

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

November 2023 edition

Deadline for December: Tuesday 14 November

## Active Travel on the Agenda

We are pleased to announce that the results of the Active Travel survey have finally arrived!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the consultation and who has waited so patiently for the results; this was one of the best responses to a consultation of this type that Durham County Council has had and this meant that collating the results and presenting them in a clear form took longer than expected.



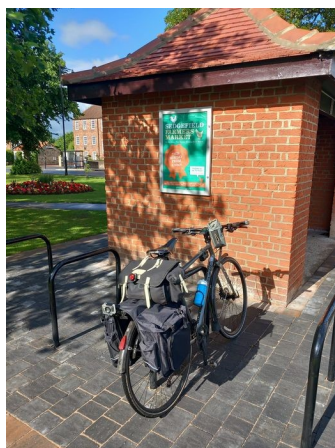
The full report can be found on the County Durham website at [durham.gov.uk/article/28432/Getting-around-Sedgfield-and-Fishburn-survey](https://durham.gov.uk/article/28432/Getting-around-Sedgfield-and-Fishburn-survey). The headlines are:

- 53.6% of people didn't feel safe walking or using mobility aids, citing concerns with footpath conditions, lack of crossings, speeding traffic and parking issues, which were also linked closely with obstruction and crime and safety.
- For bike use, of the responses, 41.4% said they rode a bike and 58.6% said they didn't. When asked why not and how this can be changed, most said they would feel unsafe, whilst a small number suggested to increase cycle lanes, introduce traffic calming and remove HGVs from villages.
- Parking in Sedgfield is an issue. When asked if they felt the number of parking spaces should be increased or decreased, 68.1% of respondents stated that they think parking spaces needed to be increased. When dropping and collecting children from school, 82.2% said there was an issue and a need to look at potential restrictions.
- Respondents were asked if the current speed limits are correct. 59.5% of respondents thought that speed limits in operation were not correct and over 75% would like to see a 20mph limit introduced in most locations across the ward.

## Priorities

The survey asked for people to provide their three main priorities to improve getting around the area. These varied, but the most common theme in all areas was traffic calming and management. Also mentioned regularly were:

- Safety
- Improvements to footpath conditions and links between them
- Improvements to cycleways and links between cycleway sections
- Parking issues which could link with enforcement.



## What's next?

The Active Travel group will continue to work towards actions that address priorities identified through the consultation. The group first met in October 2021 and is a collaborative initiative involving Durham County Council (officers from the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership and ward councillors), Sedgfield Town Council, Sedgfield Development Trust's Bicycle and Active Travel Group, and Fishburn Parish Council. Together, we have worked to identify priority projects in the ward and establish their viability and potential funding to deliver them. Through this process, we have already been able to complete two schemes – the upgrade of the path from the end of Station Road to the underpass to Hardwick Park, and the installation of new bicycle racks in the centre of Sedgfield.

Both were completed earlier this year, after the consultation took place, but before the report was published. Pleasingly, both are also very much aligned to the consultation results.

While aspects of the Active Travel project will always to some extent be affected – and in some cases held back – by national and regional policy and legislation, and by the limited availability of funds, we do now have a clear steer from people in the Sedgfield ward about which initiatives they want us to explore.

That will inform what we do next and provides us with evidence that we can use to make the case for changes. The group has already met again to look in detail at projects we plan to pursue in the short to medium term. We will share details and timescales for those as soon as we have confirmed them.

We would be delighted to engage further with our local councillors and MP to promote the change that you have asked for.

Please follow us on Facebook [Sedgfield Bicycle and Active Travel Project](#), email us at [cycling@sedgfielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:cycling@sedgfielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk) or contact your councillors and MP Paul Howell directly to encourage their support.

## Community College Open Evening

As always, the autumn open evening at Sedgefield Community College (SCC) was one of the highlights of the school year. We were delighted to welcome very large numbers of Year 6 students and their families and aimed to give them an insight into what it is that makes SCC such a special school. There were two talks from the Headteacher and both of these were exceptionally well attended.

During the evening, there was a chance for our potential future students and their families to tour the school, meeting lots of staff and gaining an insight into what life is like as a secondary school student at Sedgefield Community College. Whether it was taking part in our interactive art installation, joining in with dance rehearsals or carrying out scientific flame tests, we hope all of our visitors enjoyed the chance to find out more about the school.

We recognise that the decision as to which secondary school parents choose to send their child to is an extremely important one. Whilst no school is 'right' for every child, we firmly believe that our young people experience a fantastic, well-rounded education and one that gives them the best possible foundation to achieve future success. For families that share our high expectations and a desire to work in partnership to realise these, we are a great choice!

