

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

April 2022 Edition

Shrove Tuesday 2022



The 2022 Ball Game on 1 March was started by John Blakey (pictured above) and won by Adam Dovaston. Adam is pictured below with his dad, Stephen Dovaston who won the game back in 1991.

Thank you to those that got in touch with Ball Game photographer Stephen Curry. He now has portraits of 31 winners with contact details for a few more to meet on a future visit.

He is still interested in other winners making contact. You can contact Stephen at curry.s@hotmail.co.uk or call him on 07752 431883.

On 2 March, Adam's girlfriend was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma which is an uncommon cancer that develops in the lymphatic system, which is a network of vessels and glands spread throughout your body. In support of girlfriend, Nell Wright, Adam will be raising funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust by completing the Great North Swim in Lake Windermere in June. You can help Adam by donating at www.justgiving.com/adam-dovaston or join him at a Coffee Morning on 14 May at 10am in the Methodist Church.



Deadline for May - Friday 15 April

In this edition



For this month's edition, we have pressed the shuffle button and moved things around.

With so much exciting sports news, we have a centre page spread covering a wide range of different disciplines including athletics, bowls and cycling.

The Arts page has moved to page 8 and the Events page will be easy to find on the back cover.

Hi Ho Sedgefield Parkrun

On Saturday 19 March, Sedgefield Parkrun celebrated its 10th birthday with its now traditional sing song to the tune of Hi Ho Silver Lining by Jeff Beck.

Over 10,000 different people have now completed Sedgefield Parkrun and had their barcode scanned.

With its friendly community vibe, it is always a pleasure to participate in the free, weekly 5k event. Walk, jog run, volunteer or spectate—its up to you!



I find it an uplifting way to start the weekend and put a smile on my face. Come and join every Saturday at 9am in Hardwick Park.

The format of parkrun is simple: register once, print your barcode, then turn up and take part wherever you want, whenever you want. Register at www.parkrun.org.uk/register to participate and, if you want to volunteer email sedgefield@parkrun.com.

JS

Walk for autism

As some of you may be aware, SCC raised in excess of £10,000 last year by taking part in a charity event: 'Walk for Autism'. The purpose of this event is not only to raise money but to help raise awareness of autism, not only within our school but the wider community. We would love to have you join us if you can. The walk is completed remotely and is from the 26 March to 2 April. During this time, the aim is to walk 80,000 steps (10,000 each day). If you would like to partake, please follow the link and register to our WALK FOR AUTISM! team: Team SCC. If you would rather keep your walking shoes at home but are still keen to support please follow the link and there you will also find a link to donate. No matter how big or small and in whatever capacity you can manage, your support is always appreciated.



Walking the plank!

At Sedgefield Hardwick, we recently celebrated World Book Day 2022. We really enjoyed dressing up as characters from our favourite books to read! School was visited by a whole gang of different people, from witches like Mildred Hubble and Hermione Granger, to explorers like The Mandalorian and Indiana Jones, and even more unusual characters like Rob Biddulf from Draw With Rob!

The school's theme for World Book Day was Peter Pan, with all the staff dressing up as different characters from J.M. Barrie's classic novel! However, the day took an unexpected twist when the mean, awful and dastardly Captain Hook gate-crashed the party, soaked the children and kidnapped poor Wendy! To help Peter save Wendy, we had to do lots of reading activities to find out the co-ordinates so that Peter could rescue her and listen to the story with the Lost Boys!



We were successful and managed to rescue Wendy, capture Hook, Smee and the rest of the pirates. Most of the pirates saw the error of their ways and promised to be good from now on. However, Hook and Smee had to face their punishment - walking the plank! The Tik-Tok Crok also witnessed this happen, and quickly dived in to enjoy a tasty snack!

"I loved World Book Day this year, my favourite bit was seeing all the costumes - and Captain Hook having to walk the plank with Smee!" said a Year 3 pupil. We all had a wonderful time this year, and can't wait to see what the theme is for next year!

