is some of the feedback we have received:

"We knew our home was always cold and draughty, but we're shocked to see exactly how many areas of our home had cold spots, as well as heat escaping from our house. We are so grateful for being given the opportunity to use the Thermal Camera and be able to see why it costs us so much to heat our home."

Visit sedgefieldweb.co.uk for more information or scan the QR code to complete a booking form. We will contact you and allocate a 7 day camera loan period. The camera loan process and FAQs are listed on the website.



Thank you

Feeding Families would like to thank everyone who generously supported us this year by donating food and toiletries, by volunteering their time to deliver and sort the donations, or providing a van to help collect and then transport donations to Blaydon.

We have had an amazing community response from Sedgefield and the surrounding areas. The unit in Sedgefield was used to distribute over 1,200 festive food boxes into the community. If you are interested in volunteering with us please visit feedingfamilies.org.uk/volunteering/ for all the details.

If you would like to visit us to learn more about our charity and the services we deliver please come along to our unit in Sedgefield from Tuesday 9 January. The unit will be open Tuesday - Thursday between 10am and 2pm. We are located in Unit 2B, Salters Lane Industrial Estate, Sedgefield TS21 3EE.



Community College update

The end of the autumn term sees a number of annual events taking place at Sedgefield Community College (SCC). At the time of writing, rehearsals are well underway for the annual carol concert and preparations are also in hand for our end of term Christmas rewards assemblies that are always a highlight of the school year!

Another annual tradition at SCC is a collection drive to support local food banks and a focus on our school community taking time to think of others as the Christmas season approaches. Mr McGeary leads on the collection each year and spoke to all of our students in assemblies about the potential to 'be a hero' and think about what you can do to help, rather than leaving this to others.

Our students and staff showed enormous generosity and brought in a fantastic number of items that we hope will make a real difference to people living in our local area. This year, our collection was for 'Feeding Families' (feedingfamilies.org.uk), a North East charity that aims to support anyone who is experiencing food poverty. As a way of 'measuring' the generosity of our community each year, Mr McGeary has used the steps in our central Heart Space to display the donations received. With more items than ever before, there weren't enough steps and instead we have a Christmas tree of donations as shown in the photo!



From everyone at SCC, we hope you all have an excellent Christmas.

Winter Wonderland

Christmas has arrived at Sedgefield Hardwick. Continuing the tradition of recent years, Sedgefield Hardwick hosted their annual Winter Wonderland on Friday 8 December. The school was full of Christmas cheer as pupils and parents ventured around the school, enjoying many different delights. All pupils from across the school made their own Christmas themed object, from Christmas baubles and snowmen to light up Christmas bottles and snow globes, and made them available for sale. Alongside the amazing creations the children had to offer, local stallholders came into the school to sell their own products. As always, the Christmas tombola proved to be a popular attraction, with a queue that seemed to go to the North Pole itself at one point!

To top off the festive extravaganza, Father Christmas himself visited and spoke to children of all ages (and even some adults) about their Christmas wish list. "It's always a great week before Winter Wonderland when we get to create our crafts but then Winter Wonderland itself is magical and is a great start to the festive things we have in school," explained Ivor, a pupil in Year 6.



Defibrillator at Sedgefield Primary



We, at Sedgefield Primary, are well established at the heart of our local community and we are delighted to support the area in every way possible. One of our ways of offering potentially lifesaving support is by housing one of the villages defibrillators within the grounds.

We are proud that Sedgefield Mayor, Dave Jasper, raised funds for this valuable equipment through his headline charity, Red Sky Foundation.

This charity raises funds for defibrillators across the North East, together with other charities and organisations. The Mayor ensured this equipment was installed effectively with the aid of Mrs Andrea Cox, our Headteacher. Dave was once a teacher at Sedgefield Primary, so visits here are very much a trip down memory lane for him. He began his teaching at Sedgefield in 1976, delivering specialist Music lessons. We are always keen to welcome past members of our school community and are proud that a past member of staff is now our local Mayor.



