

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

April 2024

Submission deadline for the next edition: Sunday 14 April

Woodland & Wildlife site Bird Census 2023

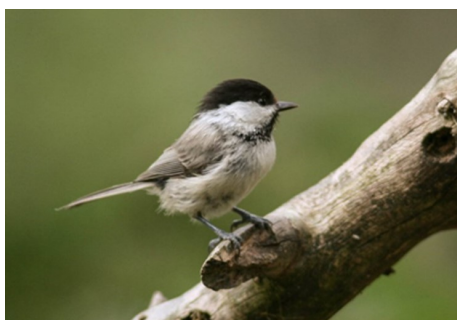
Since 2021, a breeding bird census has been carried at the Woodland and Wildlife Community Woodland to identify the number of species present to better inform site management. In 2023, despite the onset of development work on the site's northwest border, the numbers of birds seen and mapped as breeding remained fairly static with only minor fluctuations. A total of 51 bird species were recorded, of which 29 species held territory, with a total of 149 pairs of birds present, a very slight decrease from the previous year's record of 153 pairs. The 2023 full report can be found on our Facebook page '[Woodland & Wildlife - Sedgefield](#)'.

Rook remained the commonest bird on site, with 28 active nests in the Salters Lane rookeries. The run of comparatively mild winters helped Wren to become the second commonest species with 14 pairs, this was followed by Blackbird (10 pairs) then Woodpigeon, Chaffinch, Blue Tit and Dunnock (8 pairs each), Common Whitethroat (7 pairs) and then Robin, Chiffchaff and Great Tit (6 pairs each).

All of the Warbler species had a good year. Both Chiffchaff and Common Whitethroat hit record numbers, with new territories established in some of the planted sapling areas, there were 5 pairs of Blackcap and a single Willow Warbler pair. A 'reeling' (singing) Grasshopper Warbler (a relatively scarce species) was a 'new' bird for the survey and Sedge Warblers also had a record year with 3 pairs in the 'marginal' weedy belt bordering the north of the site, underlining the importance of this often-disregarded habitat. Four other 'new' species were recorded; a trio of calling Crossbill overflowed and a flock of 48 Lesser Redpoll and 2 Common or 'Mealy' Redpoll (a scarce migrant from northern Europe) were seen in March.



Sedge Warbler by Brian Clasper



Willow Tit by Brian Clasper

Finally, a pair of Willow Tit held territory in the mature Elder trees in the northeast corner of the Woodland. This is valuable habitat for Willow Tits, especially as the bird is the fastest declining resident species in the UK, with a population decrease of 86% between 1995 and 2020.

Multiple bird boxes have also been installed on site. Although it was hoped that they might tempt Tree

Sparrow to form a breeding colony, so far, the boxes have been only occupied by Blue Tit and Great Tit. Some boxes were also damaged, most probably by Great Spotted Woodpecker and/or Grey Squirrel looking to prey on the nesting birds. Unfortunately, a dead Barn Owl was also found on site in 2023. It was probably the victim of a vehicle collision.

More positively, the range and number of bird species mapped by this survey work underlines the importance of this relatively small and linear site of marginal habitat that is actively managed by the Woodland and Wildlife Group so that this rich variety of birdlife that can be enjoyed by everyone. Fieldwork for 2024 has already started, so if you're on site, please say hello, and find out more about the birds.

Fred Milton



Roger steps down

This month we say a big thank you to Roger Clubley as he steps down as Chair of the Sedgefield Development Trust after an amazing 23 years of service. Roger has guided the charity with a mixture of good sense and quiet humour and has been instrumental in developing relationships with many groups and individuals both in Sedgefield and across the local area.

Roger has overseen or played a major part in many of the Trust's projects over the years, including the Farmers Market, the Sedgefield News, sedgefieldweb.co.uk, Energy Switch and, of course, the Woodland and Wildlife site.



We want to thank Roger for his incredible service to the Sedgefield Development Trust and for all the great projects he has delivered. Although Roger will be stepping down as Chair, he will remain as a Trustee, continuing to provide his experience and knowledge to the rest of the team.

