

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

September 2023 edition

Deadline for October: Thursday 14 September

## September is the new January

September will see the return of many hobby and activity groups in Sedgfield following their summer break.

If you are retired, semi-retired or work part-time, join Sedgfield & District U3A to enjoy monthly meetings with interesting & informative speakers, plus opportunities in our interest groups to share and enhance skills, further knowledge, make new friends, get out and about, and make the most of all that new-found spare time!

Our monthly meetings are held in the Parish Hall from 2-4pm on the first Friday of each month and interest groups are held on a bi-monthly, monthly or ad-hoc basis.



Our new year starts on Friday 1 September when a member from the Raby Estates team will explain the rationale and progress of their redevelopment and restoration project. Good news is that the gardens are scheduled to reopen in Spring 2024!

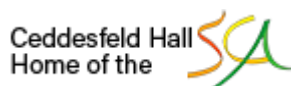
Check out our website, [u3asites.org.uk/sedgfield](http://u3asites.org.uk/sedgfield), for lots more information and contact details for our interest groups:

Bridge; Book Club; Creative Writing Group; Health & Wellbeing Group; Historic Homes & Gardens Visits; Lunch Club; Photography Group; Science, Industry & Technology Visits; Theatre Visits; Wine Appreciation Group.

Please do come along and listen to our monthly Speakers, only £3 for non-members. Enjoy a coffee and a chat with other members, and check out our interest groups for forthcoming meetings and events – you won't regret it! We look forward to meeting you. Contact: Chris on 07854 365453, Sue 01740 620526, or Ray 01740 629276.

You can also find a wide variety of groups returning to Ceddesfeld Hall. See the SCA website in the 'Regular Activities' section ([sedgfieldsc.org.uk](http://sedgfieldsc.org.uk)) for times and contact information. The wide variety of organised activities include:

playing bridge, singing in a community choir, carpet bowls, model railway construction, craft clubs, handbell ringing, playing Northumbrian pipes, folk music, Last Wednesdays music group, concertina playing, art, book group, photography, local history, lip reading class and crafts (Durham Deafened), Pimms and Needles, Weight Watchers, and Pop In, which is a social group for older people.



## Bridge

In Sedgfield, Bridge is not the stuffy, elitist game you might imagine. While serious about learning and playing, we do so in a fun and sociable way.



We are a small group of approximately 12 to 18 people who play twice weekly in a social and supportive setting where we learn new skills and bridge conventions and hopefully, consolidate them through playing – with much discussion and laughter. Sometimes we think we've got the hang of it all - more often, we're aware of how much we have to learn!

After our summer break, the new sessions start again in early September when we will meet in Ceddesfeld Hall at 1.30-4.00pm on Mondays for further tuition and on Tuesdays, from 7.30-10.00pm for more competitive play. It is suggested as an ideal game to maintain and improve memory skills and as we age it is important to do all we can in this regard. We would love to introduce more people to this wonderful game and look forward to welcoming some of you in the near future.

For further information or advice, please contact Chris 07854 365453, Mildred 01740 620115 or Pat 01740 620607.



Come along to our classes and give Bridge a try!

## Community College update

We're looking forward to the start of the new academic year and particularly to welcoming our new Year 7 students to Sedgfield Community College (SCC). During our transition programme in July, it was wonderful to welcome the then Year 6 students into the building and they had a fantastic two days meeting staff and beginning to make new friends. When they join SCC, we look forward to offering our new students lots of exciting opportunities to develop existing interests and discover new interests too!

Looking back to the final weeks of term, there was a real focus on students developing their interest in the creative and performing arts. As well as our fantastic school production of 'Matilda Jr', the art exhibition that took place on 12 July was a brilliant celebration of the many talented artists that we have at our school. Work was on display from students across Years 7 to 11 and it was fantastic to welcome lots of families into school to enjoy the artwork that was on show. One of our school governors, Tom Williams, was in attendance and commented, "I was really impressed by the quality of the work, the thoughtfulness of the creations and the really challenging range of media and styles." Well done to everyone involved and we look forward to some of the work of our new Year 7 students being featured in next summer's exhibition!



## Greek Celebration

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Ancient Greek Day to consolidate their history learning and give a brilliant introduction to summer through their taste buds! A tasting session took place and pupils in Year 3 made Greek dips that they had researched and discussed in Design and Technology.

They had an authentic buffet of olives, feta cheese, olive oil and balsamic dip and honey bread. Dressing in the style of the ancient Greek really set the theme of the day.



