

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

March 2023 Edition

Deadline for April: Tuesday 14 March

24/7 Pet Hospital

Did you know? Wear Referrals, located beside the Bradbury roundabout, is a specialist care unit which treats animals with complex needs and conditions. By night it transforms into an A&E unit, responding to emergency cases from across the area.



Staff from Wear Referrals at Hardwick Park



You can see inside the unit in the new BBC TV series, 24/7 Pet Hospital. The 10 part series was launched on BBC One in February, but if you missed it, you can catch up on iPlayer. The programme has behind the scenes access to operating theatres, prep rooms and wards, where access for pet owners isn't normally possible. Viewers get to know the team and see them deal with anything from performing hip replacement surgery on tiny Shih Tzus and extracting corn on the cob from Boxer dogs, to treating suspected kidney tumours on much-loved Labradors, wild owls injured by cars - and everything in between. The series also follows the devoted pet owners who travel from far and wide with their beloved animals for specialist treatment and expert care. To watch on iPlayer follow this link www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001hz7j.

Citizen of the Year & Young Citizen of the Year

See Page 3 for details of how to make a nomination for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year.

A paper nomination form is inserted. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code on the right to find the online nomination form. Remember to tell us how your nominee has contributed to the local community.



Nomination form

Three lions on his shirt



17 year old George Wilkinson from Sedgefield has been selected to play for the England Schoolboy U18's football team.

George was nominated for the trials after representing Durham County, he made his way through several trials. The final selection took place at the end of January in the Midlands, where he competed against 40 trialists and made it down to the final 18.

George is a former Sedgefield Community College student and has previously played for Sedgefield Youth. He currently plays for Durham County, Spennymoor Town and his beloved Sedgefield St Ed's.

The ESFA Centenary Shield matches will be shown live on BBC iPlayer throughout March and April.

The England fixtures are:

Republic of Ireland v England
Friday 24 March 2023 7pm kick-off

Scotland v England
Friday 31 March 2023 7pm kick-off

England v Scotland
Friday 14 April 2023 7pm kick-off

England v Wales
Friday 28 April 2023 7pm kick-off



A monster project and ski trips to France

Despite the short days and dark nights, the half-term has been an excellent one for the students at Sedgefield Community College (SCC) with lots of exciting events happening in school and beyond!

In January, Year 8 were lucky enough to work with comic book Artist James Parsons. James provided a two day workshop meaning the whole of Year 8 got to experience James' expert tuition in designing monsters and creepy cute creatures, linking to our Monster project. It was a pleasure to see students so engaged and James was incredibly impressed with the quality of student work! We do have a lot of exceptionally talented comic book artists! We hope to welcome James back to SCC in the future.



Further afield, 2023 got off to a flying start with 89 Year 9 students spending a week skiing in Alpe d'Huez, France, in the first of our ski trips. Both staff and students had a fantastic week and made some memories that will hopefully last a lifetime. Taking so many students out of school on a ski trip is an enormous undertaking, but speaking to everyone involved, the effort was clearly worth it! Our Year 10 ski trip departs on 25 February with 73 students ready to enjoy the slopes.

Celebrate!

February was a month of celebrating landmark days at Sedgefield Hardwick. At the beginning of the month, we recognised Children's Mental Health week and followed this year's theme - 'Let's Connect'. We explored the importance of children having somebody to talk to and discuss any worries or doubts. We discussed who those people would be for ourselves, ranging from parents and carers to teachers and friends. We also thought about why it is important for children to communicate in less formal, more spontaneous ways, like taking part in after school clubs or weekend activities.

Following on from Children's Mental Health Week, and in a very similar vein, we hosted our annual online safety day, with Safer Internet Day. This year, the theme was 'Want To Talk?' So we focussed our thoughts from Children's Mental Health week into thinking about how these issues may present themselves online. We discussed about what we should do if something online worries us, and who we should speak to about it.