If you want to help develop projects for the benefit of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Fishburn then please contact Janette Savage at chairman@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.

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SCHOOL NEWS

World Book Day

Promoting a love of reading is incredibly important for us all at Sedgefield Community College and we do use World Book Day each year as an opportunity to celebrate reading and encourage more of our children to pick up a book.

Linked to this, we were delighted to be able to welcome acclaimed author Matt Dickinson into school on Thursday 14 March. Matt is both an award-winning author and film-maker and has a keen interest in mountaineering and adventure. His film 'Summit Fever' tells the story of his successful ascent to the summit of Mount Everest via the treacherous North Face route and this story is also told in his book 'The Death Zone'. During his visit to the school, Matt met with large groups of students to talk about his experiences and also led creative writing workshops with some of our students that led to some fabulous writing linked to these adventures.



At lunchtime, more than 80 of our students visited Matt in the school library where copies of 'The Everest Files' were being signed. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm for books from our students and we're very grateful to Matt for giving up his time to share his thrilling experiences with us all.



Rescuing Charlie from the Chocolate Factory

There was a chocolatey aroma in the air at Sedgefield Hardwick last week as we celebrated World Book Day! Our school theme this year was based on Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, with our performance set after the original novel. Charlie was just about to open his very own factory with Willy Wonka, and launch a super, secret new recipe! However, all did not go to plan as, due to an unfortunate oversight with planning permission, a local rival chocolateer with a penchant for underhand tactics seized control of the factory, kidnapped Charlie, and stole the secret recipe! With Charlie deep in the brown stuff (chocolate, that is!), Mr Wonka and the children had to come up with a 'sweet' plan to get them out of this 'sticky' situation!



Thankfully, due to the bravery and daring of the children, Charlie was rescued, the secret recipe recovered, and the dastardly villain 'treated' to an exclusive first tasting of the new recipe!

We had a fantastic time celebrating our love of books, and can't wait to see what next year's theme will bring!

Artistic playground

At Sedgefield Primary pupils have been enjoying making the most of the recent good weather, which helps maximise outdoor learning opportunities. Our Nursery and Reception children always enjoy making the most of the outdoors and our wonderful school field whatever the weather (armed with waterproofs)!



However, the curriculum for older pupils favours better weather for outdoor learning opportunities. Year 5 pupils were excited to take their appreciation of art on to the playground recently, as the sun shone upon them. In collaborative groups we created an outdoor art gallery using The Great Wave by Japanese artist Hokusai, to inspire pupils who their chalked interpretations. "It was fabulous to be able to work artistically with a group of friends", said Noah Howarth, aged ten.



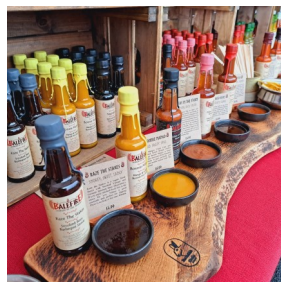
SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*



**Sunday 7 April
on the Village Green
8:30am - 12:15pm**

This month, we have two new exciting traders joining the Market.

Balefire are a small family run business with a passion for food. Pete and Jim, the co-directors of Balefire, are twin brothers, both are professional chefs turned brewery workers and have combined their skills to start their own hot sauce business. They produce fermented gourmet condiments and are experts in fermentation processes, Laura will be managing their stall and will be able to answer any questions you have about their products, so do come along and see what amazing products they have.



The other trader joining us is Bree'osh, they are a Scandinavian Bakery with over 50 major UK food awards and are soon to be featured on the Channel 4 series - ALDI's Next Big Thing - 2nd week in April 2024. They produce filled brioche bakes, both savoury and sweet, and cover food preferences including vegan, vegetarian, fish and meat. Leeza will be at their stall ready to answer any questions you have about their home baked products.

Finally, we are looking for a volunteer to manage the Sedgefield Farmers Market social media, it should not take up too many hours and would be a tremendous help. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email Lynne at: farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.

Pop-in sessions

Held in Ceddesheld Hall, the Pop-In group offers thrice weekly meetings for elderly and retired people in Sedgefield and District.

