

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

October 2023 edition

Deadline for November: Saturday 14 October

Dragon Slayer

A member of Sedgfield Harriers has completed an event that is billed as the 'world's toughest mountain race'.



A treacherous descent for Gary Thwaites at the 2023 Montane Dragon's Back Race
© No Limits Photography

On Monday 4 September, Gary Thwaites toed the line at the start of the Montane Dragon's Back Race, a six-day, 380km race along the mountainous spine of Wales. Starting in Conwy Castle, participants had to try and complete an ultra-marathon on six consecutive days, including a total of 17,400m of climbing (twice the height of Everest), and finishing in Cardiff Castle. On the way, they went to the summits of many iconic mountains, including Tryfan, Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon), Cnicht, the Rhinogydd, Cadair Idris, the Black Mountain, and the peaks of the Brecon Beacons. Every day, runners in the Dragon's Back Race had to cover an average of over 60km and reach checkpoints before a scheduled time or they were cut out of the event, all while carrying a list of mandatory kit, water and food as they move. There is always a high rate of attrition and this year, the hot weather throughout the week had a big impact. Of the 298 runners from 25 nations who started the event, only 87 completed it. Gary not only achieved that, but also finished 16th overall and was first in the V50 age category. Over the six days, he was running for a total of 66 hours, 54 minutes and 20 seconds. Gary can now claim to be a 'Dragon Slayer'. It's a remarkable achievement for anyone to complete the race. Congratulations to Gary. Gary is a founder and presenter of the Tea & Trails podcast, which you can find out more about at teaandtrails.com. And you can find a lot of content about his week at the Dragon's Back Race in the [Tea & Trails Facebook group](#).



Gary Thwaites reacts after completing the 2023 Montane Dragon's Back Race
© Chris Lines

Play the game

There was a great response to last month's information on activities at u3a, in Ceddesfeld Hall and the Bridge Club. If they didn't appeal to you then what about Sedgfield Games Club?



Sarah Farrow reports: "The first meeting of Sedgfield Games Club was a resounding success, with a good variety of games; we started with Monster Fluxx as a group, then split off into smaller tables. Some of the games we played were Lords of Waterdeep, Nemesis, Isle of Cats and Dungeon Mayhem."

Join us for an evening of gaming in Sedgfield Parish Hall, arrive any time, we'll be there and setting up from 6pm. Bring any specific games you'd like to play. It's £2.50 to cover the room hire, please bring cash as there are no card facilities. The next meeting will be 13 October in the Parish Hall. See [Facebook Sedgfield Games Club](#) for more information.

27th OCTOBER

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL
FIREWORKS DISPLAY
CEDDESFELD HALL GROUNDS
FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2023
DISPLAY 6:30PM • ADMISSION 5:45-6:20PM
TICKETS (CASH ONLY) £3 ADULTS • £2 U16s

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE (9AM-12PM WEEKDAYS) & CEDDESFELD HALL • ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY
TICKETS NON-REFUNDABLE UNLESS EVENT CANCELLED

JOIN SEDGEFIELD PLOUGHERS IN THE GROUNDS OF CEDDESFELD HALL FOR A LITTER PICK IN THE DAYLIGHT ON THE MORNING AFTER THE DISPLAY! GLOVES/BAGS/GRABBERS WILL BE PROVIDED.
EVERYONE WILL BE WELCOME! SATURDAY 28th OCTOBER 10:30-11:15AM

@SEDGEFIELDTC 01740 621 273 WWW.SEDGEFIELDTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK

Community College update

During the summer we were delighted to celebrate the fantastic results that our Y11 students achieved in their final exams. This is a group of young people who have faced lots of challenges during their time in secondary school and they have overcome all of these wonderfully. Well done to all of the students in our class of 22/23 and good luck for the future. We know you will achieve great success and we're so proud of you all!

Of course, these tremendous exam results have only been possible due to the commitment and expertise of our fantastic staff and governing body, alongside the unwavering support of parents and carers. As a school, we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you once again to our wider community who help to make SCC such a special place.

Looking back to the final week of the last school year, it was wonderful to welcome families and members of the local community into school to see our first major school production in many years. The performances of 'Matilda Jr' were very well attended and our students demonstrated that they are incredibly talented. We look forward to the school production becoming an annual event and sharing more details about the 23/24 production later this year.



'Matilda Jr' had two rotating casts that shared the four public performances between them.

