

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

December 2023 edition

Deadline for January: Tuesday 12 December

Seasons greetings and thanks to all our readers, volunteers, advertisers and contributors



Photo: Ken Wilson

Sedgefield Heritage 100

Walk and Talk Trust, a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting physical and mental wellbeing through outdoor activities, has launched its latest project, The Heritage 100.

This ambitious initiative aims to create 100 waymarked walking routes throughout County Durham, encouraging residents to embrace the benefits of walking, while discovering the rich heritage of their local communities. Sedgefield is one of the first places where a Heritage 100 walk has been installed. Each of the routes will be mapped on the popular navigation app Komoot, and physically waymarked. Every walk will be accompanied by a captivating story that brings to life the heritage of the locations along the way. By connecting communities with their past and present, the project intends to foster a sense of pride and belonging among the residents, and encourage more people to get out and explore their local area.



The Sedgefield Heritage 100 walk offers residents a picturesque three-mile figure-of-eight route, starting and ending on the village green outside St. Edmund's Church. The walk showcases Sedgefield's unique historical landmarks and the natural beauty of the nearby countryside.

The start is easy to find on the village green at our grandfather clock shaped marker post, which features the Heritage 100 logo and a fantastic etching of Neptune, the statue of which the route later passes in Hardwick Park.

Looking ahead to the new year, the Walk and Talk Trust is actively seeking volunteers to collaborate with renowned author David Willem, who will be writing the story of the Sedgefield walk, which will be used to promote the initiative. The Trust is particularly interested in hearing from local residents who can provide oral accounts of Sedgefield's past, preserving and immortalising tales of local heroes, myths, and legends. Residents will also be able to join the Walk and Talk Trust on an organised community walk around the Sedgefield Heritage 100 route in the near future, so look out for news of that.



Community College update

During the final week before the half-term holiday, 150 of our Year 7 students took part in our annual residential visit to the Kingswood Outwood Bounds education centre in Hexham. Despite torrential rain at times, our students had a fantastic, if muddy experience! This is the third consecutive year that the visit has taken place and it is now a key part of the school's transition programme, helping students make new friends and become part of the team here at SCC. We hope the students enjoyed the experience and thank you to our families for washing all of the dirty laundry when they got home!

Meanwhile back at school, the weekly Super Curriculum sessions that take place each Wednesday remain a particular highlight of each school week. Last half-term, there were no fewer than 26 different enrichment programmes that our students could choose from. Many of these activities involved students having opportunities to explore their interests in the creative and performing arts. Students could choose sessions relating to collage making, still life painting, surreal portraiture and magazine graffiti (to name just a few of the options). The pictures show some examples of the fantastic artwork that our talented Year 8 students were able to produce this half-term.



Dance and Sporting Champions



As a school we are proud to have our own dance Champion in Year 6 - Carla. She has achieved first place as the East Regional winner of the Epic Dance Championships. Carla has been dancing since the age of three in contemporary dance competitions. She has inspired others at Sedgefield Primary by her choreographed performances of her fast and slow routines.



Our specialist sports coaches deliver a programme of specialist PE lessons across all age phases of the school in all areas of sport including dance.

Sedgefield Primary pupils achieved success in a recent cross-country festival. Our qualified winning places were as follows:

- Karl (Year 6) first place
- Tilli (Year 5) third place
- Sonny (Year 4) second place.

This has qualified them all for County finals. This is an exceptional achievement, which Sedgefield Primary are proud to shout about! Well done to all our pupils on your current and ongoing sporting achievements.

After school clubs

Last week, the return to school at Sedgefield Hardwick saw the launch of our new phase of afterschool clubs in Key Stage 2. This half-term, we have had the opportunity to take part in a stop-motion club, a cookery club or a gaming club.

The gaming club makes use of the Minecraft app on iPads, and makes a return after being extremely popular last year. Each week, our teacher sets us challenges and we work together in small teams within Minecraft to construct buildings, biomes and environments to meet the specifications. In a few weeks, we will be switching to 'survival' mode, where we will start with nothing but our bare hands and have to work together in teams to build ourselves a home and settlement - almost like Robinson Crusoe when he was shipwrecked!