Dave Jasper and Headteacher Andrea Cox with the defibrillator

Can you help us to deliver the News?

Delivery volunteer vacancy for the 71 properties on Hamminkeln Place.

Keep fit, do great community work and get to know your neighbours!!!

If you can help, please get in touch:
news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS

SEDGEFIELD FARMERS MARKET

On the Green, First Sunday Morning Every Month.

Sunday 7 January
on the Village Green
8:30am - 12:15pm

A big thank you to all our volunteers who have helped in all weathers, without their hard work we would not be able to hold the Farmers Market. There will be fewer traders at the January market due to holidays and other commitments but there will be a lot of regular traders present, including the popular vegetable stall. So come along and support your local Farmers Market.



December's Farmers Market captured by Paul Heasman

Energy Switch

Last chance to register for the January auction.

If you would like to be a part of the energy switching scheme and have not received either a letter or email regarding the upcoming Switching Auction you will need to **register for the scheme before 8 January**.

If you have not received either form of communication but still wish to take part, please call the Ichoors helpline on 0800 048 8285 who will help you complete a registration. When you call it would be helpful if you have your latest bill at hand as all the information they require will be on your bill.

Alternatively, if you have any concerns or require further explanation then please contact our helpline on 07572 502904. We are always available to help.



If you'd like some help or could offer some, please do contact us at homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.

WOODLAND & WILDLIFE

A Project of Sedgefield Development Trust

On a bright, cold November morning, a group of regular volunteers and enthusiastic first timers met at the Woodland and Wildlife Group site, to plant over 100 oak and hazel seeds into planting trays. The seedlings which grow from them, will be looked after, grown on for 2 years, and will become our contribution to Living Woods North East's Seeds2Trees project. Thank you to everyone who got involved; it was great to have Mayor David and Consort Annette joining in, and to see our families and younger visitors showing such interest and planting energy!



Our next event is our annual Christmas Tree Recycling on **Saturday 6 January, 10am to 12pm**. To join in, please bring your real tree to the WWG site at NetPark, where you are very welcome to help us use them for developing wildlife habitats.

Banking Hub opens

POST OFFICE

Since the loss of our local bank branches, we have been well served by the local Post Office branches for day-to-day banking transactions such as cash withdrawals, bill payments and deposits. If, however, you need to meet a representative from your bank then that may have proved to be difficult.

Last month, a Banking Hub opened at Unit B3, The Parade in Newton Aycliffe previously a TSB branch. Banking hubs offer a counter service operated by the Post Office and also offer a Community Banker service where customers can talk to their own banking provider about more complicated banking issues.



The Community Bankers work on rotation, with a different banking provider available on the days below:

Monday: Barclays
Tuesday: HSBC
Wednesday: Halifax
Thursday: NatWest
Friday: Santander

But regardless of the day, at the banking hub counters you can still do a range of everyday banking tasks with nearly all major UK banks. Be aware that not all banks support all services (such as paying in cheques or checking your balance) – but you can check what your bank lets you do on the Post Office website postoffice.co.uk/everydaybanking.



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

Uniformed service?

Sedgefield Village Veterans' Association are seeking volunteers to support a monthly coffee morning, and for other occasional events. They would welcome any ex-uniformed service, including NHS, ambulance, police and fire service.