Back to school

And just like that a new school year is upon us! The children have returned with renewed enthusiasm and determination as they settle in to another jam-packed and fun-filled year. From seeing friends to exploring everything that's new around school, pupils from the youngest to oldest have been excited to get back through the doors of Sedgefield Hardwick. All of the new sports equipment and areas outside the school, from the beach to the freshly repaired trim trail (courtesy of our fantastic PTA), have certainly put smiles on lots of faces. During our recent 'Party in the Playground' event, parents got to see the new improvements we have made to our outdoor provision and how thrilled the children are with the plethora of options they have during break times. Many parents commented on the fantastic enhancements that have been made and some were jealous that they weren't available when they went to primary school!



Aiming high

Once again the holidays have flown by and the start of our new term at Sedgefield Primary has been incredible busy already. Staff are delighted to welcome their new classes and can't believe how well they have all settled in. Our new EYFS pupils are an absolute delight to teach!



Our pupils' exemplary behaviour has been demonstrated by how amazingly well they have adapted to school life this term. Green Cards have been given out in abundance. Pupils continue to show their advanced skills in Resilience, Reciprocity, Resourcefulness and Reflectiveness.

We all look forward to a successful year where we aim to learn and achieve our best together. The success of our amazing and 'family feel' school team was outlined in our excellent Ofsted report last summer term. Well done to our whole school community for supporting our pupils' continued success. We look forward to adding to our achievements throughout the year. In fact, what better way to start the academic year than with our annual collaborative, 'Back to School Carnival' in September, organised by our highly effective and supportive PTFA. Once again a great team approach all round, Sedgefield Primary School; a round of applause all round!



SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS



**Sunday 1 October
on the Village Green
8:00am - 12:15pm**



We are delighted to welcome back Mellanby's veg stall to the October Market, unfortunately their return was delayed by a month due to the poor growing conditions over the summer but we're sure all their regular customers will be delighted that are back. We will have all our regular traders and a community stall will be present so do come along and support your local Market.

WOODLAND & WILDLIFE



Bat Walk

We had a wonderful evening detecting our resident bats last month. The group detected four common pipistrelles across the site. Steve kindly brought along a specimen of a brown long-eared bat for us to see, it was fascinating to see such a tiny mammal up close.

Thank you to everyone who has made suggestions for an official name for the Woodland & Wildlife area, a group of interested parties will be getting together to make a decision soon. We've had some excellent names and it's been interesting reading the reasons behind those suggestions.

If you would like to know more about the project or volunteer with us, please contact Melissa – woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or join our Facebook page - [Woodland & Wildlife - Sedgefield](#).

SEDGEFIELDNEWS

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

Can you help us to co-ordinate delivery of the News?

We are seeking help in the following areas:

- 1 Keeping our delivery rounds and volunteer lists up to date.
- 2 Coordinating the distribution of delivery parcels to the delivery volunteers.
- 3 Delivering the News when our regular volunteers are on holiday or otherwise unable to complete their delivery.

If you can help with any of these flexible volunteering opportunities, please get in touch:

news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.



Welcome to our new helpers and students, and welcome back to those who've worked with us before. Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have matched students with helpers - if not, we will be busy doing so! There's room for more - we always try to accommodate everyone who asks or offers - so please do get in touch!

homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.



*Brown long-eared bat
By Fourrure from France, CC BY-SA 2.0*

Friendly Fixers



We had a fantastic session in September with 24 items brought in for repair- most of which were fixed! This included a transformation of an old gazebo into a bike cover, a Bluetooth record player, wobbly chairs, and a couple of keyboards. Obviously there was at least one obligatory strimmer and a couple of vacuum cleaners - it wouldn't be a repair cafe without them!

Thanks to all who came along, and to the hard working fixers.



Energy Switch reminder

If you would like to be included in the latest Energy Switching Auction you will need to submit your registration details no later than 2 October. People who did not switch in the June Auction should have received either an email if you normally register online or a letter if you prefer paper bills with instructions on how to register for the October auction. If you haven't participated before then you can register at bigcommunityswitch.co.uk/sedgefield-development-trust.