Good Friday Procession
Starting 10 am 15th April from St. Edmund's, Sedgefield
and processing to St. John Fisher and Sedgefield Methodist Church
with the participation of New Generation Church
Simple Bible readings and songs at each place of worship
Everyone is very welcome

Sedgefield Area Churches Together

Dancing Festival Feet

Sedgefield Primary Pupils put their dancing festival feet to good use whilst waiting on Sedgefield Village Green when their coach was unexpectedly delayed in road works last month. Class 5 pupils sprang into action and used the time wisely by taking part in a final rehearsal for their Dance Festival. Surprised local shoppers were greeted by 9 and 10 year old pupils hitting dance moves to Rick Roll lyrics of 'Never Gonna Give You Up' (aka Rick Astley). Pupils were equally shocked to learn that their chosen lyrics, which are now a TikTok favourite, dated back to the 1980s. A Music lesson to support the dance became a brief history one to introduce the concept of music revivals.



Thankfully the delayed coach eventually appeared to take pupils to Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. The dance was successfully performed with accompanying gymnastics moves, which pupils had perfected with the support of specialist coaches in PE sessions. The festival was supported by many local schools and organised by Go Well. Sedgefield Primary are delighted that sporting events can now take place again. Many pupils took part in a range of events last week as cross country and football tournaments were also organised by Go Well. Pupils were keen to receive their certificates in all these sporting activities.

SEDFIELD ROCK & BLUES CLUB
KEEPING LIVE MUSIC LIVE

TREVOR SEWELL
+ TERESA WATSON BAND
FRIDAY 22ND APRIL

TICKETS
SEDFIELD PARISH HALL
WWW.SEDGEFIELDBLUES.COM

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*

Buzzing about Bees at Hardwick

When I first started beekeeping the wonder of honeybees astounded me. They defied the laws of gravity, endurance and time. An insect that produces the sweetest natural liquid and in turn pollinates one in every three bites we eat. The more I learnt, the more impressed I became with these amazing insects, which are literally needed for the survival of our planet.

As the warm weather approaches the bee-keepers at Hardwick are beginning to gather together their equipment ready for the new season. We are looking for new bee-keepers to join us and discover this incredible world of honey bees.



We are a really friendly bunch, who enjoy bee-keeping and are keen to encourage those who might be interested to come and see for yourselves what it's all about. Do contact me if you would like anymore information or you would like to come and visit the apiary. Lesley on 07856 625007, Facebook page: Bees at Hardwick.

Dates for your diary:

We will be at Sedgefield Farmers Market on 1 May. Please come and visit us to ask us any questions you might have.

Taster Day Saturday 7 May 10am- 1pm. Please contact us to book your place.



Sunday 3 April from 8.30 - 12.30

Before the pandemic struck and we lost the live music, charity and hot drinks tents, our market really used to deserve its happy reputation. It's time to stage a recovery so we're delighted to welcome **Happy Barista** to the village green. Dana & Tom serve seriously good coffee, tea and hot chocolate, with café style seating provided - a chance for a serious catch up with friends.

Among food and drink stalls with their tasty, imaginative produce, this month's charity, Durham Wildlife Trust would love to talk to you. On the SDT stall, volunteers can answer questions about all the projects and our fabulous shopping bags will be on sale. We hope to start the summer music programme soon and any local musicians, community groups or charities should email charitystall@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk to request a stall.

Sedgefield Energy Switch

Due to the continuing volatility of the energy market, the auction that was scheduled for May will not go ahead.

Ichoosr will continue to monitor the market on our behalf and when they identify some level of stability they will hold an 'Open Ended' auction. Residents who registered for the auctions in October last year and February this year will automatically be included in this auction when arranged. If you are one of those people you will receive an email or letter w/c 5 April explaining the open ended auction process.

For residents who would normally register for the May auction, i.e. if your existing contract comes to an end before the end of June, you should still complete a registration in the normal way.

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

Bees at Hardwick FAQs

How much does it cost to join the Bees at Hardwick?

The beauty of community bee-keeping is that it costs nothing! We provide the bees and the hives at our apiary close to Sedgefield. We also have some suits to loan out. If you get more involved, we would then recommend you buy your own suit, smoker and hive tool.

How much time do I need to commit?

The bees start to fly around early spring until mid-Autumn. Bees need to be checked weekly for swarm and to make sure they are healthy. We recommend at least an hour a week during flying season. During the winter, it is maybe every couple of weeks to check on food stores and any problems caused by poor weather. Everyone works together for the good of the hives, so you can invest as little or as much time as you wish.

Will I have my own hive?