A copy of the school's electronic prospectus with more information is available at this link: [sedgefield.laidlaw-schools-trust.co.uk/21/prospectus](https://sedgefield.laidlaw-schools-trust.co.uk/21/prospectus).



## Healthy Living

Year 2 have just concluded an exciting enquiry all about healthy living, with some fantastic help from our local Co-op supermarket! We have been really interested in which foods are healthy, and how we can make sure that we are eating well, especially at lunch time. So we decided that we would like to research what makes a healthy lunch, and what foods would be appealing for children to eat.



We were very lucky to have a visit from our local Co-op, who talked to us about all of the foods that they sell at the supermarket, and any products similar to our idea of a nutritious packed lunch that they currently sell (like the Meal Deal). Then, we conducted some market research by visiting the Co-op ourselves to view these products and prices, as well as visiting Sedgefield Primary School to ask the children there which products they would choose to eat in their packed lunch.

After this, we returned to school and designed and made our packed lunch boxes, before ordering our food into school and presenting the healthy packed lunch product to our friends at the Co-op. We have learnt so much about nourishing foods and product packaging, and we're already looking forward to our next enquiry!



## Electric Orienteering pioneers



Sedgefield Primary are the first school to successfully trial a brand new innovative education resource for pupils - Electric Orienteering! Ultimately, the aim is for this resource to be extended across schools in the North East and even beyond.

An inclusive Explorer Day for the whole school launched this innovative education and ICT project. Pupils had to locate hidden tiles around the school environment. Working collaboratively, they scanned QR codes, these unique codes led to being set a challenge. This innovative approach can be adapted across the curriculum to produce a variety of different trails.



The Electric Orienteering approach aims to encourage physical activity alongside learning. Go Well are delivering this scheme.



They are a local education and sport provider across the local area. They train local sports apprentices and have twenty across the region including Sedgefield Primary's Sports Apprentice, Mr Lowe.



Paul Donaghy, School Games Organiser for Go Well has led the new Electronic Orienteering initiative. He says, "Cross curricular trails are a future aim and an online library to share good practice is the ultimate intention of this innovative programme. The possibilities are endless".

## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS



**Sunday 5 November**  
**on the Village Green**  
**8am - 12:15pm**

This month, the Market is welcoming the Durham Fostering Service, who will be there to answer any questions you have regarding fostering in County Durham. All our regular stalls will be there; perhaps this a chance to start your Christmas shopping with personal gifts from the Market.



Homework Help is well underway this term and making progress with students both new and from previous years, getting new helpers on board and deepening our safeguarding training. We like to try to help anyone who would like - so if you'd like some help or could offer some, please do contact us at [homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk).

## WOODLAND & WILDLIFE

### Family planting event at the Woodland and Wildlife site

*"Mighty oaks from little acorns grow!"*

This autumn, the Woodland and Wildlife Group will be taking part in Round 2 of a project organised by Living Woods North East, to grow native British woodland trees from seeds. The project, called Seeds2Trees, was featured in Sue Dobson's article in the August edition; it aims to grow 50,000 tree seedlings by Autumn 2026, and we will contribute by sowing and growing approximately 100 of them. We will look after them for 2 years, when the saplings will be collected by Living Woods, and used in their tree planting programme, at sites across the North East.

We will be holding a family-friendly seed sowing event in late November/early December, to plant up trays with acorns and hazel nuts, and we will continue next spring, with alder and birch seeds. We would love to have your company!

If you are interested, please look out for the date and time, once this has been confirmed, on our Facebook page [Woodland and Wildlife – Sedgefield](#), and you can use this to let us know if you are attending. Alternatively, you can express interest in the event to [woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk). For further information on the Living Woods project, their Facebook page is [LivingWoodsCIC](#).

We hope to see you soon!

### Sedgefield Development Trust Contact Details

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

### Thermal cameras

You may recall an article in the April edition of the News gauging local interest in borrowing a thermal camera to assess where heat is escaping from your home or where cold is entering.



Sedgefield Development Trust have acquired two thermal cameras which attach to mobile phones (one for iOS, one for Android). We will be contacting those of you who expressed an interest earlier in the year to be our first borrowers. If you are also interested in loaning a camera then watch out for our registration process which we will be launching on [sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://sedgefieldweb.co.uk) in the coming weeks.

### Energy Switch

#### October Auction Outcome

In the recent October auction, suppliers did not bid with tariffs below the new lower price cap which took effect from 1 October. This is the same scenario as in February, so the advice from Ichoosr remains the same - "we find ourselves once again, in a situation where our best advice for residents is to not switch so we have made the decision to not send out offers to residents for this auction".

The ongoing volatility within the energy market has continued to make it hard for suppliers to offer compelling fixed tariffs below the price cap.

They understand this is disappointing, and are very aware of how much residents rely on this service, however, they are confident that this is the right decision.