Finally, we also celebrated International Women and Girls in Science. We considered the importance of having equality in representation of both men and women in the world of science, and learnt some more about the fantastic achievements of women and girls in the scientific world, from Marie Curie's work into polonium and radium, the development of x-rays and subsequent progress in cancer treatment, to the present day brilliance of scientists like Sarah Gilbert, who was instrumental in creating the vaccine in the recent Covid pandemic.

We have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating our landmark days in school and look forward to many more throughout the course of the year!

Community Fund

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



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

Thank you to those who have already chosen us as your charity and if your a Co-op member you can still choose us as your local cause using the app or the website. Then don't forget to use your Co-op card when you go shopping.



On the Green, First Sunday Morning Every Month.

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

A big thanks to everyone involved in the February Farmers Market, we had a sunny and busy first market of the year and are already preparing for the next market on 5 March.



The community stall will be the Great North Air Ambulance Service. Please come along and support the Market and this worthwhile charity.



SEDGEFIELDNEWS

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

Sedgefield News is put together and distributed each month by an intrepid band of volunteers and is paid for by advertising, so that it can be read for free in well over 3,000 homes, businesses and public locations in the local area.

Sedgefield News is also available via www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk.

If you would like to help, write a letter or article (or send us some encouragement!) you can drop us a line at

news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS



Bees at Hardwick - Can you help us?



Our bee-keeping group is looking for a new site for our apiary.

Nearly ninety per cent of wild flowering plants need pollinators, like bees, to transfer pollen for successful fruiting and reproduction, and yet humans have altered the natural landscape and changed land use, reducing the natural habitat of pollinating species?

In order for our bee-keeping group to flourish and thrive our hives need a new home: just a small strip of land. A suitable spot would be a private area away from the general public, but close enough for us to walk to, sometimes with heavy gear, ideally level land with some shade.



We are a docile bunch who love our bees and honey and enjoy beekeeping as a hobby. During the summer we need to keep an eye on the bees at least once a week, but during the winter, maybe once a month. We are fairly low-key and are no trouble at all. We aim to breed calm bees and are more than happy to talk to you about our amazing hobby and how rewarding it could be to have bees if you have some spare land. If you have flowers, crops or trees even better, as both the bees and your plants will massively benefit from the pollination.



If you would like to chat about hosting us please contact Roger on 07803 269956 or Lesley on 07856 625007. If you know a friend with a suitable space maybe you could give them a nudge.

Thank you so much for considering us.

Friendly Fixers - Focus on Fabric!



As Spring finally arrives, are you thinking of Spring Cleaning your wardrobe?


It's estimated that more than 30% of unwanted clothing currently goes to landfill in the UK, which equates to £140 million of used but still wearable clothes.¹



Repairing them can extend their life, and prevent them going to landfill. If you have items which you would still like to wear, but would benefit from some TLC, why not bring them along to one of our Repair Cafes?



We can offer garment repairs like replacing buttons, sewing up loose hems, patching or repairing ripped seams, such as the lining in a ski jacket in the pictures. We can support you to have a go yourselves, or are happy to do it for you whilst you have a cuppa and some cake! Hope to see you there.

1 - From Clothes Aid Recycling Charity, 2022



Sedgefield Citizen of the Year & Young Citizen of the Year 2022

Do you know of someone who has made an exceptional contribution to Sedgefield? Why not nominate them for Citizen of the Year 2022 or, for those under the age of 21 (on 31st December 2022), Young Citizen of the Year 2022.

They may have:


- Run a community group or project
- Excelled at representing our community
- Taken care of our environment and wildlife
- Done an amazing good deed
- Been a positive role model for people in Sedgefield

The awards (and prizes!) will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in Sedgefield Parish Hall on
Tuesday 9th May 2023

Nomination forms will be included in the March 2023 edition of Sedgefield News or you can scan the QR code to the right to complete your nomination online.

Nomination deadline: 31st March 2023

Get nominating now!





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.