Since 2021, the Association has donated £6611 to local projects which have included:

- The biggest ever single donations to the Northeast Food bank outside of the supermarkets (over 1,700 meals)
- Provided hundreds of new toys to the Salvation Army for Christmas each year
- Sixty local people given free professional emergency first aid training
- Funded 90% of the cost of the defibrillator fitted to the Dun Cow Sedgefield
- Bought new uniforms for Trimdon Brass Band
- Funded free meals for the children attending Sedgefield Youth Club during holidays
- Funded a swimming pool hoist to enable injured servicemen and women to get into the water
- Bought and maintain the flag pole at St Edmunds and St Lukes (both a focal point for the community when we lost her Majesty the Queen and during the Coronation of King Charles)
- Our Armistice Day ceremony is extremely well attended by locals, schools and dignitaries

Sedgefield Village Veterans' events are always a community highlight with the last coffee morning attended by 140 people. If you would like to get involved, please email neil.d2u@gmail.com or contact us through our Facebook page [Sedgefield Village Veterans](#).

Christmas Tree Recycling



Sedgefield in Bloom are offering a service to collect real Christmas trees for £5 each and to recycle them!

This year we are very lucky to be working with AW Treecare who will chip the trees on-site and the chips will be used in projects around Sedgefield.

Please contact Alice Hobson on chairsib@gmail.com or 01740 622706 by Thursday 4 January 2024.

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles!

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY JANUARY 2024

At this time of year it can be difficult to see any flowering plants, although the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland do ask people to go out and report any flowering plants they see in the wild at bsbi.org/new-year-plant-hunt. It's the 13th New Year Plant Hunt and runs from 30 December 2023 to 2 January 2024. You can register your interest on their website to find out what's happening where, and access resources to help you find and identify the plants most likely to be blooming around this time. When flowering plants are few and far between it is an opportunity to look out for other living things which might be easier to spot.

On a recent walk, I came across a strange growth on what looked like a dead or dying hedgerow tree. It was tan, brown colour, very gelatinous and looked like an ear! It turns out to be Jelly Ear Fungus *Auricularia auricula-judae*. It is a type of bracket fungus which starts off life cup-shaped, later developing lobes that make them look uncannily like human ears. It is velvety on the outside, with a wrinkled, shiny inner surface. Individual lobes can grow to between 3cm and 10cm across with rubbery, gelatinous flesh. It is fairly common in the UK, usually found in clusters, drooping from dead and dying branches, mainly of elder (it was an elder I saw it on) but sometimes on other types of hardwood, particularly beech, sycamore and ash. It likes damp, shady conditions. One of the jelly ear's other common names is Judas's ear. This name alludes to the fact that the 'ears' appear mostly on elder – the tree species that Judas hanged himself on after betraying Jesus Christ to his executioners. The legend is that the 'ears' which emerge from elder wood represent his tormented soul. Jelly ear is popular in Chinese cuisine, where it is known as 'wood ears'. It was used medicinally until at least the 1860s, and it was thought that fungi that looked like body parts could be used to treat that body part. It was therefore used to treat eye conditions (as eyes are gelatinous like the fungus) and throat problems (as jelly ear's structure was considered similar to the throat's). Herbalist John Gerard recommended a remedy for sore throats made by boiling jelly ear in milk. So, on your next walk, check out the elder bushes which you quite often find in hedges and you might come across this disconcerting fungus.



Find out more at woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/fungi-and-lichens/jelly-ear/.

u3a update



This month, we have focused on social events where we have had the time and opportunity to stop and chat with other members and learn a little more about each other; other people's particular interests, skills and life background always throw up such interesting facts.

Our WAGs (Wine Appreciation Group) met to sample, discuss and enjoy four wines - and nibbles carefully chosen to match and enhance each wine. This group is not at all serious, indeed less so as the evening progresses, but over recent years we have sampled a wide range of red, rosé and white wines from vineyards across the world and are beginning to be able to identify various wines/grapes.

Our annual Christmas Party took place at our December meeting and we enjoyed an exceptional buffet provided by members together with a glass of wine or non-alcoholic punch. The quiz stretched our knowledge of all things Christmas.

Our Photography group exhibited a display of some wonderful photographs and members took the opportunity to make a purchase to fulfil that ideal/hard to please Christmas present.