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



Sedgefield Development Trust Contact Details

3a Front Street, Sedgefield, Co. Durham, TS21 3AT Telephone 07572 502904
email: secretary@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk website: www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Sedgefield Memory Café

The chair of Durham County Council has highlighted and praised the work of a local community group that supports people living with dementia. Cllr Joan Nicholson attended Sedgefield Memory Café to meet with clients and volunteers, and with local county councillors David Brown and Chris Lines. Cllr Nicholson had been invited by the team that runs the café after they learned that she is fundraising for the Alzheimer's Society during her civic year.

Sedgefield Memory Café is held every month in Sedgefield Methodist Church Hall and is open to residents living with dementia and their carers. There are over 100 different types of dementia, one of which is Alzheimer's. The café is run by volunteers from the community, led by Dorothy Anderson and Carol Briggs. Each month, the team puts on different activities for clients, and also organises day trips during the year.

During her visit, Cllr Nicholson and her consort Mr Rob Nicholson were welcomed by Carol, who introduced them to the rest of the team and some of the regular attendees. Along with Cllrs Brown and Lines, Cllr Nicholson took part in the morning's activities and discussed future plans for the café with the volunteers.

Cllr Joan Nicholson comments: "It was a privilege to meet everyone at Sedgefield Memory Café. Community initiatives like this play an absolutely vital role in dealing with the day to day impact of dementia. They offer amazing local support and it was clear that everyone who visits the café values that hugely. This is so important alongside the wider work that the Alzheimer's Society does to offer support to those living with dementia, and also fund medical research into life-changing treatments."

Carol Briggs adds: "Joan got really involved in the morning and spent a lot of time chatting to our clients. I enjoyed talking with her about the work that she is doing to support the Alzheimer's Society, and give her an insight into how we make a difference here in Sedgefield. Hopefully Cllr Nicholson's visit will raise awareness of our café, help with our fundraising, and encourage those who are living with dementia to join us each time we open."

To find out more about Sedgefield Memory Café, contact Dorothy on 07773 286743 or Carol on 07843 982071.

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY OCTOBER 2023

October is quite often seen as a changeover month when the last of the migrant birds like Swallows and House Martins are on the way south and winter visitors such as Redwing, Fieldfare and various wildfowl and waders arrive from the north. If it is sunny, you may still see the last of the butterflies, Red Admiral and Comma feeding on windfall apples. Talking of butterflies, you may remember in the August nature notes I mentioned the Big Butterfly Count. As I write this article, Butterfly Conservation have just announced the results. I hope you joined the other 95,000 citizen scientists who took part conducting 136,719 15-minute counts in gardens, parks, school grounds and the countryside. Overall, participants of the Big Butterfly Count enjoyed seeing more butterflies this year than in the previous four summers. Did you? I am not sure I did! In total, over 1.5 million butterflies and day-flying moths were recorded from 14 July - 6 August. After an all-time low in 2022 of just nine individual butterflies spotted per count, this year saw an increase to 12 butterflies recorded on average per count.

However, this good news is in contrast with what the long-term trends are revealing. Released for the first time this year, these show that since the Big Butterfly Count started 13 years ago, many species numbers have significantly decreased.

It is a further warning sign that nature everywhere is in crisis – butterflies, as well as forming a vital part of the food chain, are considered significant indicators of the health of the environment.

Butterfly Conservation think that the mixed weather this year helped because there has been an abundance of green food plants available for caterpillars, and plenty of nectar-rich flowers for adult butterflies. However, while the number of butterflies recorded this summer has been the highest since 2019, the longer-term trends show worrying declines for some of the UK's most common butterfly species. The most-seen species this year was the Red Admiral, with 248,077 recorded - an increase of 338% on last year's count and the first time the species, which is increasing in the UK as a result of climate change, has taken the top-spot. Species that saw a decline from last year include Ringlet, Common Blue and Speckled Wood, all of which also show long-term declines.

Dr Richard Fox, Head of Science at Butterfly Conservation, said: "One of the biggest threats butterflies in the UK face is habitat loss. While the weather certainly has an impact on numbers from year to year, butterflies, moths and many other species can generally cope with variable weather. What they can't cope with is habitat destruction. Butterflies need a place to live. If they can feed, breed and shelter, they can thrive. By creating a Wild Space in your outdoor area, you can help to reverse the massive losses of wildlife-friendly habitat and start to turn around the fortunes of our declining butterflies."

If you visit Butterfly Conservation website ([butterfly-conservation.org](https://www.butterfly-conservation.org)), they have lots of ideas how you can improve your garden for wildlife especially butterflies.