In cookery, we have been experiencing and cooking food from different countries and regions each week. So far, we have studied India, where we cooked coconut barfi, a dessert sweet, and also mango lassi, a fruity drink often drunk to celebrate Diwali, the festival of light! We have also studied the cuisine of the USA, where we baked a variety of cheesecakes, ranging in flavours from raspberry, strawberry and lemon to caramel and chocolate! We also made milkshakes (created by hand!) as a tasty side to go with the cheesecakes. We're all really excited to find out which country or region we will be studying next week!

Finally, the stop-motion animation club allows us to use our imaginations to create new sculptures that we can then bring to life using our iPads and stop-motion animation apps. Not only this, but those of us who were in last term's Sculpting Club were able to use our creations from then and bring them to life on screen. We have created backdrops to add depth, colour and detail to our scenes and used very small movements to show the changes. We have a wide variety of creations, ranging from gummy bears to jungle animals and space scenes! We are hoping to publish our final productions for everybody to view. Hollywood here we come!



Exploring local heritage



Sedgefield Primary Year 5 pupils were delighted to be able to investigate their natural heritage as they visited the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum at Stewart Park in Middlesbrough. They explored maps showing the adventures of this intrepid individual. They were also interested and at times horrified to learn about conditions at sea for past explorers. This Geography trip enabled pupils to gain a sense of their local area in its wider historical and geographical context. Pupils were impressed at how Captain Cook had placed Middlesbrough on the world map. He was the first European to cross the Antarctic circle. Cook also mapped many island groups and was the first explorer to know of their existence. Pupils felt proud to be part of such significant local heritage.

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS



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

Come along to our Christmas Market where there will be a lovely festive atmosphere with live music, complimentary mince pies and warm non-alcoholic drinks provided by Sedgefield Churches Action Together and Sedgefield Development Trust.

This is a great opportunity to get gifts from our traders selling a wide range of products including: local gin, alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks, cakes, jams, pickles, cheeses, pies, plants and many, many other products. Visit our Facebook page [Sedgefield Farmers Market](#) for details of all our traders attending.



SEDGEFIELDNEWS

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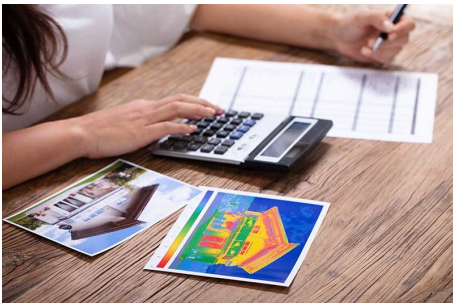
Can you help us to co-ordinate delivery of the News?

We are seeking help to distribute delivery parcels to the delivery volunteers.

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

Thermal cameras

The Thermal Imaging Camera loan scheme is now up and running. We want to help you spot heat loss around your home with one of our FLIR thermal imaging cameras, which you can loan for free.



Visit sedgefieldweb.co.uk/thermalimaging.html for more information. You can complete the online booking form and we will contact you and allocate a 7 day camera loan period.



NETPark Volunteers

We had the pleasure of welcoming Durham University's Research Development team onto the Woodland & Wildlife site.



As part of their corporate volunteering hours the team, who are based at NETPark, spent time clearing an area ready for our Seeds2Trees planting event. They also cleared undergrowth from around the newly planted tree, which is a regular task for our Woodland & Wildlife. A huge thank you!

Annual Tree Recycling

On 6 January 2024, from 10am to 12 noon we will be welcoming people to bring their real Christmas trees to the Woodland & Wildlife site. We will be using the trees to extend the dead hedges which we created over the past 2 years. Dead hedges provide habitats for insects and small mammals and act as a barrier to allow areas of the site to regenerate. We will also use the trees to create log piles which provide vital shelter to wildlife during winter. Christmas trees can be dropped off at our site (find us on Google Maps at TS21 3FH). Families and individuals are welcome to stay to help process the trees and have a look round.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer with us please contact Melissa – woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or join our Facebook page [Woodland & Wildlife - Sedgefield](#).

Merry Christmas to all!