Pop-In sessions meet on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from approximately 10am until midday and on Thursday afternoons from 1:30pm until 3:30pm and offer the warmest welcome in a sociable and supportive atmosphere. Tea, coffee and hot chocolate are served with cookies and chocolate biscuits, plus the occasional birthday cake, scones and chocolates! Occasional lunches and afternoon teas are arranged throughout the year and two or three bus trips further afield are also planned for the better weather. To say nothing of our annual Christmas Lunch at the Dun Cow where staff always look after us so wonderfully.



Wendy, the co-ordinator, is an absolute font of knowledge of all things OAP. And if she can't answer a question or remedy a situation she always seems to know exactly who can. She spends a lot of her own time arranging the various trips and events and is a master of defusing any little differences that may occur between members. She is always ready with a hug and a supportive word at difficult times or is prepared to bake a cake and have a party when it's time to celebrate! Sheila and Debra help her maintain the positive, supportive and happy environment that the members so enjoy.

Members often comment what a lifeline the sessions are as they take the opportunity to regularly meet their friends in the warm and comfortable lounge at Ceddesheld Hall where they can catch up on friendly gossip and news from far and wide. There are occasional tears as they share sad news but more often than not, tears are from laughter at a naughty story or joke!

I have been attending for just over a year and take a friend who has dementia. For many years before she became unwell, she took along another elderly friend to the Tuesday session and it was a treasured routine in both their lives. She is still a very much valued, and now supported, part of the group and I think it speaks so highly of that special Sedgefield ethos that this is another facility in our village where she is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

If you are retired, would like to make some new friends and enjoy a coffee and chat, perhaps we'll see you there soon – do come along and join us at any of the sessions.

Chris Balfour

U3A *UPDATE*



Another fascinating and informative talk, full of detail on Sleep and Dreams, was enjoyed by members at the March monthly meeting. A retired professor of Human Sciences from Sunderland University, Rob Pullen first described how the brain developed in the foetus through extremely rapid division of cells in the first three months of development. He went on to explain how necessary sleep is to our overall health. In older age, we do find it more difficult to get the optimum 8 hours of sleep each night; we're only making up the difference by our little catnaps during the day! Sleep is an essential resource for our brains to sort and store each day's information. There is currently much scientific and medical investigation into why we dream but there is, so far, no conclusive verdict.

Our Lunch Club very much enjoyed their visit to the Bay Horse at Midbridge in mid-February. Courtesy of our recent grant award, transport was free. The next visit will be to The Old Mill at Metal Bridge in mid-March. The Craft Pop-up group started their Blown Egg sessions with mixed results, but having mastered the art were able to decorate and finish their eggs using various decoupage, paint and embellishment techniques. The House and Garden group, supported by our transport grant, visited Nunthorpe Hall but were rather disappointed to find that it didn't match their experiences of previous visits to other National Trust properties. It was felt that there is no cohesive policy to the exhibits which were rather sparse and, worst of all, the cafe hadn't yet opened for coffee on arrival!

The Watchmaker of Filigree Street was the book discussed at the February Book Club meeting with a score of 7/10 awarded. The three intertwining plots confused some of the readers, but all felt that the gas-lit, steam-punkish Victorian portrayal of London was vivid and real. The quality of the writing and characterisation was good. And with a happy ending – what could be better?

Our meeting on Friday 5 April in the Parish Hall at 2pm will be a talk by George Beautyman of the Tees Pumping Station. This heritage Pumping Station was built in 1849 to supply cleaner piped water to Darlington has a fascinating history and we look forward to hearing all about it. If you are retired and would like to find out a little more, please do join us then.

And now I'm off to have a little nap to make up for the sleep I missed last night. And, perchance to dream. . .