- Electrical Appliances
- Electronic Gadgets
- Furniture
- Toys
- Ceramics
- Jewellery
- Clothing & Textiles
- Bicycles
- Clocks
- Garden Equipment
- Tool sharpening and much more!

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



Brought to you by volunteers of Sedgefield Development Trust
www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk



HOMWORK HELP

A project of Sedgefield Development Trust

Homework Help

Homework Help currently has some capacity to support English, Geography and History homework/classwork. E-mail homework@sedgefielddevelopmentrust.co.uk if you'd like some help, or if you can offer an hour or so a week and share your knowledge and understanding to help a student/pupil with theirs.

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

Beginning with bees



Aycliffe Beekeepers' Association is running a beekeeping course for beginners.

To be held at Neville Parade Community Centre in Newton Aycliffe on the weekend of 22-23 April 2023 between 10am and 4pm. It covers the history of beekeeping, how a hive is put together, the beekeeping year, how to spot and control pests and diseases, what to do when bees swarm, how to stop them swarming, and how to access further education and literature.



It is open to all ages and costs £60 per person which includes friend membership of our association. We will provide tea and coffee, but please bring your own lunch. To book your place, or for more information, please contact the training officer, Chris Barker at training.aycliffebka@gmail.com or telephone 07421 471581. Find us on Facebook [Aycliffe Beekeepers Association](https://www.facebook.com/AycliffeBeekeepersAssociation), a not for profit organisation, covering south west Durham and beyond.

New Eco-Trail



A new trail for children and their families has been launched at Hardwick Park.

The new Eco-Trail is made up of brass rubbing posts depicting 6 items essential to a balanced eco system – animals, oceans, the sun, fresh water, plants, and air.

Children can pick up a booklet and use a crayon to make rubbings on their walk around the park, before answering questions to learn more about nature and the environment, the effects of climate change, and measures they can take to make a difference.

The route of the trail also takes in a brand-new storytelling chair in the park which has been designed and hand carved by artists Jill and Lee

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY MARCH 2023

There are so many signs of spring it is difficult to know which one to mention, but on a recent walk I heard a familiar bird sound, which is not a call or a song. Any guesses? It was a sound that can travel quite a distance and consist of bursts of rapid, resonant tapping echoing through the trees.

Yes that's right, the staccato sound is the work of a woodpecker on a mission. Each rattle sends a message to all the other woodpeckers that can hear it – this part of the woodland belongs to me. Whilst some birds sing to attract a mate and intimidate their neighbours, woodpeckers take a different approach. They hammer their beak against a tree trunk at incredibly high speeds – up to 40 strikes per second for the Great Spotted Woodpecker. There's no denying that's impressive!



There are three species of woodpecker that nest in Britain, but the only one that you're likely to hear drumming in our area is the Great Spotted Woodpecker. It's our most common species, found in many woodlands and parks and an occasional visitor to a bird table. They are glossy black and white birds with a splash of red beneath their tail – males also have a red patch on their nape. Their drumming is a short, explosive burst of strikes so fast that they blur together. Each drumroll usually lasts less than a second. The strikes speed up towards the end of the roll, but get fainter at the same time so that they seem to tail off.

There's been some debate about how woodpeckers can cope with the strain of repeatedly banging their head against a hard surface. For a long time it was thought that woodpeckers had spongy skulls, that absorb some of the impact and protect the brain – people have even copied this idea to create safety helmets. But a study published last year disputed this common belief, showing that there is no cushioning effect. The woodpeckers use their head as a stiff hammer, not a shock absorber. Instead, it's their small size that protects their brain. Woodpeckers just shrug off blows that would give us a serious concussion.

The much rarer Lesser Spotted Woodpecker used to be found in the area and, as the name implies, is smaller. But their name now takes on a more tragic meaning, as they're also far less likely to be spotted – or heard. They've declined so dramatically that they've been lost from most of Britain. The drumming of a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker is slightly slower than that of a great spotted, with the individual strikes more clearly heard. It also typically lasts for longer, well over a second, at a steady pace without the acceleration towards the end. Our final woodpecker is also our largest. The Green Woodpecker, who is a chunky bird with a moss green back and a bright red cap. They often forage on the floor, probing for ants with their long, sticky tongue. They rarely drum and when they do it's hard to hear – a soft series of rapid taps. They prefer to display with their loud, laughing calls.