Christmas Services

St Alban's, Trimdon Grange

9 Dec 4:30pm Carols & Christingle
24 Dec 6:00pm Eucharist
31 Dec 10:00am Eucharist

St Catherine's, Fishburn

13 Dec 6:00pm Carols
17 Dec 10:00am Eucharist
24 Dec 4:00pm Christingle

St Edmund's, Sedgefield

10 Dec 10:00am Eucharist
17 Dec 4:00pm Christingle
24 Dec 10:00 am Eucharist
24 Dec 11:30pm Eucharist
25 Dec 10:00am Family Service

St Mary Magdalene, Trimdon

10 Dec 10:00 am Eucharist
17 Dec 4:00pm Christingle
24 Dec 11:30pm Eucharist
24 Dec 5:30pm Carols

St Michael's, Bishop Middleham

14 Dec 10:00am Eucharist
17 Dec 10:00am Eucharist
17 Dec 6:pm Carols
24 Dec 9:30am Eucharist
24 Dec 5:30pm Crib service

Christmas Tree Festival
In St. Edmund's Church, Sedgefield
2nd Dec - 10th Dec 2023
Christmas trees decorated by local businesses and community groups

Saturday, 2nd December at 10:00 am
Coffee Morning
when festival will be opened by
Pam Royle & Jack Smith MBE

Sunday, 3rd December 2023
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm **Alex Ord**
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm varied music by **Ukulele Band**

Tuesday, 5th December - 7:30 pm
Ferryhill Town Band will entertain
Concert tickets are £5 (no concessions)
(includes a glass of wine and nibbles)
Tickets available from:
Brian Mutch 01740 622302, Brenda Moore 01740 620758
Or 'From Left to Right', The Square, Sedgefield

Thursday, 7th December - 7:00 pm
Civic Carol Service
(Information from Sedgefield Town Council)

Church opening times:
Saturday, 2nd December 10:00 am - 3:30 pm
Sunday 3rd - Saturday 9th 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday 10th, after Sunday service 11:00 - 12 noon
All profits to Feeding Families and St Edmund's Church
Recipient of Durham County Council Neighbourhood Budget Grant

Sedgefield Snow Party
SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2023

St Edmund's Church Christmas Tree Festival opens 10am
Christmas trees decorated by local businesses and organisations.

Santa Claus in the Parish Hall 12:30 - 3:25pm
Tickets to see Santa are £5 (includes a gift) and must be pre-booked at the council office. Plus free activities including bouncy castle, face painter and Sedgefield Youth Club bake sale

Ceddesfield Hall Christmas Craft Fayre 10:00 - 3:45pm
Craft stalls, book sale and bran tub. Refreshments by Pop In.
Ceddesfield Hall Bar open between 1:00 - 7:00pm

Carol singing in St Edmunds Church 3:45pm - 4:10pm

Christmas lights switch on 4:25pm
Speech by Mayor of Sedgefield and draw of glow-rattle on the Turning Circle. Glow-rattle tickets £1 from local primary schools and the council office.

Festive Litter Pick
With Sedgefield Ploggers
10-4:54m @ Turning Circle
All equipment provided.
Festive hats optional!

Sun 3rd

Sedgefield Town Council

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

Your LETTERS

Volunteering in Kenya

Hello. In September I headed out to Kenya on my volunteering trip and just wanted to say a HUGE thank you to all those people in Sedgefield and the surrounding areas who helped me with my fundraising efforts.



Thank you to the many people who donated bags of clothes, shoes, handbags and bedding that I was able to weigh in (and sell) to raise money. Thank you to the kind mums who donated school uniform which meant children were able to go to school where they not only received an education but a good meal for that day.



Thank you to those who donated money via my GoFundMe page meaning that we are able to feed a whole school for the coming year until our next trip in September 2024. And thank you to all those people who knitted cardigans and hats and sewed some reusable sanitary towels for me to take out with me. They were all gratefully received. I always knew there were some lovely people in our area but the support I received has confirmed this. Again if any groups need speakers for their programmes I am more than happy to come and tell you all about it and I'm collecting bags already if anyone is clearing out their wardrobes this autumn. Thank you again.
Sharon Brown

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY DECEMBER 2023

I am watching a herd of cattle grazing and there is a small white heron following the cows, feeding on insects they disturb, and occasionally flying up and picking flies off their faces and sometimes landing on their backs. No, I'm not on the plains of Africa I am in Bishop Middleham! On a different autumn day, I am looking up into a berry-laden tree and at the top is a remarkably colourful bird; a plump bird, slightly smaller than a Starling with a prominent crest. It's reddish-brown with a black throat, a small black mask round its eye, yellow and white on the wings and a yellow-tipped tail. It certainly looks out of place on the edge of a housing estate in Wheatley Hill.