## The journey of food

Year 5 pupils at Sedgfield Primary learned about the journey of food in a recent tour of Sainsburys bakery and warehouse. The class interviewed the manager about their commitment to the local area and the environment. They were impressed with the focus on sustainability and the commitment to supporting the environment.



Enjoy the rest of the summer and we look forward to welcoming our students back on Wednesday 6 September.

## Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

We have had another revolutionary summer at Sedgfield Hardwick! Following the transformation of our classrooms and indoor spaces two years ago, attention has now turned to our outdoor areas this year and wow - what an improvement!

We have started on our OPAL journey, which looks to improve outdoor play and learning so that children have an enjoyable experience outside of the classroom throughout the year. The aim is for the play provision to be as high quality as possible to bring joy and happiness to all pupils during their break times. After adding swings, a music wall, new wheels, dressing up garments as well as a variety of new sports equipment, our areas have been developed further to now include a "Michelin star" mud kitchen and a digging area for the archaeologists of the future! We have also brought the seaside to Sedgfield by creating our own beach area! Jessie, a pupil at Sedgfield Hardwick told us that break times have become so much more entertaining as there is now a plethora of options to be enjoyed and there is something for everyone!



Theo commented, "The local store use recycled rainwater to support their plumbing and bio-fuel for energy."

Monty was impressed that nothing went to waste and landfill was always avoided wherever possible. The local community is supported through the purchasing of products from local farms, through recycling and food given to local food banks. Teams of pupils also pitched ideas for a new healthy cereal bar to develop their business enterprising skills. Thank you to our local Sainsburys for their kindness and support.

## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*



**Sunday 3 September  
on the Village Green  
8:30am - 12:15pm**

Crafty Monkey Brewing Company will be joining the Market and will be selling a range of beers including pale ales, amber and ruby ales, stouts and porters. The brewery is based in Hartlepool using the finest ingredients. They will be happy to answer any questions you may have on their brewing processes.



Our regular traders will be there and music provided by Ceddesfolk. So, why not come along and enjoy the friendly atmosphere of the Market, refreshments will be available and hopefully the weather will be sunny!



Homework Help is raring to go in the new academic year! Contact us if you'd like help with understanding homework or school courses, whether on a regular basis or a one-off. We'll do what we can!



Also, if anyone can offer help, we are always looking to expand our team in order to support as many students as possible. We generally aim to help between Year 6 and A level. Helpers are DBS checked and undertake safeguarding training. contact us at: [homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk).

### Your Farmers Market needs you!

During July, Sedgefield Development Trust were pleased to arrange a social event at Ceddesfeld Hall for Farmers Market volunteers. We were pleased to thank all volunteers for their invaluable help, and in particular Peter and Carol Reeve who are "retiring" as volunteers after many years of support in maintaining the posters which many of you will have seen in local bus stops.



The Farmers Market is a great resource for Sedgefield and the surrounding areas and it is vital that we have sufficient volunteers to enable the market to continue to thrive. There are a number of roles where we urgently need support – in particular:-

- Setting up stalls and tables etc from approximately 8am on the first Sunday of each month
- Taking down stalls etc from approximately 12 noon
- Inserting and removing posters in bus shelters in Sedgefield
- Placing and removing advertising banners at strategic locations around the area on the weekend of the market

If you are able to help with any of these roles, please contact us at [farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk).

### Friendly Fixers

Last month was all about garden tools, with several strimmers for the small electricals, and lots of cutting things that needed sharpening. Sometimes it takes quite a while to figure out what is wrong and how to fix it, but it is worth it!



Next session is Saturday 2 September from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre (TS21 4ED).

## SEDGEFIELDNEWS

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### Can you help us to co-ordinate the 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, please get in touch:

[news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk).

For our delivery volunteers. Thank you for all your deliveries particularly in the awful weather we have had this year. If you are unable to deliver the News on a particular month then please can you let us know as early as possible so we can make alternative arrangements.

### Energy Switch

Although the energy market is still unpredictable the energy price cap is due to be reviewed again at the beginning of October. The indications are that the price cap will reduce further and as a result Ichoosr are proposing to hold another auction in October.

The key dates for the campaign are:

Registration Open	4 Sept
Auction	3 Oct
Offers Out	16 Oct
Acceptance Closes	27 Nov

Although the last auction was disappointing as savings were only small in comparison with standard variable tariffs and the auction did not secure a tariff for people who require paper bills it is thought that it is still worthwhile holding another auction at this stage.

### How to be included in this auction

People who normally register online will receive an email from Ichoosr with details of what they need to do. For those who require paper bills, you will be included automatically in this next auction as per the information in the letter from Ichoosr after the last auction.