We endeavour to give our new bee-keepers their own hive. However, you will have a mentor who will be with you to help and guide you. If you go on holiday, the other bee-keepers will check your hive whilst you are away.

Do I need to go on a course?

We would always recommend that you go on a course if you want to continue with beekeeping. We can arrange this for you with a local training provider.

Will I get stung?

Inevitably, this is part of bee-keeping. However, a good suit and careful handling of the bees does reduce this.

Do I get any honey?

It depends upon the amount of forage, the weather in a particular year, whether your bees try to swarm and how successful you are at disease management. The hive we produce is split between the beekeeper and sold at Sedgefield Farmers Market to raise funds for the apiary.

My child is really interested. Can they come along?

We recommend for children from the age 8. Please contact Lesley for more details.



Homework Help is still here, and currently meeting online.

Contact us if you'd like help or if you can offer some at homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or find us on Facebook.

Sedgefield Development Trust Contact Details. Company Secretary,
3a Front Street, Sedgefield, Co. Durham, TS21 3AT. Telephone no 07572 502904
email: secretary@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk website: www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY APRIL 2022

You are often rewarded during a springtime woodland walk with the sight of spring flowers including wood anemones and celandines, but a group of flowers often overlooked, but worth a closer examination are violets – do you know your dog from your sweet – your nose will help!

Not only are violets beautiful they are vital to some of our most spectacular insects. If you see a violet in the wild, it is most likely to be the Common Dog-violet. This widespread plant lives happily in many different habitats, including woodland, grassland, heathland, hedgerows and old pasture. They are in flower from April to June.

Dog violets are small, perennial flowers which grow up to 15 centimetres in height. The leaves are heart-shaped and dark green in colour and the flowers have five striking purple petals that overlap each other slightly, with a white centre. The bottom-most petal has darker purple detail. To aid identification you need to have a smell of the violet because dog violets are not to be confused with the Sweet Violet which is very similar in appearance but is scented – hence its name – whereas the dog violet is unscented. The 'dog' in dog violet refers to its lack of scent, not the pet! Common Dog-violet provides a source of food for rare butterflies, including the silver-washed fritillary, the high brown fritillary and the dark green fritillary. Some butterflies also use the plant as a host for their eggs.



Common Dog Violet by David Baird

If you see a white or lilac violet there is a good chance it is a Sweet Violet. Legend says that a person can only smell Sweet Violets once, as they steal your sense of smell. This is untrue, but it stems from the fact that Sweet Violets contain beta-ionone, a chemical which temporarily shuts off smell receptors. Sweet Violets were used in herbal medicine to treat ailments such as headaches, depression and insomnia. They have been used to make perfume throughout history, dating back to classical Greece. They were also used to create early household deodorants in medieval Britain.

Sweet Violets are widespread but are increasingly uncommon. This is probably due to them being foraged for culinary purposes. As important sources of nectar for woodland butterflies, it's important to leave uncommon species like the Sweet Violet alone. It is recommended you plant your own Sweet Violets at home if you like to use them in cooking.

In the Victorian Language of Flowers, a purple violet indicated that the sender's thoughts were 'occupied with love' for the recipient. The next time you are on a woodland walk don't forget to get on your knees so that you can tell your sweet from your dog!

CEDDESFIELD HALL

Home of Sedgefield Community Association (www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk)

Special Note: SCA Annual AGM will be held at Ceddesfeld Hall on Monday 27th June at 8pm – all welcome.

Sedgefield's popular singing group Lirica will be entertaining the guests at St George's Dinner at Ceddesfeld Hall on Saturday 23 April. There are a few tickets remaining for this lovely event which is raising funds for the Mediaeval Fayre. The drinks reception starts at 7pm, followed by a dinner of steak pie (veg option) with a selection of fresh veg, dessert, cheeseboard, coffee/tea and mints – all for £20! Contact Pat.

It has been great to see the gradual return of the familiar and new sections and groups as well as regulars and visitors to the bar and special weekend events.

2022 will see the return of larger community events to the town. These special days are organised by a small, dedicated committee of volunteers, who ensure that everything is well planned, safe, open to all and enjoyed by everyone. Additional volunteer help on the day, is essential—see box below.

Your Community Needs You!