The first bird I mention was a Cattle Egret, they are slightly smaller than a Little Egret, but with a shorter neck, shorter legs and much more compact body giving them a stockier impression. They also have a shorter, stubbier bill, which is dark in juveniles but quickly turns yellow. Cattle Egrets have shown one of the greatest range expansions in the world of birds. At the beginning of the 20th century, the western form of Cattle Egret was only established in southern Spain, Portugal and North and tropical Africa. Over the next few decades, they spread south to South Africa and began to spread north across Europe. They even managed to cross the Atlantic to reach South America, and have dispersed throughout that continent and up into North America, with breeding recorded as far north as Canada. And now they are become more common in the UK with several birds having been seen in the North East recently.

The second bird is a Waxwing and signs are looking good for a Waxwing winter. It does not breed in the UK, but is a winter visitor from northern Europe and can be spotted in flocks on bushes full of berries - it isn't fussy where the bushes are and it frequents towns, car parks and gardens. Waxwings prefer rowan and hawthorn berries, but can be enticed with hung-up apples. Sudden invasions of large numbers of Waxwings (called 'irruptions') occur when the berry crops fail in Northern Europe. It was mid-November when I saw my Waxwings and there were lots of reports coming in with large flocks in Scotland and smaller flocks in the North East and even some in Middlesbrough. So on your winter walks why not check out the fields with cows in and the berry laden trees, you never know what you might see.

You might also like to sign up for 12 Days Wild, the Wildlife Trusts festive nature challenge, encouraging you to do one wild thing a day from 25 December to 5 January each year. In those weird days between Christmas and New Year, winter wildlife is just waiting to be explored! Your wild acts could be little things to help nature - like recycling your Christmas tree or feeding the birds - or ways to connect to the natural world, like walking off your Christmas dinner in the woods or admiring the beauty of stargazing visit wildlifetrusts.org/12dayswild to sign up.



Feeding Families

We are delighted to announce we have moved into our packing centre which is located in Unit 2B, Salters Lane Industrial Estate, Sedgefield TS21 3EE. The centre will be operating Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 2pm (closing Tuesday 19 December and recommencing on Tuesday 9 January) and we would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to come down and learn about the work we do. If you would like to bring any donations we would be delighted to receive them.

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.

As we indicated in last month's Sedgefield News 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 (list below) - every item donated makes a huge difference to those in need.

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

ALL DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED!

info@feedingfamilies.org.uk

SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Winter cyber security

Is it a festive bargain or costly scam ?

Scammers love the holiday shopping season. It's the perfect time for them to lure people in with fake deals and trick their victims into paying for items that are counterfeit or don't exist. Here are some tips to help you protect yourself.

DO:

- Open websites by typing them into your browser, not by clicking links.
- Consider whether or not deals you may see on social media are too good to be true.
- Research sites and sellers - reading reviews can help you understand if they are genuine or not.

DON'T:

- Open links in emails or text messages you were not expecting.
- Buy high value items from sellers on social media which you cannot first view in person.
- Agree to use gift cards as a payment method - criminals may ask you to do this as it is harder to trace.

NHW Committee vacancy

At the end of the year the position of Sedgefield NHW Committee Chair will become vacant. We would like to invite all interested parties to attend our next NHW meeting in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 14 December, or make your interest known to any one of our many members.

Please continue to report all incidents of Antisocial Behaviour, suspicious persons / vehicles or any Criminal activity to the a police on 101 or, in an emergency, on 999. You can also pass on any relevant information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Of course you can also call in to the Sedgefield Police Station and report incidents in person.

u3a update

Well, did you guess? Dave Dean's talk 'Beyond the Chequered Band' referred to the cap he wore and the many years he spent as a Special Constable in Darlington. We learned that although unpaid volunteers, Special Constables are expected to do all the same jobs and have all the same responsibilities as regular policemen. However, their main time is spent on the streets doing intelligence-based patrols in crime hotspots, taking part in crime prevention initiatives and in increasing community awareness. I think many of us were unaware of their importance and relevance in the fight against crime and criminal behaviour.