If you have not participated before then you can register at [bigcommunityswitch.co.uk/sedgefield-development-trust/home](http://bigcommunityswitch.co.uk/sedgefield-development-trust/home).

If you have any concerns or require further explanation please contact our helpline on 07572 502904. We are always available to help. Let's hope for a positive outcome and that bills can be less than they were last winter.



### 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)

## Defibrillators

A recent post on social media posed the question "is there a map or list showing the location of each of the defibrillator units in Sedgefield?"

A good place to find the answer is [defibfinder.uk](http://defibfinder.uk).



It's reassuring to know where they are located but, in an emergency, always dial 999 immediately and the operator will direct you to your nearest active defibrillator.

## Sedgefield Charities: Education grants for students

The Sedgefield Charities' Trustees make awards each year to help students from lower income families who are taking up full time education beyond A level or its equivalent. Students of any age may apply.



Applicants must live in Bishop Middleham, Bradbury, Cornforth, Fishburn, Mordon, Sedgefield or Trimdon.

For further information and an application form please contact the Clerk, Anne Gladwin:

Post: 46 Whitehouse Drive,  
Sedgefield TS21 3BU

Telephone: 01740 620811

e-mail:  
[sedgefieldcharities@gmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldcharities@gmail.com)

The closing date for applications is the 30 September 2023.

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY SEPTEMBER 2023

We have had a strange summer and even as I write this, the North East has just been mentioned on national news in relation to flooding and we have certainly seen a bit of flooding in Sedgefield. We are not sure what September will bring us; it could be a continuation of this unpredictable weather, or we could have an Indian summer.

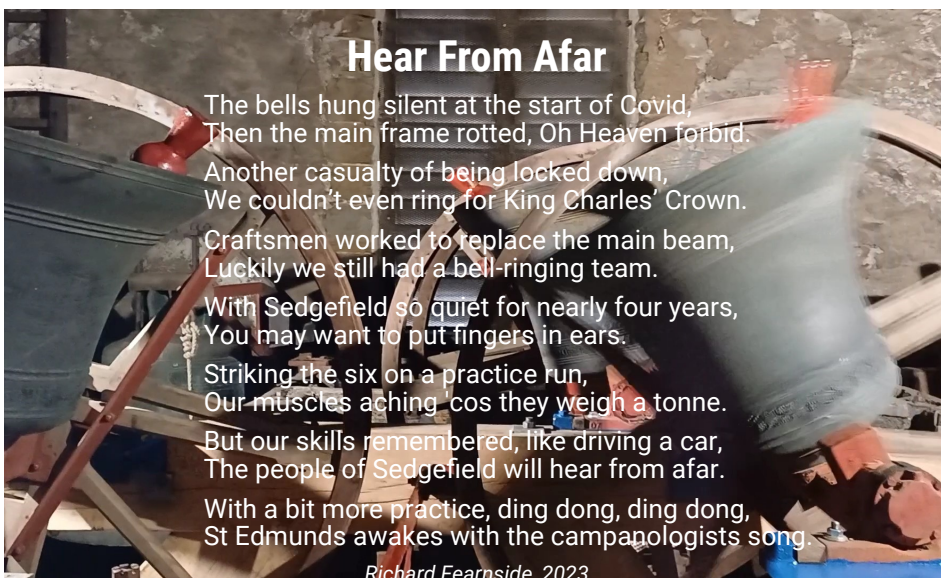
For wildlife watchers as seasons change, the wildlife we see can be unpredictable as well. Should the weather stay good it is well worth a visit to our local National Nature Reserve at Thrislington where several species of flower will still be in bloom and there is always a chance of seeing a butterfly or two. The reserve is the largest area of Primary Magnesian Grassland in the UK. This special grassland is typically found on thin, well-drained, lime-rich soils that lie on a climatic divide between the chalks of southern England and the more northerly carboniferous limestones; nationally it only occurs in a narrow band stretching from Nottinghamshire through to the east Durham plateau. This mineral-rich bedrock became the basis of exploitation for industry and agriculture through much of the 19th and 20th centuries. At Thrislington it has been preserved as a National Nature Reserve to help protect the flora and fauna that make this special jewel their home.

If you visit in September, you may be able to see Harebells and Devil's-bit Scabious still in flower. The delicate, nodding bells of the Harebell are one of the prettiest flowers on the reserve. Flowering between July and September, they mostly grow on dry, undisturbed ground, but are tolerant of all kinds of habitats. They are regularly visited by bumblebees and honeybees, providing an autumnal source of nectar for these insects. In Scotland, the harebell is sometimes known as the 'bluebell'; elsewhere, it has picked up various local names, including 'witches' thimbles' and 'fairy bells', alluding to magical associations.