Residents are advised to 'rollover' their registration details into the next scheme which has an auction in early 2024, at which point we will be able to inform you further about the available options.

#### For online registrants

During w/c 9 October you should have received an email explaining the current situation and reasoning behind the outcome of the auction. A second email should have been received by registrants, during w/c 16 October, who have not taken action to 'roll forward' and a link to the Information Page.

#### For offline registrants

From 24 October, a letter should have been received explaining the current situation and reasoning behind the outcome of the auction. Residents will be automatically 'rolled forward' to the next scheme. They can call Ichoosr on 0800 048 8285 to opt out of this if they do not wish for their details to be included. The back of the letter will have some FAQs relating to the current market situation.

At this point in time Ichoosr intend to hold another auction on 9 January 2024. Registration will open on 13 November and close on 8 January. Offers will be issued from the 22 January with closure on the 8 March. If you have any concerns or require further explanation please contact our helpline on 07572 502904. We are always available to help.



## Your LETTERS

### Diamond Wedding



Donald and Dorothy McDonald were delighted to celebrate their Diamond Wedding with the family around them.

King Charles and Camilla sent a card for the occasion. Such a lovely day.

*Katie Burkill*

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Saturday 14 September, I held a Macmillan Coffee Morning. There were a lot of people came and had a cup of tea/coffee and cake, met up with friends and made a donation to Macmillan. The total amount raised is £1,063. Thanks to everyone who came along and supported the event on the day. Also, to everyone who gave donations before and after the coffee morning, who couldn't come along on the day and to everyone who baked cakes and scones for the event.

*Suzanne Hopper*

## Have you got a musical talent?

Here at the Methodist Church in Sedgefield we are in need of a volunteer (or volunteers) with a musical talent to accompany the congregation during our Sunday morning service. We have three excellent instruments: a clavino, an electronic organ and a piano. Perhaps you have given this kind of support to another church in the past or maybe this would be something new to you? Why not pay us a visit one Sunday morning at 10am and make yourself known. We will be delighted to meet you. Music makes such an important contribution to worship in the church, and our musicians are very much appreciated.

If you would like to help or require more information please contact David Glass on 01740 621618.

*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.*

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY NOVEMBER 2023

So our House Martins have gone for another year; like past years, it seemed quite late and even after they had left the nest we spotted them flying round and feeding in the warm spell we had at the beginning of October. Interesting that this happened at the same time as the first of the winter visitors turned up, with Fieldfare being seen in Middlesbrough. We have had House Martins nesting on the house for quite a few years. They use an artificial nest we put up and we enjoy watching them raise their young. House Martins are among a select group of birds that can do a neat trick to survive cold spells. They lower their metabolic rate from its usual point of around 40C down to 30C or even lower to survive extreme conditions. The nestlings rely on their parents bringing them bundles of flying insects and when the weather cools, so does the supply of insects. The nestlings then survive for a few days on fat reserves and metabolic torpor. Another trick House Martins use is that they regularly cluster together in bodily contact for warmth with records of 14 House Martins cramming into a single clay nest! It is still surprising that we don't exactly know where they spend the winter - records of them in southern Africa are infrequent for the number that migrate. One possibility is they could spend the winter in African skies high up and perhaps never land! During the summer House Martins are beneficial to us due to the insects they eat. Flies, midges and aphids make up most of the prey. They feed the young balls (boluses) of insects squashed together with an average of 53 insects per bolus although up to 388 insects have been recorded! They can be quite vocal in the nests, especially when it's time to fledge and we have seen adults coaxing the young to reluctantly leave the nest.

We will now have to put up with the darker and cooler days of autumn and wait until next spring for the return (hopefully) of our House Martins. Talking of Autumn don't forget to check your bonfires for hedgehogs before you light them and remember that pumpkins are poisonous for hedgehogs so don't think you are doing good by leaving them out for them.



*House Martins by Ken Billington, CC BY-SA 3.0*

## Sedgefield in Bloom



A lovely autumn day saw a return visit from some children from Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School.

The visit started with a nature walk around the beautiful grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall (and of course collecting conkers!) then a bulb planting session of the 'purple pinkie crocus corms' in Ceddesfeld grounds. Ending with the highlight of the trip, a chance to look at the SiB tractor and see how many children could get into the trailer.

The answer is 31!

Many thanks for coming to see us again.

*Marie Etherington*



## We're making some changes

**Citizens Advice at Trimdon**

We're changing the way we work in the community

From **Wednesday 11th October** our new service will be delivering advice by **appointment only** from this venue

For advice and to book an appointment call  
Adviceline: 0808 278 7821 or  
visit: [citizensadvicecd.org.uk/help](https://citizensadvicecd.org.uk/help)

**For drop in advice visit your nearest Regional Advice Centre**  
71 High Street, Spennymoor  
DL16 6BB  
Monday & Thursday 10am to 1pm  
For other locations & opening times visit  
[citizensadvicecd.org.uk/contact](https://citizensadvicecd.org.uk/contact)

citizens advice

County Durham

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



## SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### Crime report

Since our last article there seems to have been a marked increase in the number of crimes committed in the Sedgefield area.