A great atmosphere was enjoyed at our Christmas Lunch at the Dun Cow when, dressed in Christmas jumpers and festive glitz, we met to appreciate friendship and good health with chat, laughter and good food and drink. Homes and Gardens members who visited Beamish thoroughly enjoyed member Karen Summerbell's talk about some of the paintings as well as their tour of other exhibits.

As we start a new year, if you are feeling lonely or bored at home, why not make a 'resolution' to join us at our monthly meetings on the **first Friday of each month at 2pm** in the Parish Hall when you can listen to an interesting speaker, find out what our Interest Groups have planned or chat to any of the committee members about perhaps starting a new group to share your own particular interest or skill. We look forward to meeting you.

BUSINESS UPDATE

New Travel agent opens Seaside Travel's 7th branch opened in Fishburn on the 18 December 2023.



Our new branch is managed by local girl Rebecca Rutter who has been in the travel industry for 22 years and has a great knowledge and passion for getting her customers the best holiday.

We have employed some real local characters who are currently going through a full training programme with our Training Manager Paula Gleeson.

Seaside Travel is known for our amazing customer service and deal finding. Over the last few years, we have won many national awards and, just a couple of weeks ago, we won a Jet2holidays national award.

Owner, Nicola Park, is also local and has worked in travel for over 30 years and lives and breathes Seaside Travel. She loves the shops to be a crucial part of the local community and when customers pop in the shop to book or pick up tickets the kettle is always on and if you pop in on a Friday afternoon our legendary Fizz Friday happens.

So If you're looking for a holiday abroad or in the UK, a cruise, airport parking or flights to anywhere in the world pop in to our Fishburn shop or message and follow us on Facebook [Seaside Travel Fishburn](#).

Rising star



Local businesswoman, Nicole Collins, has been shortlisted for Rising Star of the Year at the Yorkshire Accountancy Awards.



Rising Star of the Year

Nicole started local company Reign Accounting in 2022 and she told us that "We strive on being not your traditional accountants, as we try to break barriers on being a relaxed, fun engaging firm that is contactable (we have client meetings where clients have brought kids and dogs along). We want you to feel comfortable with us."

She explained that they want to help businesses thrive with the right support around them and to create jobs in the area for a wide range of people from school leavers to career changers.



The awards are being held on 22 February 2024 in Leeds. Congratulations to Nicole on her nomination and good luck for the awards evening.

Fishburn Parish Council needs YOU!

Fishburn Parish Council has 11 council 'seats' and there are currently TWO vacancies. The Parish Council can fill these vacancies by co-option. If you would like to be considered, please email fishburnparishcouncil@hotmail.com or telephone 07788 111729 stating why you would like to be a Parish Councillor and what you feel you can offer to the community.



You must be 18 years old, be a qualifying Commonwealth, an Irish Republic, or a relevant EU citizen. A person must either: be a local government elector (i.e. on the electoral roll) for Fishburn; during the whole of the last twelve months, have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in Fishburn; during the last twelve months, have had his/her principal or only place of work in Fishburn; during the whole of the last twelve months, have resided in, or within three miles of the Parish. Must not be disqualified, for example, a person convicted of a criminal offence, or a person who is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order might be a disqualified person.

Sedgefield Rock & Blues Club...in 2023...

As 2023 draws to a close, we look back on the great nights we've had this year in the Parish Hall this year.

In January we kicked off with **Miguel Montalban** and his hard rocking band 'The Southern Vultures'. Miguel is an outstanding guitarist, having progressed from busking on the streets to playing to sell out crowds all around Europe.

In March, **Kossoff The Band Plays On**, took their turn to 'ROCK the Parish Hall'. A celebration of the music of Paul Kossoff. April saw the **Bonham Bullick Band** visit Sedgefield, almost rock royalty, with Deborah Bonham (sister of the late John Bonham of Led Zeppelin fame) a powerful rock blues vocalist with an equally powerful band with Peter Bullick on lead guitar (this band have toured extensively with Paul Rodgers).