Easter Picnic – Monday 18 April To set up a 12m x 4m marquee on the lawns – set up furniture in the main hall and marquee
Mediaeval Fayre – Saturday 21 May To transport, set up and take down 20+ gazebos (on the green & lawns) & to man stalls (rota)
Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Saturday 4 June To set up and decorate 12m x 4m marquee on the lawns – set up furniture in the main hall and marquee

Beer Festival – 8 & 9 July – to serve, collect glasses & sell tickets. To set up festival bar on Wed 6 July & take down on Sun 10 July

Keep safe by registering your appliances



Did you know that by registering your oven, fridge or washing machine you could receive vital information about free product safety repairs?

To make it easy for the public to register appliances, the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances (AMDEA) has created a special website.

Register my appliance

As part of the Fire Kills Campaign, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service is helping to raise awareness of why it is important for people to register their appliances. Although safety recalls on large white goods are rare, if a problem arises it is crucial that homes with the affected models can be contacted quickly and particularly that older, vulnerable, owners are not left off the radar. Why not take a few minutes to visit the website www.registermyappliance.org.uk and register today?



If you (your friends, team, colleagues) can help, please do get in touch soon. Contact info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk or telephone Tony & Sarah on 01740 622185.

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 at www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk. Follow us on Facebook Ceddesfeld Hall 'Home of SCA'.

Your LETTERS



Sit a while and enjoy the view

A lovely event took place on March 10, when a beautiful bench, designed by Walter Howell, was unveiled. The bench is dedicated to volunteers, past, present and future, and is sited on Stockton Road (opposite the Agricultural Heritage area). Cllr Ann Carr - our Mayor of Sedgfield performed the ribbon cutting ceremony following a speech by Chair Alice Hobson. A grant from County Durham Community Foundation funded this project. Please go and see this really lovely bench, maybe sit a while and enjoy the view.

Marie Etherington

Using Consult Online

I feel compelled to give a shout out to Skerne Medical Practice. I have used 'eConsult' a couple of times recently and have been really impressed with the quick response and the excellent treatment given. Moreover, we have group of fantastic doctors and we can rest assured that our health is in really secure hands. If anyone hasn't used NHS eConsult I suggest that you try it - it is much better and faster than ringing.

We have many things to be thankful for living in Sedgfield. The medical practice is one of them.

Leo McCormack

70 years of Sedgfield

Just a little reminder. If you would like to contribute to '70 Years of Sedgfield' (featured in the March edition of Sedgfield News, page 3), please ring 01740 620091 or drop me an email at

norma@neal.myzen.co.uk.

Norma Neal

Mayor's report

The Murder Mystery Night was a great success. There were 80 people present on the night, most dressed up in 1920's style costumes. My husband Mel and son-in-law John were gangsters, others had great costumes on and fab colours, head dresses, moustaches, trilbies, cigar holders, an old fashioned farmer's outfit and much more. Lots of sparkle and feathers. The Sedgfield Players had not performed a Murder Mystery night before but, with 50 years experience, their performance was excellent. The audience participation was great which helped the evening to be so much fun. There was a real buzz in the hall. We raised approximately £800 for the Youngminds charity. A very big 'Thank you' to the Players and everyone who helped to make this event so special.

The next major event was the Mayor's Ball. It was a difficult decision to hold a Ball because of the Omicron virus but once the decision was taken it was all go. The Ball was very successful and people joined in the fundraising activities. It was lovely to see everyone dressed for a special occasion, dancing and enjoying themselves. Thank you very much to everyone who supported the event, I really do appreciate your support. I intend visiting everyone who sponsored me to thank them. A special thanks to the Council Staff for their help and support.

Councillor Ann Carr

Opinions expressed in Sedgfield News are not necessarily those of the publisher. We strive to be impartial & independent. We reserve the right to edit copy & will not publish letters of unknown authorship. Please send your contact details with correspondence.

Jedi Knights vs Everest

Sedgfield resident, Geoff Hill (36) and former Sedgfield resident, Ollie O' Mara (35) recently repeatedly scaled Roseberry Topping to the height of Mount Everest (8,848m, almost 2 Parkruns, but vertically) to raise awareness of Motor Neurone Disease and provide financial support to their friend and Seaham resident Rob Reay who was recently diagnosed with MND.