- Residents rooms were broken into at a local hotel and property stolen.
- A street robbery in Sedgefield Co-op car park, where a boy was knocked to the ground by a hooded youth and cash was taken.
- Another house burglary, this time in Beacon Avenue, together with further sightings of suspicious persons in the area between 2 and 3am on Friday and Saturday nights.

Following this increase in offences, the local police initiated extra patrols at relevant times and locations and I'm pleased to report that there have been no similar incidents in the last week or so.

We have also seen reported, various incidents involving white transit van vehicles approaching young girls in the street during daylight hours. One report stated the white van had a yellow stripe down the side. Please report any suspicious sightings of such vehicles to the police on telephone number 101 with, if possible, registration number and description of occupants.

### Active Travel Survey

As you will have seen on the front page, the Active Travel Survey results are now available. All of the concerns highlighted regarding road safety, speeding and parking are regularly voiced at NHW meetings and we hope that some action will be forthcoming.

At NHW we intend to use these results to back up our request for funding to obtain speed indicator signage for Sedgefield, in an effort to make our town safer for all users.

### Online Safety

A reminder to keep safe when online and watch out for bogus sites and scam messages etc. Remember the "Take Five" message to think before you act. A good reference site is [getsafeonline.org/trust/](http://getsafeonline.org/trust/) which gives a useful guide to online safety and what to look out for when using the internet.

Please remember to keep reporting those suspicious incidents or vehicles to the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency and if you need advice on any of the above issues, please come along to our next meeting at Ceddesfeld Hall at 7:30pm on Thursday 9 November. We will make you most welcome.

## Feeding Families this Christmas

Feeding Families is a North East charity helping families who struggle to make ends meet and this year is particularly challenging as requests for support have increased by 102% over last year.

We are holding a Christmas collection between Monday 27 November and Saturday 2 December, and we would be grateful if you could support us with a donation to Feeding Families - the items we would like to receive are shown below and all the donations will go into the emergency food boxes which help those experiencing food insecurity. Even if it's just a bag of pasta or a tin of fruit, it all makes a huge difference!

Donations can be taken from Monday 27 November to Mango Dental Technologies, Sedgefield Library, Sedgefield Town Council offices, The Lost Robot or Argos (within Sainsburys, Sedgefield). There will also be a collection point on the Winterton Estate at 9 Turnpike Walk between 4pm and 8pm. On Saturday 2 December all donations will be taken to a central location (details will be advertised locally nearer the time), where they will be sorted ready for packing. Volunteers to support this would be appreciated.

The generosity of individuals and groups within Sedgefield and the surrounding areas to Feeding Families last Christmas was phenomenal – the largest collection the charity had ever seen and hopefully, you are able to support us this year too. If you would like to arrange a collection in your street, estate, workplace, or between a group of friends please let me know ([helen@feedingfamilies.org.uk](mailto:helen@feedingfamilies.org.uk)) and I can arrange to drop off some flyers and collection boxes.

Helen Letts



## October update



Another full house heard Geoff Hughes talk "10 of the Best Places to visit in County Durham". While there were no surprises in his choice, Geoff did tell us some little known facts and surprising stories about many of the sites, and the photographs were spectacular.

At our Health and Wellbeing meeting, we learnt how research from the world's largest in-depth nutritional study is highlighting how the bacteria, viruses, fungi and protozoa that live in our gut (all 38 trillion of them) influence our health, our immune system and our mood. This commune of bugs is termed the "microbiome" and we discussed the best diet and optimum eating times to foster a healthier gut in a relatively short time. And red wine is allowed, white wine not so much. . .

Our Homes and Gardens group visited Thorpe Perrow this month and marvelled at the wonderful display of the autumnal turning leaves. Thorpe Perrow majors on Acers at this time of year and many of the colours are sensational. If you're in charge of children or grandchildren over half-term, it's a great place to visit to tackle the Halloween Trail through the plantations and admire the landscape, too.



Dave Dean's November talk is "Beyond the Chequered Band". I wonder what that's about? Do join us at 2pm on Friday 3 November in the Parish Hall to find out.

On Friday 10 November from 10am in the Parish Hall, we will be hosting a Coffee Morning. There will be a display showcasing many of our Interest Groups, a raffle and our delicious cakes to enjoy with your tea or coffee. Do come along if you would like to find out more about our organisation. We'd be delighted to sit down and have a chat!