Common Blue by Peter Withers



Cllr Joan Nicholson talks with clients attending Sedgefield Memory Cafe

SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NHW Coffee Morning

On Friday 1 September we held a very successful NHW coffee morning in Sedgfield Parish Hall. A huge thank you to all our members and friends who helped put on this event, providing lots of delicious cakes, scones and other yummy treats and donating numerous raffle prizes. Those attending included our mayor, Councillor Dave Jasper, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen, Sedgfield police officer P.C. Stephen Ward and both county and town councillors. A packed gathering listened with interest to a brief talk from Joy Allen, regarding local policing issues and how the proportion of our council tax, the police precept, goes towards increasing the funding available for local police staffing and equipment. A show of hands resulted in a majority of those present showing they were in favour of an increase in the precept, if it were to be proposed in the future, should it lead to more uniforms on the street in our area. The funds raised at the coffee morning will be used to purchase more safety and security equipment and to spread the word of how your Neighbourhood Watch helps to keep Sedgfield safe.

Street Cams

Another issue raised at the coffee morning was the possibility of obtaining funding, and the relevant permissions and support, to provide street cameras for Sedgfield. These are moveable cameras which can be placed on lamp posts wherever there is perceived to be a problem with antisocial behaviour or other issues in the area. The footage obtained may then be used to evidence an issue with local police or the council, thereby helping to alleviate the problem. This type of device has been used very successfully in the Newton Aycliffe area and could be used here to boost our current CCTV coverage.

Local Burglary

A recent night-time burglary in the Orchard area of Sedgfield is an unwanted but timely reminder to check up on our property security measures.

1. Ensure doors and windows are locked and secure.
2. Check that valuables are not visible from the street.
3. Install a "Dawn till Dusk" light, PIR light or a light timer linked to a small interior lamp.
4. Check security of sheds, garages and gates.

If you see or hear suspicious activity around your property, report it to the police immediately.

Sedgfield Teenagers Shelter

This shelter, located in front of our local council offices, continues to raise concerns, in the form of antisocial behaviour and litter issues. After numerous mentions on local social media platforms, this matter is well known to our local council and I am assured that measures are under consideration to resolve the problems.

Next NHW Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 12 October at 7:30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. As usual we will have our comprehensive range of safety and security equipment to view or purchase and advice will be given on these items. We hope again to have a police input and local council representatives present, so come along and have a chat and make your views known.

Please keep reporting any incidents of antisocial behaviour, suspicious activity/persons, criminal damage, etc. to the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency, or report any criminal activity anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. Please don't be afraid to report recurring incidents. If it happens every day, report it every day. The more reports they receive, the more police we will see on our streets.

Purple Pinkie

What is a Purple Pinkie? When immunising literally millions of children against polio in a single day across an entire country the only way you can possibly identify which children have received their vaccine is by painting the end of their little finger on their left hand with purple dye - hence Purple Pinkie.

Sedgfield in Bloom are delighted to be working in conjunction with Sedgfield Rotary Club and the Purple Pinkie campaign this autumn. The Bloom group will receive 4,000 purple crocus bulbs in October and we would love to share these with you. We are holding an event on Saturday 28 October where residents of Sedgfield can come along and collect 100 corms to be planted at a place of their choice in the town. The crocus corm variety this year is *Crocus tommasinianus* - Ruby Giant (deep purple).

Interested? Come along on Saturday 28 October at 10am outside St Edmund's Church - we look forward to seeing you.



u3a update



A full house of almost 80 members and visitors enjoyed an extremely well presented, humorous and informative talk on Raby Castle, the building itself, its custodians over previous centuries and current plans for the redevelopment and improvement of the estate and its grounds. Many of us are looking forward to revisiting the newly designed, replanted and expanded walled garden area next summer and to viewing the castle itself with a more informed eye.

Our October talk will take us further out and about in County Durham, when Geoff Hughes will advise us of his *10 Best Places to Visit*. I wonder how many of his are favourites of ours too! Come along and join in the debate. Friday 6 October, 2-4pm in the Parish Hall.

We know little about our November speaker but *Beyond the Chequered Band* is proving an intriguing title for Dave Dean's talk. We look forward to welcoming you on 3 November.

We hope you've noticed our posters in various venues around the village, but for lots more information, please do visit our website (u3asites.org.uk/sedgfield) or contact any of the committee for a chat.