This month was our turn in the regular Friday Coffee Morning rota in the Parish Hall. We were delighted that so many people from the village turned out to support us and enjoy our delicious selection of home-made cakes, scones and pastries. We'd also like to publicly thank Joyce from the Parish Hall for all her help with setting up and throughout the morning. She's a treasure! Profits from the morning will be used by our Photography Group to professionally print, mount and display a selection of their recent photographs.

A small group of our Pop-up Crafters have been designing and crafting a range of items to decorate our u3a tree in the forthcoming Christmas Tree Festival in St Edmunds Church. Do go along and marvel at the skills and ingenuity on display.

In December, we are having a break from routine and are planning our annual Christmas Party and Christmas Lunch. The weather may be turning dark, cold and dreary but the members of the u3a refuse to let that dampen their enthusiasm for living life to the full – do come and join us if you're retired and of a like mind! LEARN LAUGH LIVE

Christmas Tree recycling

Maybe you are thinking of getting your Christmas tree this weekend to add a little sparkle in these dark days? Well, now think about at the end of Christmas when you don't know what to do with your now tired tree. For several years, the Sedgefield in Bloom group has offered a service where we collect your trees for £5 each and recycle them. This year, we are very lucky to be working with AW Treecare who will chip the trees on-site and then chippings will be used around Sedgefield. True recycling. The money collected will help us through the year to keep our town looking beautiful.

Please support us in our fund raising exercise by contacting Alice Hobson on chairsib@gmail.com or 01740 622706.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and our grateful thanks for your continued support.

Marie Etherington



Remembrance Sunday



Thanks to the SCA Craft Club for the poppies for the Remembrance Memorial Garden

We were blessed with a lovely bright, sunny day for Remembrance Sunday. St. Edmund's Church was packed almost to capacity for the service at which we welcomed Pam Royale (Deputy Lord Lieutenant of County Durham representing His Majesty King Charles III), Cllr David Brown (representing County Durham), Cllr Dave Jasper (Mayor) Mrs Annette Lawson (Mayor's Consort) and Cllr. Mel Carr (Chair Sedgefield Town Council). As usual, the uniformed organisations in Sedgefield turned out in great numbers with members of the Guides, Scouts, Brownies and Cubs taking part in the service, which was led by Michael King (Lay Minister at St. Edmund's), with support from Rev. David Hall, from the Methodist Church.

Thank you to the leaders of the uniformed organisations for helping to organise the service.

There was a huge crowd at the war memorial for the Act of Remembrance. Binyon's Lines were read by Laura Lucas-Hartley, a former member of the armed forces and the Last Post and Reveille were played by Carris Woodhouse, who responded to the request on social media for help. She played superbly and with a lot of confidence. Wreaths were laid at the war memorial with Jim Dean (a former submariner) standing guard. Thanks also to Lol Crallin for his help with the PA system which worked excellently.

It was a very moving occasion on which to remember those who have died as a result of war, those who have suffered life changing injuries and all those affected by conflicts past and present, but as important is the opportunity to pray for peace in our time in those countries affected by war now.

Thank you to all who helped in any way with the service and Act of Remembrance, particularly our Town Clerk, Jane Ayre and Finance Officer, Julia Rowsby, who oversaw the laying of the wreaths and other behind the scenes functions.

Michael King



ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

email: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Christmas pantomime



Rehearsals are well under way for the pantomime – Snow White and Rose Red. Involving the whole group and the SPYS, the stage will be packed and features the usual songs, slapstick, audience participation and our signature end of show song, Reach for the Stars.