The challenge was undertaken over three days from 25 February with Geoff and Ollie only counting the metres accrued from each ascent to the top. Given Rob's love of all that is Star Wars the pair were dressed as Jedi Knights which made for an interesting time navigating the windy slopes in costumes.



Motor Neurone disease is a progressive incurable neurological condition that is extremely challenging for the person and their loved ones. Along with the adjustment to living with this condition, Rob requires significant practical adaptations to be made to the family home, which includes purchasing an appropriate wheelchair accessible vehicle, alongside the significant costs of care. Ollie, Geoff and many others are aiming to support Rob and raise £100,000 over a series of challenges, with the Roseberry Everest challenge being the first. Geoff, Ollie and all those who came along for the challenge were heartened by the well wishes and donations from walkers who were also there scaling Roseberry Topping.

They would be grateful for any additional support to assist with the target. Please see www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jedi-reay?utm_term=Dvb6xbErD for more information.

SPORTS UPDATE

Email chrisjlines@aol.com

Sedgefield produces some amazing sporting talent and, this month, there is so much to report that Sport has been given this double page spread. The story of Ben Hetherington really stands out. The story of his comeback and recent return to competition is one of dedication, determination, talent and love, and involves Ben, his family, friends, medical professionals, the cycling community and others.

Athletics

The winter cross country season has concluded with significant success for Sedgefield Harriers. In the North East Harrier League, the senior men won Division 3 and secured promotion. It was a record year of participation for the men, chivvied along by team captain Justin Cox, with 22 competing at some point across the six fixtures, five of which the club won. There's real strength in depth in the club's cross country squad, which bodes well for the next season.

Meanwhile, the club's series of Grand Prix races is well underway, with members earning points during a series of nine established regional races during the year, featuring a mixture of distances and surfaces. There are six divisions: two elite divisions (one men, one women), plus four mixed-gender divisions, with over 100 eligible runners.

The most recent Grand Prix race was the popular Thirsk 10 Mile event, at which a large cohort of 23 Harriers took part. Next up will be the Hartlepool Marina 5 Mile race, which is another well supported event on the grass roots calendar. Already, there is some keen competition in the Grand Prix and the outcome in each division is likely to go down to the wire, with the final race in Coxhoe in September.



The senior men of Sedgefield Harriers celebrate after securing promotion in the North East Harrier League at Alnwick

Sedgefield Harriers will host the club's next major event on Wednesday 27 April, when the Neptune Relays return to Hardwick Park after a break during the pandemic. Now well established on the regional athletics calendar, the event will see teams of four tackle a 1.7 mile route around the park, starting and finishing beneath the Temple of Minerva. The relays always attract clubs from all over the North East, along with non-club teams. The event is very welcoming for runners of all abilities, with honours up for grabs across a range of junior, senior and veteran categories.

Talking of juniors, that section of the club is starting to gather momentum again, after the pandemic hit it hard. With no dedicated club facilities, the young athletes had nowhere safe to train while the community college was closed. Some of the older juniors were able to join senior sessions – and have made brilliant progress – but coaching for the younger athletes has only really been able to resume in earnest relatively recently, which is handy as the club is regularly receiving queries from the parents/guardians of children who want to try out the sport. To find out more about Sedgefield Harriers, visit www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk, find the club on Facebook, or follow @sedgeharriers on Twitter.

Cricket



Easter weekend marks the start of the 2022 local cricket season, with Sedgefield Cricket Club raring to go after a full winter and pre-season training schedule for the first time in three years. In the North Yorkshire & South Durham League Division 1, the 1st XI begin their season on Saturday 16 April against Whitby with a 12:30pm start. On the same day, the 2nd XI hope to start their promotion campaign with an away win at Newton Aycliffe. On Easter Sunday, the 3rd XI will be at home to Barnard Castle, with a 2:00pm start.

With free admission, your local teams playing at home, the bar open and all televised live sport showing in the clubhouse, there can't be a much better way to spend the long weekend. The bar is open to everyone, but if you are interested in joining as a social member you will enjoy discounted drinks prices.

Friday evenings will soon once again see the cricket field flooded with juniors enjoying their coaching. The junior teams will begin their league seasons in late April/early May with high hopes for strong campaigns from all age groups.

For up to date announcements, follow the club on Facebook and Twitter. Membership enquiries can be emailed to sccmemberships@outlook.com.