Another flower which also has links to the supernatural is Devil's-bit Scabious. The rounded and nodding purple-blue flower heads of Devil's-bit Scabious, can be found in various habitats including magnesian limestone, damp meadows and marshes, and along woodland rides and riverbanks. It is in bloom between July and October with its pincushion-like flower heads attracting a wide variety of bees and insects. Devil's-bit Scabious gets its name from the Latin - 'Scabere', meaning to scratch as it was a traditional treatment for skin conditions such as scabies and the sores of bubonic plague. Its common name arises from the fact that its roots look truncated, as if bitten off, legend has it, by the Devil. So, if we do get an Indian summer why not take a trip to Thrislington Nature Reserve and see what you can find.



Flowering Devil's-bit Scabious  
Christian Fischer, CC BY-SA 3.0



## Hear From Afar

The bells hung silent at the start of Covid,  
Then the main frame rotted, Oh Heaven forbid.  
Another casualty of being locked down,  
We couldn't even ring for King Charles' Crown.  
Craftsmen worked to replace the main beam,  
Luckily we still had a bell-ringing team.  
With Sedgefield so quiet for nearly four years,  
You may want to put fingers in ears.  
Striking the six on a practice run,  
Our muscles aching 'cos they weigh a tonne.  
But our skills remembered, like driving a car,  
The people of Sedgefield will hear from afar.  
With a bit more practice, ding dong, ding dong,  
St Edmunds awakes with the campanologists song.

Richard Fearnside, 2023

## SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There's no Neighbourhood Watch article this month due to holiday commitments but the group will be holding a coffee morning on Friday 1 September at 10am in the Parish Hall and the next NHW evening meeting is at Ceddesfeld Hall on Thursday 14 September.

Please continue to report any incidents of ASB, criminal damage etc. or any suspicious activity to the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency alternatively you can report anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

### 101 Live chat

Did you now that non-urgent police queries can now be submitted online 24 hours a day using the 101 Live Chat facility? The function allows members of the public to make general enquiries and ask for advice with a police call handler.

Durham Constabulary Control Room Manager Mel Davidson said: "To ensure that they can continue to answer emergency calls as quickly as possible and get help to people who need it the most, we need to provide people with alternative ways of contacting us when it's not an emergency."

"The 101 Live Chat function will do just this – giving people an easier and more efficient way of contacting us, whether they are at home, or on the move browsing on their phones."

durham.police.uk

Live Chat is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Live Chat**  
Online

When to use 101 Live Chat:

- General advice and enquiries
- Updates on incidents already reported

When to call 101:

- To report non-urgent incidents
- When a crime is not happening now

When to call 999:

- Someone's life is at immediate risk
- A crime is happening now
- Serious risk to the public

### Christmas Tree Festival

There are limited number of 4 foot Christmas trees still available to decorate at this year's festival in December. The theme is "Christmas Round the World".

Although we are not charging for the trees, a donation towards the cost (£21) would be appreciated.

If any community group, local business, family or group of friends would like to decorate a tree, please get in touch with festival organiser Brian Mutch at

[b.mutch@btinternet.com](mailto:b.mutch@btinternet.com). A booking form will then be sent out to you.



### Raise your mug

Macmillan's Coffee Morning is an annual event dedicated to bringing people together over a cuppa to raise vital funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Every 90 seconds someone in the UK is diagnosed with cancer. Macmillan is doing everything it can to provide vital emotional, financial or clinical support for people living with cancer who are going through a challenging time. The charity is almost entirely funded by donations and it is calling on the public to help raise vital funds this year.

Every penny raised at a Coffee Morning helps Macmillan to provide vital support to people with cancer, who need it now more than ever:

£10 – This could help run our vital phone service for cancer patients, and could lead to our welfare rights advisers on our Macmillan Support Line helping people affected by cancer to claim £396 in benefits they are entitled to.

£60 – This could pay for a Macmillan Grant that buys a good quality liquidiser for someone who can't eat solid food as a result of their cancer or treatment.

£100 – This could pay for a Health Professional to attend a specialised conference on approaches to cancer treatment, run by Macmillan.

£200 – This could pay for the training of a person affected by cancer to become a Cancer Support Course facilitator. This is an accredited course which develops participants' cancer awareness, communication and counselling skills to better support other people affected by cancer.