So the next time you are out for a walk have a listen and see if you can hear the dawn chorus's percussion section! Discover our best sites for hearing drumming woodpeckers for yourself at wildlifetrusts.org/woodpeckers.

Brewster. The chair, made from oak celebrates types of renewable energy depicting images and words representing hydro-power, geothermal energy, wind turbines and biomass solutions.

The chair and trail support Durham County Council's environmental priorities, supporting the educational themes of climate change and protecting the world's habitats and biodiversity.

The trail has been designed for use by general visitors, as well as school pupils visiting the park on facilitated educational visits.

The trail is available to collect from the Hardwick Park shop and café during opening hours.



SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch meeting 9 February

A packed NHW meeting was attended by our Area Neighbourhood Police Inspector Sarah Honeyman, members of County and Town Councils, representatives of numerous Sedgefield community groups and a large number of very concerned residents.

Strong views were expressed and we heard first hand accounts of incidents of criminal damage, antisocial behaviour (ASB), public disorder and abusive behaviour, which had occurred recently, in and around Sedgefield. Inspector Honeyman gave a comprehensive report of current police availability and recent action taken, which resulted in youths being apprehended and dealt with for various related offences. Officers had been on evening patrol last week and the Inspector said she would endeavour to increase these patrols, subject to staffing requirements.

During the meeting, calls were made for improvements to CCTV, more evening police cover, possible future intervention in local schools, parental responsibility and provision of safe spaces for young people to congregate. Some residents said they were pleased with the police response they had received but others less so.

Mention was also made of the current numerous sporting, cultural and other activities provided locally for children and young persons and it was noted that the present ASB incidents are instigated by the few and not the majority of youngsters in and around Sedgefield.

All the views expressed during the meeting were taken on board by the relevant organisations represented, in particular, Insp. Honeyman, who asked residents to continue to report all such incidents. Police responses are "data driven" so the more incidents recorded, the more evidence there will be to justify an increase in police cover for our area.

Vaping

Another issue is the amount of vaping paraphernalia littered around our area and the sale and use of vapes locally. Although the sale to under 18 year olds is illegal in England, it is estimated that there are now 3.6 million users in the U.K. That figure equates to half the number of cigarette smokers.

The British Medical Association is calling for further restrictions to the sale and advertising of vaping material, pointing out the possible harm caused to the nose, throat and lungs of the user. Any person, under the age of 16, found in possession of vaping material, is liable to have it confiscated by the police, who will then investigate its origin. Again, we would ask any person with relevant information about the misuse of vaping material, to contact the local police.

Our next NHW Meeting is on Thursday 8 March at 7:30pm. at Ceddesfeld Hall, Sedgefield. We hope to have Sedgefield's Police Sergeant Legg present, to hear your concerns and update us all on current developments. We will also have our display of security equipment and we'll be happy to chat to you about personal or property security matters. Ceddesfeld Hall bar will also be open. Please keep reporting incidents of ASB, criminal damage, etc. to the Police on 101, or 999 in an emergency, and don't forget, you can report suspicions of criminal activity anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



Your LETTERS

Fly tipping on private land

On Sunday 4 February this rubbish was found on our land which borders several properties in Kerr Crescent, Sedgefield.



We are aware that a footpath which serves the back of some of these properties runs adjacent to our field where our horse is kept. This footpath is only used by residents of the properties which back on to our land, and it accommodates their bins.

We have lived in this house of over thirty years, and always kept horses on our land, however, we have never had a problem with fly-tipping in this particular area. You can see the items included planks of wood, some with metal attached to it, and electrical cords and plugs which could easily cause injury to a horse. We have already had problems with 'lampers' who almost caused the death of our horse last year and another of our horses got her foot in a trap laid by poachers, and had to be put down by a vet.