Turf



Since I covered it a couple of months ago (prompted by Rob Morrison – thanks Rob!), Sedgefield has become a significant centre of Turf activity. Six new players have started participating and nine new zones have been added, bringing the total number of zones in Sedgefield and Hardwick Park to 32. These might not sound like huge numbers, but suddenly Sedgefield is a hotspot for Turf activity in the North East. At the end of February's round, a player from Sedgefield won the North East region and at the time of writing this in March, all of the top five players in the region come from Sedgefield. Competition is really heating up!

As a reminder, the app is free and available on multiple platforms and from turfgame.com. It shows maps of 'zones' that have been set up and you walk/run/bike to the zones – when your device's GPS recognises that you are there, you capture it and gain points. You can then earn extra points for how long you hold that zone, but you're in competition with other players who can target the same location and capture it off you. Give it a go!

Cycling - from coma to podium

A Sedgefield cyclist has secured a silver medal in a national competition less than three years after an accident left him in a coma with life-threatening injuries.

In May 2019, semi-professional road cyclist Ben Hetherington was hit by a car while competing in a local time trial event and left fighting for his life. Luckily, first at the scene were two off duty medics, and then the air ambulance airlifted Ben to James Cook University Hospital where surgeons performed a life-saving operation to allow bleeding around Ben's brain. He spent two weeks in intensive care in an induced coma, followed by a further four weeks in the high-dependency neurological ward before he was then put onto the main neurological ward.

Once on the main neurological ward, Ben had to regain his speech, concentration, and memory. As soon as these began to improve, all Ben wanted to do was ride his bike, even though at the time he could not even walk.

After five months in James Cook, Ben was transferred to the specialist neurological rehabilitation hospital, Walkergate Park, where through a combination of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and his own determination, Ben began walking independently, but he still wanted to ride his bike. As part of his physio, he progressed from the seated pedals to a stationary gym bike and by the time he left Walkergate Park he had progressed to a mountain bike which he rode around a small track.

Ben left hospital at the end of January 2020, eight months after his traumatic brain injury. His rehabilitation continued at home with the support of his parents Gary and Amanda, a case manager, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, psychologist and cycling friends. Ben got stronger and fitter physically but also needed to work hard on his cognition and memory due to the brain injury. The first lockdown enabled Ben and his mum to ride local roads, progressing from a mountain bike to road bike with normal pedals then eventually to cleats.

Ben's target was always to re-join his team and race, but as he came to terms with his physical and mental capabilities, he realised that the only way to reach his dreams was now to go into para races. He was given a C3 classification and entered individual pursuit event in the National Para Track Championship.

With the hard work behind him and his dogged determination he was now ready to race and do his best, whatever the outcome would be, and when 5 March came around that was what he did. He finished second in the MC3 category in a time of three minutes and 49 seconds. He was proud and delighted to accept the silver medal.



Ben Hetherington (left) on the podium, National Track Cycling Championships - photo credit SWPix

Ben comments: "It feels amazing. My first ever track race and I was happy just to finish it, so getting a silver is blooming unbelievable! I didn't expect to be on the podium at all, but this is perfect. It's my first race of any type in three years and it's nice to be back performing at a high level again. I can't believe it really. When I found out I was second, I think my heart rate was higher than when I was racing! I'm so pleased with myself, and grateful to everyone who helped me get here – I couldn't have done this without them."

Ben is now looking forward to improving his time and is keen to race in more para cycling events.

BRITISH
CYCLING

Squash

As the competitive squash season draws to a close, the club championships are now in full swing for Sedgefield Squash Club seniors and juniors. The competitions will have concluded in the next few weeks, so by the next edition, I will be able to report the results. All of the league matches for the club's six teams have been completed, apart from the odd rearranged game due to Covid earlier in the season. It's been a mixed bag of results for most teams, but Sedgefield managed to maintain its strong presence in the Durham & Cleveland Leagues. The best position was achieved by the third team in Division 3, who finished second by one point ahead of Guisborough. The club is also encouraged to see its junior leagues up and running with a high level of participation, and great support from the parents helping to arrange and score the matches. A big thank you from the club committee to them. Sedgefield Squash Club is looking forward to seeing all players and their families at its presentation evening on Friday 6th May in the Parish Hall. Look out for news about club kit in the next edition, which will feature a first for Sedgefield Squash Club. Watch this space!