Mess Charcuterie and Bar are hosting a coffee morning from 9am – 5pm. All proceeds will go to Macmillan Cancer Support. As well as coffees, teas and pastries, there will also be games and vouchers to be won!

Please call 01740 472242 to book your table or pop in and enjoy a coffee and pastry. Pay what feel as every penny goes towards Macmillan Cancer Support.

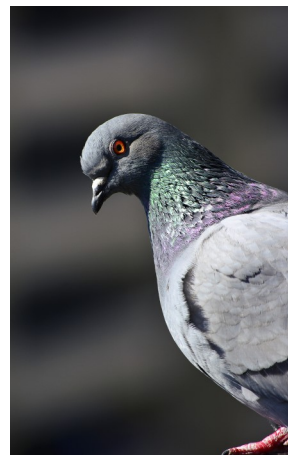


**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT

## Your LETTERS

### Injured pigeons

I live in Lambton Crescent, just off Spring Lane. Over the past few months I have found seven pigeons in my back garden. Two of these birds were dead, having been shot, presumably with an air gun or rifle. The other five birds were still alive but badly injured. Four had been shot through the wing and chest and were unable to fly. A ring dove had been shot through the eye and was barely alive.



On the last occasion that this happened two of my grandchildren, aged 4 and 6 years, were playing in the garden. You can imagine the state of distress they were in seeing a still flapping bird trying to fly, with gore and feathers spread all over my patio. Now I'm no pigeon lover; these birds can be noisy and messy, however, in my view they have a right to life and they certainly don't deserve to endure a long and painful demise. Nor do I deserve to be the one to clear up the aftermath of someone else's unwanted actions. I should add here that prior to retirement I spent approximately forty years working in the criminal justice system. I am aware that studies have discovered that those who abuse animals are highly likely to commit other forms of abusive behaviour. Perhaps the person responsible for killing (or attempting to kill) pigeons should take a long hard look in the mirror.

I have spoken to the police who confirm that it is an offence for anyone to fire a gun at a residential building, i.e. my house. They have given me advice on what to do should this continue. However, for now, I am simply asking the person responsible to please, stop what you are doing and think about others.

Derek Hancock

*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.*

## ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

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

### 45th Drama Festival

September sees the return of the Festival of One Act Plays. From 13 to 16 September 2023, there will be 6 plays performed in total.

As usual, SPYS will open proceedings with a new play written by Tom Guest. Based on the Grimm fairy tale, this re-imagining of 'The Girl Without Hands' is a morality tale of a young girl, her trials and tribulations, and her final journey to a happy life. Following them is the first of the Sedgefield Players' productions, a new play written by Lucy Atkinson. 'The Northern Girl'.

On Thursday the Players perform the only play of the evening, 'Education, Education, Education', by The Wardrobe Assembly. It's May 1997, Tony Blair has won the election, Katrina & the Waves have won Eurovision, and things can only get better. This is a thought provoking play with cool music played throughout.



Richmond Amateur Drama Group perform two plays on Friday; 'The Form' and 'Little Grimley present Strictly Sex Factor on Ice'. In which The Little Grimley Amateur Society are faced with yet another threat to their existence, reality TV shows. Never one to take these things lying down, they devise a cunning plan to compete - their very own live Saturday night blockbuster, combining the best of all the other formats.

Bananadrama end the festival with Shari Gledhill's 'Something Old'. The Final Adjudication and presentation of awards by Chris Baglin follows. Tickets are available from Tickety Boo or from [www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk) or [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk).  
Sedgefield Players

### Open Call for Artists

County Durham artists are invited to submit their work for display at an annual exhibition held to celebrate local talent – and there's a new category for young people aged 12 to 18.



The Open Call Exhibition runs at Bishop Auckland Town Hall gallery from 11 December until 17 February. Last year's exhibition attracted nearly 6,000 people & featured 78 pieces of art by 30 local artists. This year's exhibition is open to anyone who lives, works or studies in County Durham, the culture county. Artists can submit up to three pieces of artwork, wall mounted or free standing. Last year's artists ranged in age from mid-20s to those in their 70s.

The Youth Open Call for young people aged 12 to 18 allows up to two pieces of art can be submitted with parental, carer, or guardian consent.

The deadline for submissions is Sunday 1 October and organisers are aiming to inform successful applicants by Tuesday 31 October.

To find out more about the exhibition, and for full details of the application criteria and how to submit work, visit:

[bishaopacklandtownhall.org.uk/gallery/future-exhibition](http://bishaopacklandtownhall.org.uk/gallery/future-exhibition).