What adds more insult to injury is the fact that as the rubbish was found on our land, and **we have been told that we will need to take on the responsibility of taking it away!!**

How can this be fair when we as council tax payers are paying our local taxes to have fly-tipping regularly cleaned up in for example NETPark, and the Old Stockton Road, where visitors, including travellers, dump or leave their rubbish to be collected and paid for by us? What is so different about this situation? **This is not our rubbish and more importantly was not left by us!**

Gloria and Brian Wills

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

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
Adviceline 0808 278 7821
Debt Adviceline 0300 323 2000
Help to Claim Universal Credit 0800 144 8444
Visit our website at citizensadvicecd.org.uk

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

GETTING AROUND THE SEDGEFIELD WARD

Promoting active travel in and around Sedgefield, Fishburn, Mordon, Bradbury, Thorpe Larches

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent public consultation.

That has now closed and we are very grateful for almost 400 responses that we received to a detailed and long survey.

Your contributions are now being analysed and we will share the findings in the near future.

We will provide updates online, on social media, via email, in print, and at community events.

Thank you again - your input will influence future initiatives in our area.

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECT

ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

email: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Audrey Lofthouse retires

After almost 50 years of dedicated service, Audrey Lofthouse has stepped down from Committee duties with Sedgefield Lyric Singers. Audrey has been a committed and invaluable member of our singing community since 1974, when The Lyrics was founded by her late husband, Derek. She embodies our choir's principle of offering friendship through a shared love of music.



Over the decades, Audrey has dedicated herself to her committee roles, including as chair and secretary and, for the last 20 years, as membership secretary. This role she made her own. Ensuring absent singers know they are missed and cared about, sending cards and flowers in times of celebration, or distress, and even just remembering everyone's name, is not an easy thing with over 60 singers on board!

Audrey has consistently embraced it all with precision and care. However, Audrey's most valuable asset, is not her committee work, but her dedication to the everyday success of our Choir. She has been a mainstay of the Sopranos for almost 50 years, where she is a modest, generous, charitable soul who has the ability to welcome and be interested in, young and old alike. No matter what, she remains bright and cheerful and finds words of encouragement for others. She is an indomitable mix of beloved Grandma and very strict teacher, keeping us all on our toes.

We look forward to singing with this well-loved member of The Lyrics, long past our Choir's 50th anniversary, and are delighted to take this opportunity to recognise and share with you, the tremendous impact Audrey has had on The Lyrics. Thank you Audrey!
Sedgefield Lyric Singers

New Exhibitions at Auckland Castle

From 8 March, a new project will be unveiled in Bishop Auckland, a response to women, who have often been missing from historic art. In a collaboration between local artists and youth groups, North East creators like Jilly Johnson, Leanne Pearce and Lizzie Lovejoy have teamed up with students and young adults from Auckland Youth & Community Centre and Parkside Academy among others. The overarching theme is providing a platform to women and to young voices omitted from representations of the past. For details, see aucklandproject.org/whats-on/missing-women-and-with-dinah/



Local Events Next Month

Tidal Shifts at EDAN Gallery, Seaham

Exhibition focussing on the post-industrial transformation of Seaham's beaches.

28 March to 22 April (except Sundays & Mondays)

11am to 3pm Free
edanart.co.uk

Mum's the Word ; The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle

Guided tour celebrating women and the role of mothers depicted in art. 19 March (Mother's Day) 12:30pm
Cost of tour is included with ticket or membership.

thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/mums-the-word-themed-tour/

Holst, The Planets at Gala Theatre, Durham.