Anyone interested in getting involved or joining Sedgefield Squash Club should get in touch via info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.

sedgefield
squashclub

Bowls

Fishburn Bowls Club welcomes membership from all ages and abilities.

You are invited to try the sport without any commitment. Informal free tuition is available. New members have free use of club bowls and unlimited use of the bowling green throughout the season subject to the Greenkeeper's works. The game of bowls is gentle outdoor exercise with the chance to make new friends in a pleasant space.

For further details contact:
Carol on 07446 032450 or
Ian on 01740 621952.



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

ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

email: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

UK City of Culture 2025

Given the huge array of artistic and cultural events that are staged in the region each month, it is no surprise to learn that County Durham has been shortlisted for UK City of Culture 2025. Out of an initial twenty bids submitted, the final 4 remaining are from Durham, Bradford, Southampton and Wrexham.

As well as recognising the huge contribution made by the arts already and focussing the cultural spotlight here, to win the prestigious title could also bring in millions in additional investment to the area, attract more tourism and spark a lifelong interest in the arts for future generations.

The winner will be announced in May!

Northern Kin Festival 2022

Northern Kin Festival returns to the beautiful surroundings of Ushaw: Historic House, Chapels & Gardens over the bank holiday weekend. The line up of over 40 bands retains its usual flavour of folk and blues, but has something for everyone with headliners including Squeeze, Newton Faulkner & Del Amitri, New Model Army, Fairport Convention and Nik Kershaw. This is the fourth year of the festival, whose stated goal is to bring more live music to the North-East, and it certainly succeeds with over 60 hours of performances over this 3-day event.



Tickets are still available for camping & day visitors, please visit www.northernkinfestival.co.uk/tickets-page/ for prices and a full line-up of the artists attending this year.

Regeneration, Martin Kinnear

The international award-winning Northern artist, Martin Kinnear, has produced *Regeneration* showing at Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle. It's a really striking and thought provoking exhibition, reusing canvasses to create entirely new works, illustrating our capacity to confer a second life through the power of change. Among many works it features a breath-taking 16ft animation inspired by High Force in Teesdale. The exhibition, running until 25 April, focuses on hope and the positive power of reflection, as well as on people, place and community.

The exhibition is ticketed with general admissions being £15.50. Tickets are available from The Bowes Museum website www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/Exhibitions/2020/Regeneration.



Sedgefield Rock & Blues Club

On 22 April, Sedgefield Rock & Blues Club will welcome internationally recognised contemporary bluesman Trevor Sewell. Originally from Gosforth, and for many years a session guitarist before going solo 10 years ago, he will be known already to blues fans for his seven albums, his many international awards, his collaborations with household names like Janis Ian. Sewell still lives in the North-East & will be supported by The Teresa Watson Band.

Tickets are £15 each and available at sedgefieldblues.com/gigs.

World Heritage Day

The UNESCO World Heritage Site in Durham City will be going all-out to celebrate International World Heritage Day on 18 April (Easter Monday). There will be activities in Durham Cathedral, Palace Green Library and Durham Castle, including interactive exhibits where you can meet and talk to significant local historical characters.

There will also be live music from local bands, arts and crafts and drama performances. The Institute for Medieval and Early Modern studies will present talks & videos on medieval herb lore & book-binding. The extensive mining heritage of Durham will be explored on 2-hour-long tours of Durham City and Acle Re-enactment Society will be on hand to bring the early medieval period to life with interactive exhibitions of weapons & armour. For more details visit thisisdurham.com/world-heritage-day/events-programme.



Desperately Seeking...You! The Sedgefield Players

The Sedgefield Players have grown in members during the past two years and have now got over 60 members from aged 7 right the way to 90. But we're missing a few key demographics! We are currently on the look out for younger men in their 20s and 30s, as well as any people of colour who might be interested in joining a thriving group. We rehearse twice weekly on Wednesdays and Sundays from 7.30 to 9.30 at the Parish Hall in Sedgefield. So, if you fancy treading the boards then we would love to meet you at a rehearsal. Come along and see what we're all about! We are an inclusive group who would welcome anyone with a passion for theatre, on stage, making costumes, back stage or selling teas and coffees in the interval!