### More Local Events

**Bishop Auckland Music Society, Bishop Auckland Methodist Church**  
Hannah Condliffe (oboe) and Dominic Doutney play at Bishop Auckland Music Society  
Friday 15 September, 7:30.  
[bvemv.orpheusweb.co.uk/BAMSWeb/bams.html](http://bvemv.orpheusweb.co.uk/BAMSWeb/bams.html)



### September Heritage Open Days, Throughout the county

Dozens of heritage sites open their doors for free with guided walks & talks at sites including Durham Castle, Brancepeth Castle, and the Bowes Museum  
8 September - 17 September  
[durham.gov.uk/heritageopendays](http://durham.gov.uk/heritageopendays).

### BalletLORENT: Rapunzel, Gala Theatre, Durham City

A restaging of the classic fairytale from Carol Ann Duffy, with actress Lesley Sharp

16 September 14:30, £18 (£15)  
[galadurham.co.uk/galapost/](http://galadurham.co.uk/galapost/)



[balletlorent-apunzel/](http://balletlorent-apunzel/)

### Jurassic Live, Stockton Globe

90 minute stage production of realistic life-sized moving dinosaurs operated by puppeteers  
23 - 24 September, From £23.37  
[stocktonglobe.co.uk/shows/jurassic-live](http://stocktonglobe.co.uk/shows/jurassic-live).

**Durham Book Festival, Durham City,**  
Save the date for this annual festival of the written word, workshops & readings showcasing poetry & fiction from around the world.

13 - 15 October  
[newwritingnorth.com/durham-book-festival](http://newwritingnorth.com/durham-book-festival).

## SPORTS UPDATE

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

The weather has continued to play havoc with the cricket schedule, and I'm not just referring to the Old Trafford Ashes test! The various teams at Sedgefield Cricket Club have endured some very frustrating times this summer but have continued to deliver some great performances when the opportunities arise. Meanwhile, the football season is underway again, with squash to follow soon, and September sees the return of cross country running – autumn and winter loom!

### Cricket

As the cricket season moves into its last few weeks, Sedgefield Cricket Club can reflect on a year of league consolidation, with some cup success thrown in for good measure.

The 1st XI expect to finish in the top five of Division 1, and with the Brunton Cup victory in June, the team is in a good place. The 2nd XI should also finish in a similar position in Division 3 which, after last year's promotion, amounts to success, particularly when the other side promoted will finish rock bottom of the league and head straight back to Division 4. The 3rd XI still have an outside chance of promotion, but regardless, can reflect on another great development year.

July's rain means that the Boys' U17 side still had three trophies to play for in late August and so fingers are crossed that next month's end of season review will include some good news on that front!



### Squash



Sedgefield Squash Club is busy preparing for the new season. Behind the scenes, the committee has been working tirelessly to ensure everything is in order for the coming year, even down to purchasing a new vacuum cleaner to help keep the courts maintained to the highest standards.

One of the main tasks for the committee has been to review the structure and operation of the junior section. The objective of getting more kids playing the game by introducing mid-week affordable group coaching and weekend game play, plus giving some more flexibility on timings of these sessions, has been at the heart of this task. In the near future, the club will issue a full communication on the new membership and packages to existing members and parents of juniors, and will also be updating the website with all of the details. Alongside this activity, Sedgefield will once again be running the Squash Stars programmes, where youngsters take part in a six-week introduction package organised by the governing body, England Squash.

Women's Squash Week will be back from 18 - 24 September - check the club's social media feeds for upcoming events. The week will be centred around getting more women and girls on court, whether they are complete beginners or have played in the past. Everyone is welcome to give it a go, and all of the equipment will be provided to use free of charge.

Back on court, the Sedgefield Squash Club Summer Ladder has been extremely well supported, with players of all ages and abilities enjoying keeping fit and improving their skills. Next month's update will include a more in-depth report on the final outcomes.

Once again, Sedgefield will be entering teams in the Durham & Cleveland County Leagues, due to start at the end of September. The county has re-structured the leagues this year, resulting in more matches to be played by each team, so a busy season looms. The club's internal leagues also start in September, so there will be plenty of action happening on court.

If you are interested in playing squash, or just helping out as a volunteer, please contact the club on [info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk).