Durham University Orchestra performs a selection of much-loved pieces with a cosmic theme, including *Also Sprach Zarathustra*
9 March 19:30

Tickets £15, £10 concession
musicdurham.co.uk/events/the-planets



Busy Spring for Players

The Players have had a very busy couple of months. Alongside rehearsals for *Blithe Spirit*, we have also been preparing for two one-act drama festivals. On 9 March, 'Try it Again' competes at the Durham and Sunderland Festival in Stanley and on 11 March, the group travel to Knaresbrough to take part in the Nidderdale Festival, with 'Ladies of the Sea' and the SPYS with 'Survive the Night'. Then the following week is *Blithe Spirit*.



If this weren't enough, some group members are also putting together and rehearsing for a Murder Mystery Night in aid of the Mayor's Charity on 29 April 2023.

Blithe Spirit is being performed in the Parish Hall, Sedgefield on 16, 17 and 18 March at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Ticky Boo and www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk.

By Sedgefield Players



DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

March 2023

- Friday 3** **Mayor's Civic Ball**, Hardwick Hall Hotel with The Moondogs. Black tie, 3 course meal, tombola, auction, bottle draw. Tickets £35 from STC Offices (weekday mornings).
- Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Robert Pullen on "Secrets of the Human Brain", visitors welcome, £3.
- World Day of Prayer**, St. John Fisher Church at 2pm.
- Monday 6** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. "Britain's Hidden Shop Signs" by Graham Soult.
- Thursday 9** **Citizens Advice**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am to 1pm
- Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm. We hope to have Sedgefield's Police Sergeant Legg present. Don't forget Ceddesfeld Hall bar will be open.
- Saturday 11** **Spiritual Spa Day**, St Michael's Church, Bishop Middleham from 10am to 3pm. For more information or to register your interest, contact elizabeth.a.bland@gmail.com.
- Sedgefield Rock & Blues Club**, Kossoff - the Band Plays On plus Stoney Broke, Sedgefield Parish Hall, doors 7pm, tickets from sedgefieldblues.com.
- Monday 13** **DIDO**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 1pm-3:30pm. Celebrating International Women's Day with singer Caitlin Black. Call 07597 116848 or 01740 629574 for more details.
- Tuesday 14** **Sedgefield Racecourse meeting**, first race at 1:50pm.
- Friday 17** **Sedgefield in Bloom**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am. Please come and join us in the Parish Hall.
- Tuesday 21** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Fire Station, 10:30am-12pm. For those living with dementia and their carers.
- Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Demonstrator to be announced, non-members - £5.
- Thursday 23** **Sedgefield Racecourse meeting**, first race at 1:40pm.
- Friday 24** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club**, coffee morning in the Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-11:30am. £2 includes tea/coffee and scone/cake. Cake stall and raffle. Please join us.
- Friday 31** **Sedgefield Village Veterans**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.

Save the date

Aycliffe Beekeepers' Association is running a beekeeping course for beginners on the weekend of **22-23 April 2023**. See Page 4 for details.



Sedgefield Model Railway Show will be held at Ceddesfeld Hall on **29 April** at 10am. More information in the next edition of Sedgefield News.



"Spiritual Spa Day"
with Rod and Jan Allon-Smith of ReSource

11th March 2023
10 am to 3 pm
(coffee from 9.30 am)

St Michael's Church
Church Street
Bishop Middleham
DL17 9AF

Bring-and-share lunch
All welcome

For more information or to register interest, contact elizabeth.a.bland@gmail.com

SEDFIELD LIBRARY

Tel: 0300 026 9521

Wednesday 9:30 to 12:30

Thursday 10:00 to 18:00

Friday 13:00 to 19:00

Saturday 9:30 to 12:30

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

Craft Group, 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 1:30pm. 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 Parish Hall
Thursday 2 and Thursday 9 March from 7:00-8:30pm.

Sedgefield Social Club

Singer every fortnight,
Saturday 11 and Saturday 25.

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 March: Friday 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

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.