Frankie Millers Full House played in May, a band led by the late Frankie Millers band mate Ray Minhinnett, full of the finest blues rock musicians in the industry. **The Milk Men** produced a sublime performance on a night that hot it could have turned milk sour in an instant.

The **Redfish Blues Band** also pulled out all the stops on another steamy night in the Parish Hall and then in October saw **Rhinos Revenge** take the stage, WOW what a Hard rocking night!! With legendary Status Quo members, in our 'village' it was an outstanding, memorable night.

November highlighted the Clubs reputation when we secured a gig with **Erja Lytinen** and her band from Finland. On an exclusive mini UK tour we were chosen to be one of those gigs!! Another high energy rock set, from one of the leading 'Blues Rock' guitar players in Europe!!

We also have to mention the **superb local talent** that starts off our nights. The future of live music is safe in their hands and we'd love you to get out to support live music as often as you can, there is always plenty of variety across the whole of the North East. Supporting local venues helps keep live music...live!

Visit the
website for
more
information.



ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

email: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

What happened to the turkey at Christmas? It got gobbled!

A Triumphant Finale to 2023

By Sedgefield Players

It's been another successful and wonderful pantomime run again. Playing to a full house for every performance Snow White and Rose Red provided audiences with the customary booing, laughing, singing and audience participation. As usual this production involved members of the SPYS as well as the Players, and the whole group were amazing. Playing Dame Dolly, Tom Guest also wrote the panto and directed it alongside Sarah



Atkinson, and gave a great performance, towering over the rest of the cast. With show stopping tunes he engaged the audience with his usual gusto. Playing the main leads, Kelsey White and Lucy Atkinson were perfectly cast with Emily Legender and Amy Henery matching them as Prince Hans and Otto.

No panto is complete without two idiots, played this year by Rosemary Jones and Gill Hook. They were the perfect foil for the evil Queen, Sarah Legender. With Liz Flanagan, Paul Walker, Jacqui O'Meara and Jason Legender splitting the roles of Wednesday and Sunday, the other dwarves were played mainly by the older SPYS, and they did a great job, each with a different character. The dance team were expertly choreographed by Kelsey White and the villagers and chorus were made up of Players and SPYS. The pantomime was enhanced with great technical effects, lighting and sound. Thanks must go to Adam White and CDB Productions for their great effects and to Glen White and Richard Flanagan for the support.

As ever there will be no rest for the Players, who go straight into rehearsals for Calendar Girls. The Players have been waiting for three years to put on this heart warming production telling the story of the WI's racy calendar. With Covid and licencing issues out of the way the group are excited to be putting on this play. Being performed in the Parish Hall on 14th, 15, and 16th March 2024, this is bound to be a popular show. Tickets will be available soon.

www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk

Happy New Year from Sedgefield Lyric Singers!

December was a busy month for your choirs. SLYC and Lirica performed delightfully at December's Farmers' Market, which had a wonderful, wintry, festive feel with snow and ice-a-plenty. Warmer evenings were spent indoors with all three choirs at their *Step Into Christmas* festive concerts.

Appreciative audiences applauded beautiful performances including Elgar's glorious 'The Snow,' Chilcott's spine-tingling arrangement of 'The Coventry Carol' and a highly entertaining rendition of 'A Jolly Holly Christmas,' with kazoos! Chris and Alan Mills did us proud with a stunning tree design for St. Edmund's tree festival; we owe them a huge thanks for their creative zest.

And sadly, we said goodbye to our lovely soprano, Olwin, who decided to leave the Lyric Singers after many, many years of joyful attendance.

Looking forward, 2024 promises to be a tremendous year as Sedgefield Lyric Singers celebrate its 50th anniversary. With lots of interesting projects lined up to help mark this worthy milestone, watch out for further news of exciting events and pencil into your diaries the dates of our special, celebratory concert - June 28th & 29th.