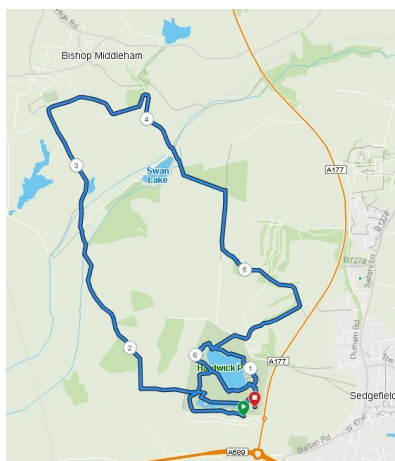
*Sedgefield CC U11 boys in the field during a match that managed to dodge the rain*

### Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers will host the annual Sedgefield Serpentine race on Sunday 17 September. This year will see a new start and finish location, both within Hardwick Park. Starting at 10am, the Serpentine follows a scenic trail route of approximately 10km, from the park and into the surrounding countryside towards Bishop Middleham and back. The event is held in memory of Sedgefield Harrier Gail Bell.

The Sedgefield Serpentine is open to all runners aged 16 and over. The entry fee is £15 for non-club runners and £13 for those in a UK Athletics-affiliated club. There will be prizes in multiple categories and every finisher earns a medal. For more details, visit [sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/sedgefield-serpentine](http://sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/sedgefield-serpentine).

In a sign that autumn is on its way, the week after the Serpentine will see the first fixture in the North East Harrier League, the popular series of cross country races that take place around the region between September and March. Last year saw some very encouraging performances from Sedgefield Harriers' senior men and women, along with some of the club's junior runners.



*The Serpentine route*

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

# CEDDESFELD HALL

## Sedgefield Community Association

Ceddesfeld Hall community volunteer bar & lounge is open from 7.30 pm, Monday to Friday and is open to all users, as well as residents, with good value real ales and a wide range of other drinks on offer.

Groups and organisations are open to all and they're keen to welcome new members, so do get in touch if anything is of interest. Any new groups are also very welcome. Room hire is very competitively priced for all groups, and for private bookings for special occasions such as family celebrations, birthday parties, christenings, wakes, conferences, and presentations. Wi-Fi is free and available in every room.

Local organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch, Sedgefield in Bloom, Sedgefield Development Trust, Sedgefield Squash Club, Sedgefield Players, Sedgefield Veterans and Sedgefield Show Committee, hold their regular meetings at the hall, mostly monthly.

### September Event Details

#### Tom McConville & Andy Watt Concert – Saturday 9th September – 7.30 pm - £12 (£10 Concessions)

SCA is pleased to welcome back Tom McConville with a new guest performer, guitarist, Andy Watt.

Tom is an internationally renowned fiddle player (BBC Folk Musician of the Year 2009), who creates a sound that has jazz, folk, bluegrass, and classical elements, blending traditional music from his hometown of Newcastle, with Irish, American and Scottish influences. His live performances are a roller coaster of musical delights, all presented with his inimitable sense of humour and style.

Andy Watt is one of the finest acoustic guitarists in Britain. He is from a family of great musicians and has guested on many top recordings. Tom and Andy have played together for about 10 years and their concerts are always well attended. To reserve a seat, contact Sarah Guest on 01740 622185 or email [info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk). Payment will be cash on the door. Numbers are restricted, so please book early.

#### Stained Glass Workshop – 17th September 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm

Join Anne to learn the art of stained glass. She will guide you through cutting and shaping glass, using the copper foil and solder technique to create beautiful and unique stained-glass decorations. All materials and safety equipment are included. The class is suitable for beginners upwards and you can choose to make your own design if you wish. Workshop lasts 3 hours and costs £45. Call or message Anne, to reserve your space. 07519277527 or email: [HODGERSCREATIONS@gmail.com](mailto:HODGERSCREATIONS@gmail.com).

#### German themed 'Bierfest' – Saturday 23rd September – From 5 pm

Following last year's successful debut, Sedgefield Twinning Association (with the help of volunteers from the SCA) will again be hosting a German-themed "Bierfest" on Saturday, September 23rd at Ceddesfeld Hall. Tickets are £7.50 which will include a free bratwurst (or vegetarian sausage) and an evening of celebration at Ceddesfeld Hall including performances by the Kellermeister Oompah Band. A selection of German beers and wines will be on offer. Fancy dress is encouraged, but not mandatory! Tickets are available from Tickety Boo and Lost Robot.

See [facebook.com/sedgefieldtwinning](https://facebook.com/sedgefieldtwinning) for further details.

#### Ceddesfeld Autumn Quiz Night – Saturday 30th September – 7.30 pm – Pie & Peas - £10 per person

Come along for a fun evening with quizmaster Peter Hinde. There will be a raffle and will visitors please advise of any vegetarian, gluten free or vegan requirements, prior to the evening. Tickets from Pat, Sarah and/or Peter Hinde or from behind the bar, on a first come first served basis.