Christmas Tree Festival volunteers



We are looking for volunteers to help unload and set up the trees in St Edmund's Church on Tuesday 28 November. Any help with stewarding between Saturday 2 and Sunday 10 December would also be greatly appreciated. Please get in touch with festival organiser Brian Mutch at b.mutch@btinternet.com or 01740 622302.

HALLOWEEN HOWLER PUMPKIN COMPETITION

Bring your carved pumpkin along to
Sedgfield Town Council's Annual

Fireworks Display
on Friday 27th October 2023



Entries can be submitted in Ceddesfeld Hall car park between 5:45pm and 6:00pm. No naked flames - LED tealights only.
The Mayor of Sedgfield will select the top 3 winners.
Prizes can be collected from the car park after the fireworks end.



www.sedgfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
@sedgfieldtc

ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

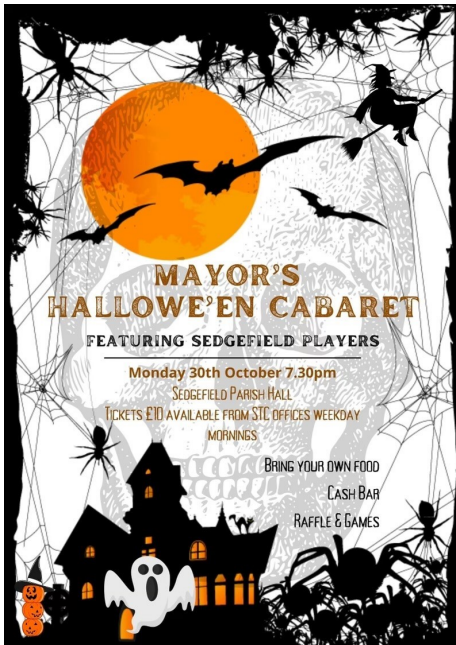
email: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Halloween events

As the summer season of festival fun fades to darkness, damp and drizzle we can again expect a heavenly host of ghouls and ghosts to tempt us out of the house and entertain the kids during half-term week.

Durham City plays host to ghost walks throughout October courtesy of Andrew Ross—AKA The Ghost Whisperer. The 3 mile walking route is a wonderful chance to learn some of the dark secrets of the ancient city and also to keep your steps count high as the weather turns thoroughly discouraging. Visit [facebook.com/andyrossghostwhisperer](https://www.facebook.com/andyrossghostwhisperer) for details. Younger participants might enjoy the Halloween trails on offer at High Force waterfall ([raby.co.uk/events/high-force-halloween-trail](https://www.raby.co.uk/events/high-force-halloween-trail)), at Ushaw Historic House ([ushaw.org/whatson/scaryfairytale](https://www.ushaw.org/whatson/scaryfairytale)) or Raby Castle ([raby.co.uk/events/the-plotters-forest-halloween-trail](https://www.raby.co.uk/events/the-plotters-forest-halloween-trail)). All are suitable for kids of all ages and the Raby and High Force trails run throughout half-term week and the weekend before Halloween.

If the weather frightens you more than the spooks do then there are equally fang-tastic indoor options. None, surely, such fun as the Mayor's Halloween Cabaret on 20 October which will be sprinkled with some stardust in the form of Sedgefield's Players drama group.



Touring theatre also haunts the region during October. 'Do You Believe in Ghosts?' is an experimental original theatre show that visits Middlesbrough Town Hall, Consett & Newcastle this month. Visit doyoubelieveinghosts.com for details, but don't say we didn't warn you..!

Mayor's Charity Dance

Friday the 13th brings thrills & chills of a different kind this October. Join Mayor Dave Jasper on the dancefloor at Sedgefield parish hall for a fun-filled evening in aid of a great cause with entertainment from Sedgefield regulars, the rousing rockers The Cardiac Dodgers. As usual there will be a cash bar, a raffle and games too. Tickets are £12 from the Town Council Office (weekday mornings).



Spit-Spot

A new and exciting participatory performance group has arrived at Ceddesfeld Hall on Sunday mornings!

Its aim is for nursery and reception age children to have fun, learn some singing, acting and dance, while also developing their teamwork, collaboration, confidence and fine motor skills. Tom Guest, of the Sedgefield Players leads the project.

Tom is well-known to our readers, and his background in the performing arts is extensive, having trained at LIPA, worked professionally as an actor and director, and worked at Stockton Riverside College in a HE Course Leader role.