2024 could be the year you join your local choir. The Lyrics and SLYC always welcome new singers and January is a traditional time to make a new commitment. If you enjoy singing and would like to give your local choir a try, then rehearsals re-start on Friday 5th January. (SLYC 6pm, Lyrics 7:30pm, in Ceddesfeld Hall.) Join us for what promises to be a fabulous celebratory year. Happy 2024!



More Local Events

Rapunzel at Bishop Auckland Town Hall

Didn't catch any panto over Christmas? You can still go to the ball, thanks to these new year shows. 11th-13th January. Tickets from £8-£9 <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/46043> or call 07837961053

Peterlee 75: East Durham College, Peterlee

This celebration of Peterlee's origins offers the opportunity to see north east musicians including The Futureheads, Paul Smith (of Maximo Park) and Smoove & Turrell, as well as a host of emerging talents, at a very reasonable price. 17th-21st January, £5 <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/peterlee>

Mayor's Music Night—Sedgefield Parish Hall

Save the date for more fun and entertainment on 9th February, when the parish hall welcomes musicians The Gastric Band for the mayor's regular fundraiser 9th February, 7:30, £10. Tickets available a council offices or call 01740 621273

Len Tabner: Elements of Darkness - Mining Art Gallery, Bishop Auckland

An exhibition of the Middlesbrough painter's work centred on Boulby Potash Mine until 31st March 2024. Tickets £2.50-£5, free with annual pass. <https://aucklandproject.org/whats-on/len-tabner-elements-of-darkness/>

MAYOR'S RACE NIGHT



**Saturday 3rd
February 2024**

7:30pm - 11:00pm

**Parish Hall,
Sedgefield**

**Pie and Peas
Cash Bar**



£12.50

SPORTS UPDATE

Email chrisjlines@aol.com

The weather continues to play havoc with the grass roots schedule for sports like football, though cross country athletics is back up and running, with some participants appearing to bathe in the mud!



Lisa Darby enjoyed the mud at the 2023 North Eastern Counties Cross Country Championships

Thanks to everyone who has contributed sports news over the last 12 months, and I look forward to receiving loads more as we move into another busy year. Along with the usual action in and around Sedgefield, eyes will turn to Paris for the next Olympic and Paralympic Games. Bring it on!

Squash

Durham and Cleveland Squash recently held its annual county championships, hosted by Yarm Squash Club. The competition attracted a large entry for the various graded events and several players from Sedgefield Squash Club were involved. After a tricky first round tie, Rob Pearce saved his best squash of the season for the later rounds, resulting in him playing the highly experienced Danny Hockborn from Norton in the final. In front of a packed crowd at Yarm, the match proved to be a real thriller with both players playing some breathtaking squash. The result was 3-1 to Danny, but huge congratulations to Rob, as it's been some time since a home-grown Sedgefield player reached this stage. Well done also to Phil Best who reached the C grade plate final, where he also finished runner up.

On a national level, one of Sedgefield Squash Club's junior players, Huey Lamb (u11s), finished a very creditable 13th in the British Championships held in Sheffield. Huey is currently on the reserve list for the British Junior Open in Birmingham. This event attracts the best young squash players from all over the world, so fingers are crossed for Huey. Sedgefield Squash Club teams have been busy playing in the Durham and Cleveland leagues over the past few weeks. Once again, the ladies are leading the way, and they are still top of their division. The club's first team sit third in the Premier Division after defeating top of the table, and current champions, Guisborough by three games to two in their most recent home game. The second, third and fourth teams are all competing well in their respective leagues with a number of players stepping up to play in higher divisions. A lot of members have made their debut for teams - well done to them for taking on the challenge.

The court refurbishment has been completed by Melior, and Sedgefield's are now ranked the best in the county. In the new year, the club will be focussing on several projects. These include introducing a new booking and payment system which will bring it up to date with the latest technology, refurbishing the muddy path from Ceddesfeld car park to the club, and pursuing planning regulations and funding for the extension for new changing rooms, toilets and multi-use area.