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

We had a very successful Toy Tombola at the Farmers' Market. Thank you to my team of helpers, all those kind people who donated toys and those who had a go on my stall. We raised over £187 for my charities.

- 18 Sept Indian Evening at Le Raaj with India quiz starting at 7:30pm. Tickets £27.50.
- 29 Sept Jersey Boyz Tribute Band in Parish Hall at 7:30pm Tickets £15. Bring your own food, raffle, games.
- 1 Oct Mayor's Civic Service in St John Fisher RC Church at 10:45 followed by 3 course Sunday Lunch in Little Sicily.
- 20 Oct Mayor's Quiz in Ceddesfeld Hall with pie and peas.
- 30 Oct Mayor's Halloween Cabaret with Sedgefield Players in Parish Hall at 7:30pm.
- 14 Nov Mayor's Afternoon Extravaganza with tea and cakes, entertainment from 'Top Dollar' and a big surprise guest.
- 7 Dec Civic Carol Service at 7:00pm in St Edmund's Church.
- 31 Dec New Year's Eve Dance with Mamma Said and very special guest in Parish Hall at 8:00pm. Tickets £10.
- 3 Feb Mayor's Race Night in Parish Hall at 7:30pm.
- 1 Mar Mayor's Charity Ball with Travellin' Band at Hardwick Hall Hotel. Tickets £35.

I'm always on the lookout for unopened bottles so if you have any lurking around in your cupboards, I would be happy to collect them from you. I need 100 for my Bottle Draw at the Mayor's Ball.

Thank you.

David Jasper

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## DIARY & EVENTS

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

September 2023

- Friday 1** **Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-11:30am.
- Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Developments at Raby Castle. A talk by a senior guide. Visitors welcome, £3.
- Sunday 3** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am to 12:15pm. See page 3 for more information.
- Monday 4** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. Thomas Kenny Story by Margaret Hedley.
- Wednesday 6** **Sedgefield Women's Institute**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm. Sharon Brown will give a talk on "Volunteering in Kenya". Members competition is 3 flowers from the garden. A harvest supper will be served (please bring bowl and spoon). Visitors are always welcome, £4 (includes refreshments).
- Friday 8** **Sedgefield Women's Institute**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-11:30am. Home made cakes, raffle.
- Sunday 10** **Songs of Praise**, Sedgefield Area Churches Together, St. Edmund's Church, 3pm.
- Monday 11** **DIDO**, Annual Games Day, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 1pm-3:30pm. Join us for some fun and games. Contact 07597 116847 for details.
- Thursday 14** **Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm.
- Sunday 17** **Sedgefield Serpentine Race**, Hardwick Park Visitors Centre, 10am. Full details at [sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/sedgefield-serpentine](http://sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/sedgefield-serpentine).
- Monday 18** **Mayor's Indian Meal**, Le Raaj, 7:30pm. Tickets are £27.50.
- Tuesday 19** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Susan Fairhurst demonstrates "Creativity". 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 29** **Sedgefield Village Veterans**, coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.
- Macmillan Coffee Morning**, Mess Charcuterie and Bar, 6 North End, Sedgefield, 9am-5pm. All proceeds to Macmillan Cancer Support. All welcome, booking recommended on 01740 472242.
- Mayor's Jersey Boyz Tribute Band**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Cash bar, bring your own food, raffle and games. Tickets £15 from Sedgefield Town Council Reception.

### 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 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**  
 The club begins again on **Tuesday 5 September** at 1pm in the main hall at Ceddesfeld. It will then be held on 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. Membership has fallen since Covid and new members will be made very welcome.

**Female Hormone Deficiency**  
 The group will no longer be meeting face to face, but the support group will continue on Facebook.

**Sedgefield Drama Festival**  
 The festival runs from **13 to 16 September**. Tickets are £8.50 each night or £28 for a season ticket. Available from Tickety Boo, [sedgefieldplayers.co.uk](http://sedgefieldplayers.co.uk) or [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk).

### Sedgefield Area Churches Together

#### "Songs of Praise"

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 3 pm,  
 St. Edmund's Church

Send your requests for hymns, songs, readings, prose, poems and prayer contributions to the Songs of Praise service, together with your reason why your choice is special to you, to [sedgefieldact@gmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldact@gmail.com) by 21<sup>st</sup> August or hand to an SACT contact at a local church by 20<sup>th</sup> August.  
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