All staff are fully DBS checked and robust safeguarding and Health and Safety policies are in place to ensure total peace of mind for all parents.

The sessions are term time on Sunday mornings from 10am to 11am at Ceddesfeld Hall at a cost of £6 per session. To book onto any session visit [eventbrite.co.uk/e/spit-spot-tickets-669283062657](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spit-spot-tickets-669283062657).

Parents are very welcome either to leave their children or remain for tea/coffee/biscuits and a chat!

More Local Events

Bowie by Candlelight, Durham Cathedral

A tribute to the mercurial frontman and cultural pioneer, in the spectacular setting of Britain's favourite building by candlelight. An unforgettable experience. 6 and 7 October, 7:30pm. From £25. [durhamcathedral.co.uk/events/bowie-by-candlelight](https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/events/bowie-by-candlelight)

Royal Blood, Stockton Globe

Get blown away by the energy of rock's loudest 2-piece band. 22 October, £44 [stocktonglobe.co.uk/shows/royal-blood](https://www.stocktonglobe.co.uk/shows/royal-blood)

Fireworks Extravaganza, Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield

Staged both on Saturday & Sunday, Hardwick's fireworks show comes with a bonfire, fairground rides, street food vans and hot drink stations too.

4 and 5 November, £6 [hardwickhallhotel.co.uk/upcoming-events](https://www.hardwickhallhotel.co.uk/upcoming-events)

Hartlepool Folk Festival, various locations

Two days of mirth, crafts, music, theatre, dancing, and *The Wicker Man*.

6 to 8 October [hartlepoolfolkfest.co.uk](https://www.hartlepoolfolkfest.co.uk)



Calendar Girls, Darlington Hippodrome

Save the date for this hit musical, written by Gary Barlow and Tim Firth, with Sedgefield's own Tim Jasper, who will be Assistant Musical Director throughout UK 2023 Tour. 21 to 25 November, from £18.50. [darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk/whats-on/Calendar-Girls-The-Musical](https://www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk/whats-on/Calendar-Girls-The-Musical)

SPORTS UPDATE

Email chrisjlines@aol.com

There's a lot to report this month, so I'd better get straight into that...

Athletics

As seen on the front page, Gary Thwaites became a 'Dragon Slayer' completing the Dragon's Back Race. Huge congratulations to Gary.

As Gary was making his way home from Wales, numerous Harriers and other folk from Sedgefield were taking part in the annual pilgrimage from Newcastle to South Shields at the Great North Run. While conditions changed dramatically in the afternoon, the majority of those who took part did so in very warm temperatures, with the sun beating down on the roads that they pounded along. There were 33 Harriers in action on the day. First over the line was Chris Lines in 1:29:33, followed by Colin Gandy in 1:30:44 and debutant Sadie Abel was the first female Harrier in 1:37:59. Another making their debut was junior Harrier Rory Letts, who finished in an impressive 1:42:57. Harrier John Tomlinson is one of the small number of people who has completed every single Great North Run, while Ean Parsons has run all but one of the 42 events.

There were also numerous other runners from Sedgefield taking part, including many who were raising money for good causes, while a big group of Harriers were on duty as volunteers, handing out medals to finishers in South Shields. Well done to everyone who took part, or helped out, or was there to offer support – all of you help make the Great North Run such a special occasion.

Cricket

The 2023 cricket season will be remembered as one of the wettest ever, but after the sun shone during the final weeks, Sedgefield Cricket Club can look proudly back at its achievements.

A fourth place finish in Division 1 plus a cup win marked a solid season for the 1st XI, while the 2nd XI consolidated last year's promotion with a top half finish in Division 3. Also finishing high up were the 3rd XI, and the 4th XI (the Winkers) won both their league and awards for contributions to the hospitality industry.

But the season's highlight had to be the Boys' U17 team (again) who during a heady eight days in late August took their season's silverware tally from one to four. The future remains bright at Sedgefield, who have now won the overall league championship Pallister Cup a remarkable three years running.

Individually, William Hampson and Freddie Lower were integral parts of the Durham U16 team which made the national semi-finals, while Jess Weatherspoon also saw her North East Warriors girls' team reach the same stage.

The club remains open all year round and is available to hire for functions. Members enjoy discounted drinks prices and live televised sport in the clubhouse, which is open to all most evenings.