Leading the way as Snow White and Rose Red are Kelsey White and Lucy Atkinson with Emily Legender and Amy Henery playing Prince Otto and Prince Hans. There can be no panto without an Evil Queen, scarily played by Sarah Legender, so get practicing your booing. Providing some light relief is Rosemary Jones and Gill Hook as Bruno and Boris, palace henchman. Along the way we also meet Alan, the magic mirror, Dame Dolly, played by Tom Guest and the dwarves. Liz Flanagan and Paul Walker split the role of Wednesday, and Jackie O'Meara and Jason Legender plays Sunday. The other dwarves are played by some of our older SPYS. We have a team of dancers and our younger SPYS and other players play the villagers. Written by Tom Guest, this wonderful panto is set to an 80's soundtrack, so will be feet tappingly great. Tickets are £8.50 from sedgefieldplayers.co.uk, ticketsource.co.uk or Tickety Boo. Please note online matinee tickets have already sold out, but you can join a waiting list. In March 2024, the Players will be putting on Calendar Girls. Information about this wonderful play will be announced shortly.

Sedgefield Players

Step into Christmas



*#Welcome to my Christmas song
I'd like to thank you for the year
So I'm sendin' you this Christmas card
To say, "It's nice to have you here."*

*I'd like to sing about all the things
Your eyes and mind can see
So hop aboard the turntable
Oh, step into Christmas with me. #*

(Bernie Taupin / Elton John: Step Into Christmas)

Join Sedgefield Lyric Singers, SLYC and Lirica as they Step Into Christmas for their seasonal concert. Dates: Fri 8 and Sat 9 December Venue: Sedgefield Parish Hall Time: 7:30pm Tickets: £7, £5 (U16s), available at Tickety Boo, on 01740 621196, or from members of the choirs.

So, in the words of the song...

*#Take care in all you do next year
And keep smilin' through the days
If we can help to entertain you
Oh, we will find the ways.*

*So merry Christmas, one and all
There's no place I'd rather be
Than askin' you if you'd oblige
Steppin' into Christmas with me. #*

Sedgefield Lyric Singers

More Local Events

Cinderella at Gala Theatre, Durham
Raucous and riotous update of the familiar family favourite. Throughout December to 6 January Tickets from £8 galadurham.co.uk/galapost/cinderella/

Christmas Crafting at Loft to Loved
A whole host of different craft workshops are on throughout December. Christmas decorations, mosaic designs and needle felting. Times & prices vary fromlofttoloved.co.uk

Christmas Carols at Ushaw House with Durham Miners' Brass Band
St Cuthbert's Chapel hosts a program of traditional songs and carols, mulled wine and mince pies. Audience participation is welcome 4 December at 7:30pm £8 (£6 child) ushaw.org/whatson/christmas-carols-23/



Winter market at Bowes Museum
Stalls for local artists and craftsmen alongside Christmas activities and themed tours of the museum. 15 to 17 December, 10am to 4pm, £6.50 (£3.50 child) thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/winter-market-2023/



SPORTS UPDATE

Email chrisjlines@aol.com

After a summer that saw the weather have a significant impact on the grass roots cricket schedule, there hasn't been much let up during the autumn. Multiple football matches have already been called off due to waterlogged pitches and even cross country running has been affected. Trees brought down onto the course by a named storm recently caused a fixture in the North East Harrier League to be cancelled. It's unusual for bad weather to disrupt cross country athletics. In fact, running in awful conditions is one of the key characteristics of the sport, as demonstrated in 2015 when the North Eastern Counties Cross Country Championships were held in a blizzard in East Park. Those who were there on that December day will never forget it, and will soon have an opportunity to take part in or watch an even bigger cross country event in the park early next year. Read more about that below...

Rugby Union

Sedgefield District Rugby Club has had a challenging start to the season in Durham & Northumberland Counties Division 2. Although the team has managed only a single victory so far, away to Seaham with the last kick of the game, a number of good performances have led to regular try and losing bonus points, and at the time of writing this, the Sedgefield 1st XV sit in 10th place.

The Saxons have also had a couple of run outs so far this season, with some new players being given their first experience of senior rugby.

If you are interested in getting involved in rugby, whatever your experience or playing level, get in touch with the club via social media. Training takes place on Thursdays at 7:00pm on the rugby pitch at Sedgefield Cricket Club.



Freddie McCormack breaks through for the Saxons before releasing Jordan Portlock to score in their victory over Barnard Castle

Cyclo-cross

East Park will host a day of cyclo-cross races on Saturday 9 December. The event is being organised by Sedgefield Velo and will be round eight of nine in the North East Cyclo-cross League (NECCL). Cyclo-cross is a form of cycling that usually takes place during the autumn and winter, and involves multiple laps of a short course, typically on surfaces like that in East Park, and sometimes including obstacles. Senior races usually last between 40 and 60 minutes.