 **CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX**  
**FOOD COLLECTION CHECK LIST**

<input type="checkbox"/> PASTA	<input type="checkbox"/> SAVOURY SNACKS/CRISPS/
<input type="checkbox"/> PASTA SAUCE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOMBAY MIX/ PRETZELS
<input type="checkbox"/> GRAVY	<input type="checkbox"/> CAKE
<input type="checkbox"/> TINNED VEGETABLES	<input type="checkbox"/> MINCE PIES
<input type="checkbox"/> TINNED POTATOES	<input type="checkbox"/> SWEETS
<input type="checkbox"/> TIN/PACKET OF SOUP	<input type="checkbox"/> CHOCOLATE
<input type="checkbox"/> PART BAKED BREAD	<input type="checkbox"/> DRIED FRUIT
<input type="checkbox"/> JAM/MARMALADE/	<input type="checkbox"/> TINNED FRUIT
<input type="checkbox"/> CHOCOLATE SPREAD	<input type="checkbox"/> PICKLED ONIONS/TINNED
<input type="checkbox"/> MILK (UHT)	<input type="checkbox"/> OLIVES
<input type="checkbox"/> CHEESE SPREAD (UHT)	<input type="checkbox"/> NUTS
<input type="checkbox"/> BISCUITS	<input type="checkbox"/> TOILETRIES - SHOWER
<input type="checkbox"/> TEA/COFFEE/HOT	<input type="checkbox"/> GEL/SOAP/SHAMPOO
<input type="checkbox"/> CHOCOLATE	<input type="checkbox"/> SAVOURY CREAM CRACKERS
<input type="checkbox"/> CHUTNEY/PICKLE	

**ALL DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED!**  
[info@feedingfamilies.org.uk](mailto:info@feedingfamilies.org.uk)

## ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

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

### Sedgefield Players' Festival Success

September saw the 45th One Act Drama Festival which was held over four nights. We had two visiting groups from Scarborough and Richmond and the event was adjudicated by Chris Baglin from GODA. Sedgefield won Best Production for their performance of 'Education, Education, Education' which also garnered Best Director for Tom Guest, the Ensemble Award and Best Supporting Actress for Meg Edgoose-Clubley.

Players' Chairman, Viv Jacobs said, 'It's been a wonderful four days of acting and it's been great to see so many in the audience each night'. Some of our older SPYS have also been on stage with a showcase of their wonderful acting and dancing. Put through their paces by Lucy Atkinson and Kelsey White, this group of performers played to an audience of family members performing excerpts from Shakespeare, Anne of Green Gables, The Woman in Black and The Cursed Child. Plus group singing and dancing and some fantastic solos, they were all amazing.

Next up is of course the annual pantomime in the Parish Hall, Sedgefield from 27 to 30 December. This year, they will be performing Snow White and Rose Red written by Tom Guest, who also plays Dame Dolly. This has all the usual slapstick, songs, booing and audience participation. Tickets are £8.50 from [sedgefieldplayers.co.uk](http://sedgefieldplayers.co.uk), [ticketsource.uk](http://ticketsource.uk) and Tickety-Boo.

*Sedgefield Players*



### Three Choirs' Concert



Lirica are pictured here, poised to perform at their annual concert in Ceddesfeld on 7 October. What a performance! Beautiful blending and great dynamic control created an overall gorgeous sound, making this the best I think I have ever heard them. An impressive range of styles including Disney, gospel, religious, soul, classical, rock and folk added to the enjoyment, whilst lyrics in Russian and Latin as well as English confirmed how diverse and talented this group really are. A thoroughly fabulous evening of musical entertainment! Thank you and well done!

With diaries beginning to fill for the busy Christmas period, remember to save the dates of Friday 8 and Saturday 9 December for your Three Choirs' Winter Concert, 2023. With Lirica, SLYC and The Lyric Singers sounding better than ever before, these promise to be delightful musical evenings with something seasonal and festive for everyone. So pencil in an evening in the Parish Hall, Sedgefield starting at 7:30pm. Look out for further information on tickets and our programme in December's Sedgefield News. Alternatively, visit your choirs on Facebook, via SCA or [Sedgefieldlyricsingers.weebly.com](http://Sedgefieldlyricsingers.weebly.com). Book that date now!

*Sedgefield Lyric Singers*

### Durham Lumiere 2023

This spectacular light show returns in November, bathing Durham's already iconic landmarks in a brand new light. Bishop Auckland will also receive the treatment, with four specially commissioned works in partnership with the Auckland Project.

14 years on from its first appearance *Lumiere* is now a popular biennial fixture that attracts world renowned artists and thousands of visitors from the region and further afield. This year will be the biggest ever. Dates are Thursday 16 to Sunday 19 November from 4:30pm to 11pm each night. The event is free but ticketed; for details visit [lumiere-festival.com](http://lumiere-festival.com).