The quadruple winning Sedgefield Cricket Club boys' U17 team

Squash



The 2023/24 squash season is now underway, so it's all systems go at Sedgefield Squash Club.

September marks the conclusion of the Summer Squash Ladder competition, which has again been hugely successful in keeping the courts busy over the summer. A total of 567 matches were played by 43 club members. Prizes will be awarded at the presentation night for the most number of games played, the most points scored, and the highest percentage of wins based on the number of games played.

The club has announced the launch of its new junior membership and coaching packages. The junior committee was disbanded at the end of 2022, and this presented opportunities to review the offer, in the context of the club having an objective to be a Centre of Excellence for squash in County Durham. With that in mind, Sedgefield Squash Club is offering its junior members greater opportunities to play squash on days other than a Saturday, to be able to go into the club whenever they are able, to book court time with their friends, and improve their game and match play, all with a view to them playing as adults in the various leagues and competitions.



Alongside this activity, the club will be running the Squash Stars programmes where kids take part in a six-week introduction package organised by governing body, England Squash. Full details of the days, times and cost of these packages can be found on sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk, together with the strategy document on the way forward for junior players.

Sedgefield has entered teams in the Durham & Cleveland County Leagues due to start at the end of September. The county has restructured the leagues this year, resulting in more matches to be played by each team, so it will be a busy season ahead. The club's internal leagues are also now underway, so there is plenty of action happening on court. If you are interested in playing squash, or just helping out as a volunteer, contact info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.

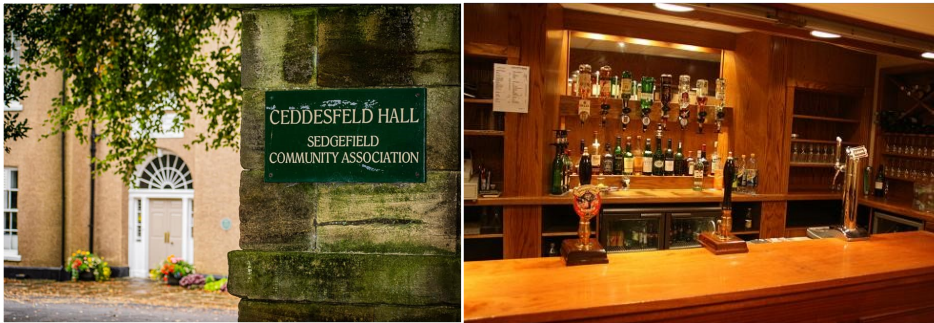
That's all for this month. As always, please send any sports news, to chrisjlines@aol.com.

CEDDESFELD HALL



Sedgefield Community Association

It's been great to welcome back the regular interest and hobby groups to Ceddesfeld Hall following the summer break. The community bar (snug and lounge) is open to everyone, Monday to Friday from 7:30 pm, with a good range of wines, spirits, beers (now including a choice of two real ales) and soft drinks on offer; all very reasonably priced. A pint of beer is £3, a large 250ml glass of wine is £4.50 (175ml £3) and a gin & tonic £3.50. A small, busy bar committee meet regularly to ensure everything runs smoothly, from week to week. Volunteers are always welcome and can help in 3 main ways; by joining the organising committee, by becoming a key holder (who will open and close the bar on weekdays and weekend events) or by serving, alongside the key holder on the bar. Anyone wishing to get involved, please contact Tony on 01740 622185 or email info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk.



Upcoming dates for your Diary – Follow us on Facebook for updates!

'A Musical Evening' with Lirica – Saturday 7 October at 7:30pm. Tickets £6 from Tickety Boo, from Kay on 07885 202642 or from choir members.

Mayor's Quiz – Friday 20 October at 7:30pm. Tickets £10 (to include steak pie & peas) from STC offices.

Fireworks and Halloween Howler – Friday 27 October at 6:30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds. Admission into grounds from 5:45pm to 6:20pm. Adult £3, Under 16 £2 - tickets from STC offices (9am to 1pm) and Ceddesfeld Hall bar (7:30pm to 10:30pm).

Christmas Craft Fayre (as part of STC Snow Party & Parade) – Saturday 2 December, 1pm to 4pm. Community Bar open until 7pm.

Mulled Wine following the Churches Together 'Carols on the Green' – Friday 22 December at 7pm in the bar & lounge.