The action in Sedgefield will start with races for under 8s, 10s and 12s at 12 noon. The under 14s and under 16s will start at 1:00pm and the senior and veteran men and women will set off at 1:02pm. If you fancy trying cyclo-cross, it's not too late to enter. You will need to be a member of TLI Cycling (£20 per year – join at www.tlicycling.com) and race entry is £4 for juniors and £10 for seniors and vets. Find out more on the Facebook page [NECCL - 'North East Cyclo Cross League'](#).



Cyclo-cross riders in action in East Park last year

Athletics

Sedgefield will host a major event on the winter athletics calendar early next year. Northern Athletics has announced that the 2024 Start Fitness Northern Cross County Championships will be held in East Park on Saturday 27 January, with over 2,000 runners expected to participate.



The women's race in Sedgefield in 2021

East Park was the venue for the North Eastern Counties Cross Country Championships in 2015 and 2021, and the races in January 2024 will follow similar routes. The Northern Cross Country Championships is on a bigger scale and will see clubs from throughout the north of England bring runners of all ages to Sedgefield to compete in one of the UK's biggest cross country events of the year. Traditionally, the championships attract some of the nation's elite athletes, who line up alongside club runners of all abilities, to tackle the mud, undulating routes and wintry weather that characterise cross country races.

Durham County Council has agreed to let organisers hold the championships on the site, and host club Sedgefield Harriers is working closely with Northern Athletics and local stakeholders in the build up to January, and will recruit volunteers to help out on the day. The team at Hardwick Park has been providing advice on elements of the proposed route, and other aspects of the event. Parking for competitors will be at Sedgefield Racecourse, which has a link to the championships, as it hosted them almost 70 years ago, in 1955. Other local venues and businesses will also be involved in staging the event, which is expected to bring big fields of junior and senior runners to Sedgefield for the various races during the day, plus coaches and other representatives from athletics clubs around the north of England, and spectators.

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

CEDDSFELD HALL

Sedgefield Community Association

December events and looking forward to 2024!

SCA are delighted to host a Christmas Craft Fayre, in support of STC Snow Party, on Saturday 2 December, from 1pm to 4pm. There will be several festive craft stalls in the main hall as well as a children's Christmas bran tub. Wendy Rowley and team from Pop In will provide coffees, teas, with delicious homemade cakes, scones and biscuits. The bar and lounge will open to visitors from 1pm and will remain open until 7pm, to welcome back families following the switching on of the Christmas lights, which takes place on the green at 4pm.

Following the Churches Together 'Carols on the Green' on Friday 22 December 6.30pm to 7pm, the bar and lounge will be open from 7pm. Mulled wine will also be served at £3 a glass. A donation from mulled wine sales will be made to Butterwick Hospice.

A Christmas Kanika Pila with Sedgefield Smile Time Ukulele Band on Friday 22 December begins at 7pm in the main hall. This is a free event with well known tunes and Christmas songs performed by this popular group.

SCA are pleased to hold the very popular Christmas Eve Quiz on 24 December, 7:30pm for 8pm. Come along to enjoy a great, social evening with quiz master Peter Hinde. This is also a free event and of course the bar will be open. Feel free to bring Christmas nibbles and treats.

SCA are very pleased to host a Burns Supper in true Scottish tradition, on Saturday 27 January, starting at 7pm. Tickets are £30, to include a drinks reception followed by a 5 course meal (choice of haggis or roast beef or vegetarian option) with a cheese board and coffee. There will be 'pipes, toasts, talks and quotes' too! Tickets can be purchased by contacting Pat on the number below.

SCA are looking forward to another busy year in 2024! In next month's edition of Sedgefield News you will receive the 2024 SCA pamphlet which provides an outline of the regular, interest group activities and events calendar, as well as room hire and booking information for the year.

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.

Co-op Local Community Fund



A big thank you on behalf of the chosen causes for Round 8 of the Co-op Community Group funding for the Sedgefield cluster.