### More Local Events

#### Pyromusical Firework Spectacular, Bishop Auckland

Not your typical fireworks display, this 25 minute show is the largest in the North East.

4 November, 7pm (arrive earlier and ride shuttle to site), from £12  
[11arches.com/pyromusical-2023](http://11arches.com/pyromusical-2023)

#### Toddler Tales and Trails: Zog, Hardwick Park

Storytelling, trails and crafts in Sedgefield's own deep dark wood.

4 November, 10am and 1pm, £5  
[durham.gov.uk/hardwickevents](http://durham.gov.uk/hardwickevents)

#### A Christmas Carol with Guy Masterson, The Witham, Barnard Castle

Festive theatre with Olivier award winner Guy Masterson

24 November, 7:30pm, £15  
[thewitham.org.uk/event/a-christmas-carol-with-guy-masterson/](http://thewitham.org.uk/event/a-christmas-carol-with-guy-masterson/)



#### Father Christmas in the Park, Hardwick Park

Book your trip to see Santa at Hardwick's yurt.

9, 10, 16 and 17 December, £15  
[durham.gov.uk/hardwickevents](http://durham.gov.uk/hardwickevents)

#### Calendar Girls, Darlington Hippodrome

Hit musical from Gary Barlow and Tim Firth with Sedgefield's Tim Jasper as Assistant Musical Director throughout the UK 2023 Tour.

21 to 25 November, from £18.50  
[darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk/whats-on/Calendar-Girls-The-Musical](http://darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk/whats-on/Calendar-Girls-The-Musical)



## SPORTS UPDATE

Email [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)

As I type this, some very autumnal weather has arrived, perfect for some sports, but less than ideal for others. The months ahead will no doubt present plenty of challenges for grass roots organisers, as they strive to host events – we should always be grateful for the huge amount of work that dedicated volunteers do to give people of all ages and abilities opportunities to participate and compete. It's thanks to them that I can report what follows!

### Athletics

It's hard to keep up with the number of events that members of Sedgefield Harriers have been tackling in recent weeks, so apologies if any particularly notable performances are missed from the following round up! Last month, I reported that Harrier David Bentley won the Sedgefield Serpentine. He followed that up a week later with another victory, this time at the popular Coxhoe Trail Race. The event follows an undulating route of around 10km over old railway lines and quarry paths between Coxhoe and Kelloe, and David crossed the finishing line in 35:58.

As always, numerous Sedgefield vests could be spotted at the various events over the Kielder Marathon weekend, including the one worn by Peter Milburn in the 10km race, who won his V60 age category (and was 24th overall) in an impressive time of 44:09. A week later, the club was also well represented at the Run For All Yorkshire Marathon weekend. First across the line in the full marathon was Justin Cox in 3:00:13, followed by Colin Gandy in 3:03:35 (lowering the personal best that he set in Edinburgh in May) and then Harriers chair Jane Spink in a huge personal best of 3:11:23. Jane now holds the club's women's records for 10km, half marathon and marathon, all set this year. There were several other impressive performances by Harriers in the marathon, by Lisa Darby, Ray Carmichael, Mark Chapman (his first official marathon), Gary Thwaites, Kathryn Forster, Gary Forster and Elaine Noakes. Harriers have also been heading much further afield to compete. Cat Miller took on and completed the challenge of the Berlin Marathon (one of the six World Marathon Majors). Meanwhile, sprinter Frances Barlow was the latest Harrier to represent Great Britain at an event, in this case the Masters European Championships in Pescara, Italy.

Masters athletics is a competition for anyone over the age of 35, with age categories in five-year bands. There is action in all disciplines - hurdles, decathlon, steeplechase, sprints, jumps, middle distance, the longer 5km and 10km, and up to marathon. Competition is fierce and often includes participants who were former elite professionals. Frances was running in the 100m and 200m events. She achieved a season's best time in the 100m and just outside that in the 200m. You can read more detailed accounts from Frances and Cat on the club website - [sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/category/race-rundowns](http://sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/category/race-rundowns).

The local, national and international adventures of senior Sedgefield Harriers act as an inspiration to the juniors, especially as many of the athletes are involved in the club's coaching set up and share their experiences with others. The junior section of the club was hit hard during the pandemic – without its own facilities, the club had nowhere suitable or safe to hold training. However, there is now a resurgence in junior membership, and Sedgefield Harriers is about to restart its once thriving 'Minis' section for children in school years 1, 2 and 3. Places are limited, so the club is initially offering them through the current membership. However, if the parents or guardians of other children want to register an interest, they can contact the Harriers via the website at [sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/contacts](http://sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/contacts).