Saturday 11th March

KOSSOFF
THE BAND PLAYS ON

PLUS... STONEY BROKE

"A celebration of the music of Paul Kossoff featuring songs from Free and Back Street Crawler
Former Back Street Crawler band member and close friend of Kossoff, singer Terry Slesser feels it's important to keep the memory of Kossoff and his music alive, alongside guitarist John Buckton, featuring songs from throughout Kossoff's career"

TICKETS £15
DOORS 7PM
SEDFIELD PARISH HALL
SEDFIELD ROCK & BLUES CLUB

Sedgefield Racecourse
meetings

14th March, 23rd March

www.sedgefield-racecourse.co.uk
info@sedgefield-racecourse.co.uk
01740 621 925 / 07980 881 354



CEDDSFELD HALL

Sedgefield Community Association

Children's Events for Spring and Summer at Ceddesfeld Hall - Save the Date!

Easter Monday - 10th April - Easter Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt - 2pm to 4pm

Always great fun, the egg hunt is for all children under 12 on the lawns. There will be decorated eggs and Easter bonnet competitions, with prizes for all ages. Families are welcome to bring their own picnic and the bar will open from 1:30pm to 4pm.

King Charles III Coronation Celebrations - Monday 8 May - 10am to 4pm

As part of the national bank holiday celebrations, STC with SCA, Churches Together, and local interest/community groups, are planning various events across the weekend. Ceddesfeld Hall and grounds will be open on Monday 8 May for people to enjoy a range of family fun activities, a varied programme of live musical entertainment, face painting, and lots more on the lawns and in the big marquee tent. Refreshments will be served throughout the day and the bar will be open. Look out for more information next month!

Mediaeval Fayre - Saturday 20 May - 10am to 4pm

The fayre begins with the children's walking parade from Burton Mews to the village green. We're expecting a vibrant, colourful procession to include children from local and nearby primary schools and nurseries, to culminate in demonstrations and performances, plus some mediaeval knights and country dancers.

SCA will have two tombola stalls (bottles and gifts) while around the green there will be various craft and food stalls as well as the traditional fun fair. In the arena the mediaeval knights will demonstrate their combat skills, and local groups will do battle in the tug of war.

Ceddesfeld lawns will be open, for everyone to enjoy birds of prey, face painting, circus skills, and living history displays and demonstrations. Refreshments will be served throughout the day and the bar will be open.

Family Fun Afternoon - Sunday 20 August - 1pm to 4pm

A fun event for families with younger children. Come along to enjoy a relaxing afternoon on the fantastic lawns at Ceddesfeld Hall. There is a good variety of garden games and sports equipment to play with, face painting and lots of space for a family picnic. The bar will be open.

All the events are free. Look out for event posters and further information coming out through the schools and on social media.

Volunteers Welcome!

We rely on various community groups and businesses to get involved, to engage and volunteer support in making these events sustainable and successful. Practical help with setting up, taking down, manning stalls, running activities etc. is needed - so please do get in touch if you can offer any help.

For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 01740 620607, John on 01740 620042, Sarah on 01740 622185 or visit our website on www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk. Follow us [facebook.com/Ceddesfeld](https://www.facebook.com/Ceddesfeld).

Mayor's Corner

My year in office is drawing to a close over the next couple of months but I still have a few events to host before it's time to distribute my charity money to Cancer Research UK and the local community groups who ask me for support in their specific activities.

The main event is my Mayor's Civic Ball on **3 March** featuring The Moondogs (who have sold out at the Parish Hall twice for me during the year) and which promises to be a fabulous night with well over a hundred tickets sold already. A tombola, bottle draw and auction will all add to the fun on the night and I have some great prizes lined up. My thanks go to the local businesses and residents who have donated so generously to ensure the evening is successful.

I'll be at the Twinning Association AGM on **20 March** giving the President's Address in Ceddesfeld Hall.

On **Saturday 15 April**, I have a Mayor's Cracking Cabaret Night with lots of artistes from around the region. Bring your own food/snacks, there's a cash only bar and it's just £10 per ticket.