For more information email sedgefieldplayers@outlook.com.

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DIARY & EVENTS

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April 2022

- Friday 1** **U3A**, Parish Hall at 2pm. Durham County Policing, "Policing the Community".
- Sunday 3** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am-12:30pm, featuring Durham Wildlife Trust as the community stall.
- Monday 4** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, The Early Years of Stan Laurel by Tom Hutchinson. Ceddesfeld Hall 7:45pm. Please contact Suzanne Hopper 01429 882250.
- Wednesday 6** **Sedgefield Women's Institute**, a talk by Jack Smith, our local Paralympian, 7:15pm. Visitors always welcome (£3.50).
- Thursday 7** **Sedgefield Show Planning Committee**, Sedgefield Social Club, 7.30pm. New people welcome, email Ian Mason at ian@sedgefieldshow.co.uk.
- Friday 8** **Sedgefield in Bloom**, Easter Coffee Morning, Parish Hall, 10am.
- Monday 11** **DIDO**, Parish Hall at 1pm. Bring and buy, decorated Easter eggs and Easter bonnet competition.
- Friday 15** **Sedgefield Area Churches Together**, Good Friday Procession starting at 10am in St. Edmund's and visiting St. John Fisher and the Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome.
- Monday 18** **Mediaeval Fayre selection of May Queen and attendants**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 1:45pm-2pm.
- Tuesday 19** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club**, see below for full details, Parish Hall, 7:30pm. All welcome. Members £5, non-members £8.
- Repair Café**, planning meeting, Parish Hall (TBC), 7pm-8pm.
- Friday 22** **Mayor's Coffee Morning**, Parish Hall, 10am-12pm. Homecare Clothing by Paul in the Fletcher Room, cake stall and raffle. Supporting Youngminds and local charities.
- Saturday 23** **Sedgefield Community Association**, St. George's dinner, Ceddesfeld Hall. Drinks reception at 7pm, followed by dinner at 7:30pm. Tickets cost £20. Contact Pat on 01740 620607.
- Wednesday 27** **Sedgefield in Bloom**, Northumbria in Bloom, Spring Judging.

Save the date

Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre
Saturday 21 May 10am to 4pm.

Sedgefield in Bloom
Saturday 4 June— Queen's Platinum Jubilee Music Night in the Parish Hall. Come along and join the fun, entertainment by our very own Lily Ho.

Wednesday 27 July—Northumbria in Bloom Summer Judging.

Platinum Jubilee 2022
Saturday 4 June— St. Edmund's Church, 10am, ecumenical service to celebrate the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Everyone welcome. Musical programme at Ceddesfeld Hall, Lawns & Marquee from 10:30am to 4pm.



SEDGEFIELD LIBRARY

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The library is open again with temporary opening hours:

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Friday 13.30 to 17.30

Saturday 9.30 to 12.30

There is no longer a limit to numbers or browsing times, so there is no need to queue.

Craft Group and Book Circle are back!

Craft Group, 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 1:30pm

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

Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

Methodist Church every Monday from 9:30am—11am.

Sedgefield Social Club

Singer every Saturday from 9pm.

Quiz on **Friday 8 April** at 8pm.

Karaoke on **Friday 22 April** at 8pm.

35th Anniversary for the Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

To mark this milestone year we are holding several events, starting with a cookery & flower demonstration by Liz Tewnton and Val Guest on **19 April**. Their title will be "Celebrations" with a royal theme, in keeping with the Queens Platinum Jubilee. There will be plenty of "tasters" and the flower arrangements will be raffled at the end of the evening. On **17 May**, we will celebrate our 35th anniversary by our Founder members cutting a birthday cake and toasting the Club, prior to our usual flower demonstration. A garden party in the grounds of Ceddesfeld hall will take place on **24 June** and we will also toast the Queen's for her Platinum Jubilee! Another garden party is being organised on **4 August** at the home of one of our committee members. The social secretary is organising a Dance in the Parish Hall on **9 September**. Throughout the year we are holding coffee mornings on **1 April, 6 May, 15 July & 16 September**. The committee want to welcome everyone to join in our celebrations throughout our special year! We hope that we can whet your appetite and perhaps join our Club! For details, please contact: 07533 752870 (Secretary), 07721 767408 (Chair), 07958 954069 (Social Secretary).