### Duathlon

Sedgefield was well represented in the gravel duathlon event during the Kielder Marathon weekend in early October. The race consisted of a 10km run, followed by 34km cycle leg, and then a 6.4km run to the finish, all on trails around Kielder Water. In the individual event, Chris Dobson completed the distance in three hours, one minute and 11 seconds. He was 41st overall and won the V60 age category. Steve Foreman was a few minutes behind Chris in 3:08:06, followed by Ray Carmichael (3:11:17). In the team race, the Sedgefield Specials (first leg Chris Lines, followed by Ian Dunn and Roger Whitehill) claimed second place overall in 2:31:46.



Frances Barlow (far right) in the 100m race at the Masters European Championships



## Squash



With the 2023/24 squash season well underway, players of all ages and abilities are enjoying plenty of court time at Sedgefield Squash Club. The new junior membership and coaching package has had a very positive uptake, and the club is now in a good rhythm with the Saturday morning, and Wednesday and Thursday evening, sessions. There is still capacity if anyone is interested in joining the scheme. The website - [sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk](http://sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk) - provides details on the strategy, along with contact details. On the back of the internal building being completely repainted, the two courts are shortly to undergo some essential maintenance and refurbishment work. This will entail replastering both front walls, re-lining, sanding floors, and installing a new glass door on Court 2. This will be carried out during the week commencing 30 October. Once this is completed, the club is going to invest some money in improving the public pathway near to the club building to the same standard as at the top of the pathway from Ceddesfeld Hall. If you are interested in playing squash, or helping out as a volunteer, please contact [info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk).

## Cycling



The 2023 road cycling season has come to an end and it has been another successful year for Ben Hetherington. Ben is a well-established name on the national – and now international - para-cycling circuit and has once again improved his performances.

In the para road race championships in Colchester, Ben was third in his C3 category and then in the Thrupton para time trial championships, he claimed second place. Most recently, Ben finished the season in style on home soil at Croft. In the road closed circuit time trial 10 mile championships, he was joint first in a factored time of 20:49, meaning that he is a para-cycling national champion! While at the event at Croft, Ben also caught up with representatives from the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS). As he has said before, if it wasn't for GNAAS, Ben wouldn't be alive today, let alone competing as an elite para-cyclist. Congratulations to Ben for a great season.

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

## CEDDSFELD HALL

### Sedgefield Community Association

September and October have been busy at Ceddesfeld Hall, with the return (for the second year) of the very popular German Bierfest, as well as an entertaining quiz night, and a super concert from local singing group Lirica. Thank you to all the organisers and volunteers who worked to make the events so enjoyable. All the evenings were very well supported.

The hall is increasingly busy and lively with private bookings, as well as various community and interest group meetings and activities. All listing and activities can be found on the SCA website, and new groups are most welcome. See the Diary page for November events.

#### Future dates for your Diary – Follow SCA Facebook page for updates!

Saturday 2 December, STC Christmas Crafts Fayre, 1pm to 4pm. Bar open from 1pm to 7pm.

Sunday 3 December, Christmas Wreath Workshop, 10am to 1pm, £35 with all materials provided. Contact 07523 398922 to book a place.

Friday 22 December, Mulled wine following the Churches Together 'Carols on the Green', 7pm in the bar & lounge.

Friday 22 December, Christmas Kanika Pila with Sedgefield Smile Time Ukulele Band – 7pm - More details to follow.

Sunday 24 December, Christmas Eve Quiz, 8pm.

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

## Mayor's Corner

Another month is upon us and already I'm halfway through my second year as Mayor.

I'm appealing for bottles (wines, spirits, sherry or beer) for the bottle stall at the Mayor's Ball. I'm also looking for unwanted gifts which are new and unopened, such as sweets, toiletries, scarves and fancy goods; anything I can use as raffle prizes.

I also have lots of events coming up to keep you entertained, at the same time as fundraising for my charities. See the Diary page for November events.

Thursday 7 December, Mayor's Carol Service in St Edmund's Church, 7pm.

Friday 8 December, Mayor's Christmas Coffee Morning featuring Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School Choir, Parish Hall. 10am - 11:30am. £2 incl. coffee and cake.

Sunday 31 December, Mayor's New Year's Eve Dance with Mamma Said and a bagpiper in the Parish Hall. Bring your own food. Cash bar.

Saturday 3 February, Race Night in the Parish Hall at 7:30pm Tickets £12.50 with pie and peas. Cash bar.

Friday 1 March, Mayor's Ball at Hardwick Hall with Travellin' Band and table magician Tom Bolton. Tickets £35.

Friday 22 March, Mayor's 60s night with Moondogs in Parish Hall at 7:30pm. Tickets £12. Bring your own food. Cash bar.

Thursday 11 April, Fashion Show and Craft Fair in Parish Hall at 7:30pm.