On **Saturday 29 April**, I am hosting a Mayor's Murder Mystery Evening with a Wild West theme - 'A Backful Of Bullets' - with actors from Sedgefield Players. Pie and peas will be served, there's a cash only bar and a raffle. Dress up as a cowboy/saloon girl if you wish and see if you can identify the murderer. That's all for now. Stay safe everyone - Spring is just around the corner.

David Jasper




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SPORTS UPDATE

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While winter may not have finished with us yet, warmer days (hopefully) and lighter evenings aren't too far away, which means that the English cricket season will soon be upon us. For Sedgefield Cricket Club, indoor training is underway and it won't be long before the junior and senior players are back outside. Next month's update will include a preview of the season ahead. For now, as always, there's plenty of other sports news to report.

Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers held the club's winter handicap race in January, on a two lap multi-terrain route of about 6 miles that started and finished at Bishop Middleham Village Hall. Participants ran with a handicap based on their best 10k time within the previous 12 months, meaning that the fastest runners set off last, and everyone finished within a few minutes, which made for some exciting racing.

The first person to cross the line, and winner of the Gerry Kearsley Memorial Trophy, was Chris Ward, in a time of 49:53. The first female to finish, who was also the fastest, and first Sedgefield Harrier, was Sadie Abel (43:02). The first male Harrier was Jonathan Wallace (48:55) and the fastest male runner on the day was Elliot Bareham (39:34). The club is grateful to the volunteers who made the event possible, and to Bishop Middleham Village Hall for allowing the event to be hosted there.

The winter cross country season is nearly over and is set to be a successful one for Sedgefield Harriers in the North East Harrier League. Along with some very encouraging performances by the club's junior runners, the senior men's and women's teams have done well in their respective leagues.

The men were promoted to division two last year and this time around, they have been racing against some of the biggest clubs in the North East, including South Shields Harriers, Crook AC, Low Fell RC and Durham City Harriers. Each club's first six runners over the line count in the results at the six fixtures and Sedgefield have established some great strength in depth, with at least 11 runners taking part in every race, and two full teams in all but one (though only the first team of six features in the league table). The latest fixture was also the most local, at Thornley Hall Farm, and in uncharacteristically benign conditions for the venue, the Harriers team was sixth on the day, consolidating a mid-table position of seventh in the division. With just one fixture to go (on 4 March in Alnwick), Sedgefield's men are in prime position to retain division two status.



The senior women head uphill in the North East Harrier League on a sunny day at Thornley Hall Farm

Meanwhile, Sedgefield's senior women have also made good progress this year. Competing in division three, their results have improved from fixture to fixture, and at Thornley they finished in a very impressive second place, pushing them up to ninth in the division. Had it not been for the fact that some of the women were unavailable for a few of the earlier fixtures, it's clear that Sedgefield would have been making a serious push for promotion – hopefully, that's something that will be on the agenda next season!

Cycling



Sedgefield's Ben Hetherington continues to make excellent progress as a para-cyclist. At the end of January, he competed in the 2023 British Cycling National Track Championships in Newport, tackling the scratch race, one kilometre time trial and individual pursuit disciplines. Ben claimed a podium spot with third in his individual pursuit race, another fantastic achievement for an athlete who had focused on road racing in earlier years, but is now making a name for himself on the track.



Ben Hetherington in action at the 2023 National Track Cycling Championships

Squash



Sedgefield Squash Club will host a Rally Together event at the club on the afternoon of Sunday 5th March, from 2:00pm to 5:00pm, as part of an England Squash campaign to celebrate International Women's Day. The event is free, and girls and women of all ages can pop along at any time. All equipment is provided - you just need clean trainers. There will be refreshments at the end. The aim is to give everyone who attends a fun and welcoming introduction to the game of squash.

The club needs to plan and cater for everyone, so if you are interested in taking part, send an email to info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.

Horse racing

Congratulations to Sedgefield racehorse trainer Ray Craggs who was recently named Flat Trainer of the Month for December 2022. I hope to have more details about this accolade for next month's update.

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