- Sedgefield Youth Football Club.
- Sedgefield Development Trust - Woodland & Wildlife Project
- Sedgefield Primary School PTFA

Each group received their share of the fund in November.

Round 9 has now opened. There have been some changes in that it is now two groups per cluster. For the Sedgefield cluster the two causes are:

- Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club
- Friends of Sedgefield Hardwick School (PTA)

If you have a Co-op membership card, please log onto the app and press the community tab at the bottom which will then direct you to choose a cause.

If you don't have a membership card, you can easily apply online at the cost of £1 and then enjoy lots of discounts and special offers.

You get money back offers and every time you buy Co-op branded goods you earn money for your local cause too.



Mayor's Corner



December is traditionally the busiest month for a Mayor with a plethora of Carol Services, Civic Services and Christmas events to attend.

I have 10 Civic Carol Services to go to in Spennymoor, Seaham, Stockton, Durham, Sedgefield, Redcar and Cleveland, Sunderland, Peterlee, Hartlepool and Darlington. There are 3 Christmas events in Sedgefield, Sunderland and Shildon as well.

I have visits to our 2 excellent Primary Schools to arrange so that I can judge their craft activity. After that, I am looking forward to decorating the Mayor's Tree with their crafts at the Christmas Tree Festival in St Edmund's. There is also a very busy Snow Party Day!

I have my Mayor's Christmas Coffee Morning featuring Sedgefield Hardwick School Choir and Nichola Jones Cards and Gifts on Friday 8 December and my sell out Mayor's New Year's Eve Dance starring Mamma Said to organise. As soon as Christmas is over, my attention turns to our Sedgefield Players' Pantomime from 27-30 December so look out for me with my collecting bucket as you leave the hall after each show!

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year and to thank you all for your tremendous support in this, my second year as your Mayor.

David Jasper



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DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

December 2023

- Friday 1** **Sedgefield's Women's Institute**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am to 11:30am. Festive coffee morning, homemade cakes, raffle and tombola. Everyone welcome!
- Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Christmas Party, shared table and quiz.
- Saturday 2** **Snow Party**, events from 10am in St Edmund's, Sedgefield Parish Hall, Ceddesfeld Hall and Village Green. See posters on page 3 for more details.
- Sedgefield Town Council Crafts Fayre**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 1pm to 4pm. Bar open from 1pm to 7pm.
- Sunday 3** **Christmas Wreath Workshop**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 10am to 1pm, £35 with all materials provided. Contact 07523 398922 to book a place.
- Monday 4** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm.
- Wednesday 6** **Sedgefield's Women's Institute**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm, 'Musical Entertainment' followed by a pooled supper. Members competition is 'A music box'. Visitors welcome £4.
- Thursday 7** **Mordon Parish Meeting**, Mordon Village Hall, 7:30pm.
- Mayor's Carol Service**, St. Edmund's Church, 7pm.
- Friday 8** **Mayor's Christmas Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am to 11:30am, with Hardwick Primary Choir and Nichola Jones Gifts and Cards.
- Saturday 9** **SACT Advent Abroad**, St. Alban's Church, Trimdon Grange, 10am to 2pm including refreshments and light lunch. Free event, all welcome.
- Thursday 14** **Whist, Domino Drive and Draw**, Mordon Village Hall, 7pm.
- Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm.
- Friday 15** **Christmas Coffee Morning, Sedgefield in Bloom**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am. Lots of homemade treats, raffle, and more.
- Saturday 16** **Sedgefield Games Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, anytime from 6pm. Come along and play a variety of board games. £2.50.
- Sunday 17** **Carol Singing**, Mordon Village Hall, 5pm. Collection for charity.
- Tuesday 19** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Member's Christmas Workshop, £25. Book by 4 December. 07533 752870 or 01325 722373.
- Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers.
- Friday 22** **SACT Carols on the Green**, Sedgefield Village Green, 6:30pm, followed by refreshments in Ceddesfeld Hall. All welcome.
- Christmas Kanika Pila** with Sedgefield Smile Time Ukulele Bank, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7pm.
- Sunday 24** **Christmas Eve Quiz**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 8pm.
- Sunday 31** **Mayor's New Year's Eve Dance** with Mamma Said and piper. SOLD OUT.



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 Wednesday 9:30 to 12:30
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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.