That's all for now. Take care and stay safe.

David Jasper

## Christmas Tree Festival returns

The enterprising members of Sedgefield's St Edmund's Church have been hard at work planning the fourth Christmas tree festival for the town. "We are delighted that over 30 groups have responded so positively to the theme of 'Christmas Around The World'" said Michael King, one of the band of organisers.

The festival will be opened on Saturday 2 December at 10am by former ITV News presenter, Pam Royle, and Gold medal Paralympic rugby player, Jack Smith MBE. The festival will be open daily 11am to 4pm until Sunday 10 December, after the morning service.

On Sunday 3 December there will be an afternoon concert by Alex Ord 2pm to 2:45pm followed by the Sedgefield Ukulele Group. 3:15pm to 4:15pm.

On Tuesday 5 December at 7:30pm, there will be a concert by Ferryhill Town Band, which is always a hugely popular event.

Further information, including tickets for the concert, can be obtained at "From Loft to Loved", The Square, Sedgefield or by contacting Brian on 01740 622302 or Brenda on 01740 620758.

Flashback: The image right shows former TV presenter Pam Royle and her daughter, Pip, with organising team member Julia Rowsby.



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## DIARY & EVENTS

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

### November 2023

- Wednesday 1** **Sedgefield's Women's Institute**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm. A talk by La Chocolatrice of Coxhoe. Member's competition is "Four pieces of chocolate brownie". Visitors are always welcome, £4.
- Friday 3** **Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Beyond the Chequered Band, a talk by Dave Dean. Visitors welcome, £3.
- Saturday 4** **Friendly Fixers - Repair Cafe**, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm.
- Sunday 5** **Annual Memorial Service**, St. Edmund's Church, 4pm. An opportunity for those who have lost loved ones, particularly in the last year, to give thanks for their lives and to remember them in prayer.  
**Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8am to 12:15pm. See page 3 for more information.
- Monday 6** **The Inner Wheel**, Flower Demonstration, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 1:30pm to 4:30pm. See poster below.  
**Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. Sedgefield Dig by David Mason.
- Tuesday 7** **Open Mic Night**, Mordon Village Hall, 7:30pm. £3 per person.
- Thursday 9** **Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm.
- Friday 10** **Sedgefield and District U3A**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am. Homemade cakes, scones and raffle. Come along and discover what your local U3A has to offer.
- Sunday 12** **Remembrance Day**, a short ceremony to be held by the flagpole on Mordon Green, 11am.
- Monday 13** **DIDO**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 1pm to 3:30pm. Remembrance with 40s singer Yvonne. Quiz, raffle and maybe bingo, if there's time. Come in your best 40s outfit. Call 07597 116847.
- Tuesday 14** **Mayor's Afternoon Extravaganza**, afternoon tea, live band Top Dollar, and a ride around Sedgefield on a vintage bus. Tickets £15 from Sedgefield Town Council Offices on weekday mornings.
- Saturday 18** **Sedgefield Games Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, anytime from 6pm. Come along and play a variety of board games. £2.50.
- Tuesday 21** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Open Night, "Deck the Halls" flower demonstration by Val Guest and cookery demonstration by Liz Tewnion. Members £5, non-members £8. All welcome.  
**Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and their carers.
- Friday 24** **Sedgefield Village Veterans**, coffee morning with carol singers from Sedgefield Hardwick School Choir, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.
- Saturday 25** **Sedgefield in Bloom**, music by Mama Said, pie and peas plus quiz and raffle. Tickets £12.50 from Sedgefield Town Council Offices on weekday mornings.

### Christmas tree collection

Sedgefield in Bloom will be doing our annual Christmas Tree collection on Saturday 6 January 2024 for a cost of only £5 per tree. This year, all trees will be chipped on site, free of charge, by AW Treecare, and used on areas around the town. More details to follow next month.



### Pantomime time

This year, the Sedgefield Players' pantomime will be Snow White and Rose Red. For more details, see page 6.

### SEDGEFIELD LIBRARY

Tel: 0300 026 9521  
Wednesday 9:30 to 12:30  
Thursday 10:00 to 18:00  
Friday 13:00 to 19:00  
Saturday 9:30 to 12:30

**Little Movers** every Thursday from 10am, places need 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

Every Thursday 2pm-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.

The Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield  
invite you to a

FLOWER DEMONSTRATION

by Val Guest

Area Demonstrator for NAFAS  
Twinkle, twinkle - it's almost Christmas!

followed by a  
Full Afternoon Tea  
of Savouries & Delicious Goodies

Monday 6th November  
1.30 - 4.30  
Sedgefield Parish Hall

Tickets £18 available from  
Ann Carr 01740 629070  
Mavis Wayman 01740 620337

proceeds to  
Parkinson Disease & Prostate Cancer