Christmas Eve Quiz – Sunday 24 December at 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. Follow us [facebook.com/Ceddesfeld](https://www.facebook.com/Ceddesfeld).

Mayor's Corner

As the summer draws to a close, cooler weather heralds the approach of autumn and the daylight hours reduce, I am getting ready for a busy run up to Christmas.

1 October sees my Civic Service in St John Fisher RC Church at 10:45am. Civic leaders from across the North East will descend on Sedgefield to lend me their support and see what a beautiful village we live in. We'll then cross the road for Sunday lunch together at Little Sicily.

13 October sees the welcome return of my good friends, The Cardiac Dodgers. John and Ken will be rolling back the years to the 60s in their inimitable fashion, interspersing the music with their wacky brand of humour. Pie and peas will keep us well fed. There will be a cash bar available.

20 October sees us cross the Green to Ceddesfeld Hall for the Mayor's Annual Quiz. Pie and peas are on the menu once more and the bar will be open.

27 October is the date of the Fireworks and the Halloween Howler competition. Last year's pumpkin entries were superb so I am sure my judging task will be just as difficult this year.

30 October is the date when my good friends in Sedgefield Players put on a spectacular Hallowe'en Cabaret for my charities from 7:30pm. Feel free to dress up in your scariest gear. This will be a 'bring your own food' event with a cash bar.

That's all for now. Stay safe.

David Jasper

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DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

October 2023

- Sunday 1** **Mayor's Civic Service**, St. John Fisher RC Church, 10:45am, followed by a 3 course Sunday lunch in Little Sicily at midday.
- Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am to 12:15pm. See page 3 for more information.
- Monday 2** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. "Of Fish and Actors" by Chris Lloyd, 100 years of Darlington Hippodrome.
- Friday 6** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-12pm.
- Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Ten places to visit in County Durham. A talk by Geoff Hughes. Visitors welcome, £3.
- Saturday 7** **Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, Rhino's Revenge + Hurricane Sunday. See sedgefieldblues.com for details.
- Monday 9** **DIDO World Animal Day**, Parish Hall from 1pm till 3:30pm. Dress in you finest animal print or come dressed as an animal! Bingo, quiz, raffle, refreshments. Brenda 07597 116847.
- Thursday 12** **Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm.
- Friday 13** **Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield Charity Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall. Scones, homemade cakes and small gifts stall. Everyone welcome.
- Mayor's Charity Dance** with Cardiac Dodgers, 7:30pm, Pie and peas, raffle, games, etc.
- Sedgefield Games Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, anytime from 6pm. Come along and play a variety of board games. £2.50
- Saturday 14** **Coffee morning and Christmas card sale**, Mordon Village Hall, 10am-12pm.
- Tuesday 17** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Wendy Smith demonstrates "Rings and Things". No charge for members, £5 non-members.
- Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am -12pm. For those living with dementia and their carers.
- Friday 20** **Sedgefield in Bloom**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am. Come along and join us for home made refreshments and meet your friends.
- Mayor's Annual Quiz**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm. Tickets £10 each including steak pie and peas supper from the Town Council Office.
- Friday 27** **Sedgefield Village Veterans**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.
- Halloween Howler Pumpkin Competition and Fireworks**, Ceddesfeld Hall. Firework display 6:30pm, admission from 5:45pm-6:20pm. Tickets £3 adults, £2 under 16s. Cash only from Sedgefield Town Council Office.
- Saturday 28** **Sedgefield in Bloom**, Purple Pinkie Event, in conjunction with Sedgefield Rotary, Sedgefield Village Green, 10am. See page 5 for details.
- Sedgefield Ploggers**, Ceddesfeld Hall 10:30am-11:15am for a litter pick in daylight after the firework display. Gloves, bags and grabbers provided.
- Monday 30** **Mayor's Halloween Cabaret** with Sedgefield Players, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm Cash bar, bring your own food, raffle, games, etc.

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

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Lego Club
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Digital Drop-In
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Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group
 Methodist Church on Mondays from 9:30am to 11am (except Bank Holidays). Suitable for babies, toddlers and preschool children. Please follow us on Facebook for regular updates.

Making Tracks
 Railway Society Club Night every Wednesday evening from 7:30pm to 10pm in the Kell Room at Ceddesfeld Hall. New members welcome, under 13s to be accompanied by an adult.

Sedgefield Social Club
 Singer every fortnight, see "Sedgefield Social Club Official" Facebook page for details.

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