The club wishes everyone a happy new year and is looking forward to another great 12 months for squash in Sedgefield. Anyone interested in joining or volunteering should email the club at info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk, or visit the website at sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.



Huey Lamb in action



Athletics

This year's North Eastern Counties Cross Country Championships were held in South Shields on Saturday 9 December and came on the back of 10 days that had begun with snow, which was followed by prolonged heavy rain. As a result, the course was quite 'soft' underfoot.

There was a good turnout of Sedgefield Harriers, especially in the junior and senior women's races. Standout performances of the day came in the U11 boys and girls events. Jess Davies finished fourth, a mere three seconds behind the third placed girl, while Sedgefield's Karl Thompson claimed tenth place in the boys' race. In the senior women's team event, Sedgefield Harriers also secured a top ten finish through a quartet that featured Jane Spink, Abie Hearmon, Sadie Abel and a very muddy Lisa Darby.

Sedgefield Harriers will host the club's next event, on Sunday 14 January. The winter handicap (for the Gerry Kearsley Memorial Trophy) is free to enter and follows a multi-terrain course of around 10km, starting and finishing at Bishop Middleham Village Hall. Entry is on the day only, with registration opening at 9am and the first runners starting at 10am. Find more details on the club's Facebook page

Cycling

Sedgefield was the venue for Round 8 of the 2023 North East Cyclo-cross League (NECCL) on Saturday 9 December. The fixture was organised by Sedgefield Velo and saw junior and senior cyclists take on very challenging conditions in East Park. The youngest riders faced the worst weather, with under 8s, 10s and 12s tackling the route in pouring rain. The U8 race was won by Alistair George, brother Ethan George was first U10 and Arwen Henderson won the U12 event. In the senior race, the top three were Phil Gray, Mal Cook and Jim Davies, and Nicola Davies won the women's race. Find out more on the league's Facebook page [NECCL - 'North East Cyclo Cross League'](#).



NECCL event, Sedgefield

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



CEDDESFELD HALL



You will find the SCA Ceddesfeld Hall pamphlet for 2024 included in this edition of the News. It outlines the community events and regular activities which take place at Ceddesfeld throughout the year. SCA are keen to hear from anyone who may wish to start a new group and/or regular activity. The room hire rates are very competitive, and the rooms are spacious and comfortable, with free Wi-Fi.

Burns Supper - 27 January

SCA is delighted to host a traditional Burns Supper. A drinks reception at 7pm followed by a traditional meal of scotch broth, haggis, neeps and tatties, or roast beef, (vegetarian option, on request), sweets, cheese board, coffee and mints, whisky or port. There will of course be a traditional address to the Haggis, and a Toast to Immortal Memory and Verses, with poetry and music too – all for £30. To book your table, please contact any of the numbers at the end of this article.

BURNS SUPPER
SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY,
7.00PM, CEDDESFELD HALL
TICKETS £30

Reception Drinks, Soup, Haggis, Neeps & Tatties or Beef (Please choose in advance), Sweet, Cheese & Biscuits, Coffee or Tea, Whisky or Port for toasts

Piper, Address the Haggis, Immortal Toast, Toast to the Lassies & response.

Poetry and Music.

RSVP with menu choices to Pat (01740 620607) or pbuckleyat@hotmail.com

Mediaeval Fayre - Saturday 18 May Save the Date!

We had a fantastic day last year, and planning and preparations for 2024 are well underway. SCA will soon be writing to its sections, groups, and members as well as to local businesses and organisations who will be asked to support the event by volunteering to help, provide financial community sponsorship or donate gifts and prizes for the special SCA tombola. We had a super selection of new craft stalls last year and for 2024 we are pleased to welcome a few new stall holders. Two new people have joined the committee, and if you're keen to get involved, contact Sarah, on the number below, or through the SCA email address.

Sections and Groups – Subscribe to the SCA!

SCA would like to take this opportunity to thank the various sections, health and hobby groups who continue to plan and organise a very varied timetable of special interest and social activities in service of the community. There really is something for everyone!

In January, SCA will begin to collect the annual subscription fees, which have remained static for several years. The fees are £7 for over 60s, £8 for adults and £4 for young people and students. SCA is a wholly volunteer-led organisation and member subscription is crucial to the legal governance and running of the association - without it, SCA could not run as it does. Membership fees also provide part of the essential income, allowing for smooth running and maintenance of the hall. Members can benefit from reduced cost for room hire as well as insurance liability 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. Anyone can become a member, as an individual or as part of a group – just ask at the bar or contact any 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. Follow us facebook.com/Ceddesfeld.

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Mayor's Corner

Firstly, Happy New Year everyone!

It's a time for making resolutions and one of mine is to help my new friend, Sarah McPhie with 'Feeding Families' which, after a nomadic life, is now settled and based at Unit 2B on the Industrial Estate.

If you have a couple of hours to spare, do go along and help to fill the food boxes, volunteer as a



driver or just pop along with donations of food and/or essential toiletries (10am to 2pm, Tuesday - Thursday).

Tickets are available in the Town Council Offices for my Mayor's Race Night and my Mayor's Music Night with The Gastric Band on 3 and 9 February respectively. Both promise to be great nights of fabulous entertainment.

I have had to relocate one of my Red Sky Foundation defibrillators to Jewson's (after St Edmund's Church was not allowed to fix it to the outside of its Grade 2 Listed Building.) Thank you to Manager Jamie Dunn for agreeing to be its Guardian.

David Jasper

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsilitis!

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DIARY & EVENTS**January 2024**

- Friday 5** **Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Lynn Lamport will speak about Gertrude Bell, the Queen of the Desert. Visitors welcome, £3.
- Saturday 6** **Christmas Tree Collection, Sedgefield in Bloom**, £5 per tree, collected from your door. Please contact Alice Hobson chairsib@gmail.com or 01740 622706.
- Christmas Tree Recycling**, bring your real tree to the WWG site at NETPark, where you are very welcome to help us use them for developing wildlife habitats. 10am to 12pm.
- Sunday 7** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am to 12:30pm. See page 3 for more information.
- Monday 8** **DIDO**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 1pm to 3:30pm. Welcome to 2024, let's start the year with a party! Guest singer and dancing, please bring food for your table. Annual membership fee is due. Contact Brenda 07597 116847 or 01740 629574.
- Tuesday 16** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers.
- Friday 19** **St. Edmund's Church Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-12pm. Please join us.
- Saturday 20** **Sedgefield Games Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, anytime from 6pm. Come along and play a variety of board games. £2.50.
- Tuesday 23** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Fletcher Room, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Speaker Ann Gray.
- Saturday 27** **Burns' Supper**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7pm. Tickets £30. For details see page 8.
- Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club**, Gerry Jablonski Band + West Brook, Parish Hall, 7pm. sedgefieldblues.com

Pop-in Club at Ceddesfeld Hall

The group has now been running for 31 years. It provides a friendship group for the retired and meets 3 times a week at Ceddesfeld Hall. There are currently about 65 members.

Tuesdays 9:30am-12pm**Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm****Thursdays 1pm-3:30pm****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. The first 3 afternoons are a free trial and then you have the option to become a member.

Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club**Sat 27th January:** Gerry Jablonski Band + West Brook**Sat 9th March:** Alex Fawcett Band + Lindsey Hannon Blues Trio**Sat 13th April:** Laurence Jones Band + Gary Grainger**Sat 18th May:** Ramblin' Preachers + The Main Line**SEDFIELD LIBRARY**

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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 to be booked.

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.

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

Lego Club

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

Digital Drop-In

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