Chris Balfour

LETTERS

Bicycle racks

At meetings of the sadly now defunct Neighbourhood Watch, a local cycling activist used to campaign for provision for cyclists to park their bikes when visiting cafes etc in the village centre. Eventually, the council spent a decent amount of money and installed bike racks by the bus stop opposite the Black Lion and various shops. I was never convinced this was a good use of taxpayers money, but its been spent now. Yesterday (5 March), I drove past and saw some adult cyclists with their bikes at the café. I tried to park (but that's another story) to speak to them. By the time I did get parked, they had started to move off. There were six of them!!! That's an awful lot of bikes cluttering up the pavement, and the cycling season is just starting. I do wish the aforementioned cycling activist would speak to his compatriots and ensure they use the expensive racks provided.

Alan Patterson

eConsult - a personal view

I've used eConsult twice recently, first when desperate to get through to the surgery on a Monday morning (you know how that feels!) With phone still in hand, I switched on the computer and logged onto SystmOnline. Sadly, no appointments that day, but I was really feeling ill.

Seeing a link to the NHS website, I found myself facing an eConsult questionnaire. I confess I almost gave up at that point but wait! Didn't I fill in something similar last year on 111 which saved my husband's life? Ticking myself off, I returned to the questions. Within minutes, an email popped up on my phone to say my case was being triaged by doctors at Skerne Medical and a little later a phone call followed with an appointment. I dressed and dashed out. It had worked perfectly, and after seeing a real person, I was collecting medication at Sedgefield Pharmacy. A week later, my second eConsult gave me an appointment with a specialist nurse who was able to explain more and prescribe the next course of treatment.

To me, it's a no-brainer - a way to make contact and explain your predicament without wasting your own or anyone else's time. eConsult must help a busy GP practice to keep us well. I realise that not everyone has a computer or smartphone but, if those who have use it, we'll free up the phone lines for those who can't. My advice - contact Skerne Medical Group or call at the surgery to register for online health services.

Sandy Clubley

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY APRIL 2024

I must admit that as gardener, two of the species of animals that do cause me concern are slugs and snails, who often munch away at my seedlings and vegetables! I know a little about their habits but after reading the latest Wild About Gardens guide, I now know a lot more. The RHS and The Wildlife Trusts have given these incredible creatures a reputation makeover. There are around 150 UK species of slugs and snails and only a small selection pose problems.

For something that is so soft and squidgy, especially when it gets stuck between your bare toes on a summer evening, the garden slug or snail holds much menace for gardeners. Described as a tough-skinned terrestrial mollusc, which secretes a film of mucus, it sounds more like a superhero. Marvel may have missed an opportunity when they didn't create slug man or snail woman.

Among their super powers to help fight against daily garden grime, is their ability to break down anything from plant and leaf litter to mushrooms, dead animals, algae and poo! Leopard slugs are territorial and ward off other species of slug too.

But if you are trying to grow tender plants, they love to devour them, remember they are a food source for other animals - a snack hack for hedgehogs, song thrushes, frogs, toads and newts. We think of pond wildlife as water-loving, but adult amphibians spend a lot of their time on land. Here they hunt a wide variety of invertebrates, including slugs and snails. Newts have even been discovered climbing plants on the hunt for them.

If you want to help provide a tasty meal for birds, make sure there's at least one nice flat stone in your garden that song thrushes can use to give the snails a good bashing. There are also plenty of ground beetles that feast on slugs and snails - also known as carabid beetles. One of these beetles pokes the front of its head into a snail's shell and uses its mandibles to tear out chunks; another follows trails of slug slime to find its prey.

But if you want to deter them from feasting on your prize plants try growing alliums, such as, onions, shallots, leeks and garlic. Their strong smell is a great deterrent for slugs and snails. Other useful ways to avoid gastropod gastronomy is to grow seedlings to a larger size indoors before planting out, protect vulnerable produce in a glasshouse or cover with a cloche. Otherwise, venture out into the night if you dare to pick slugs off plants and move them to the compost bin.

To download the new Wild About Gardens booklet on slugs and snails visit wildaboutgardens.org.uk.

New Team Rector

We are delighted to announce that the Bishop of Durham has appointed the Revd David Lucas as Team Rector of the Parish of the Upper Skerne, subject to the usual clearances.

The date for David's licensing is yet to be arranged, but we hope will be early in the summer.

David is very keen to join the team in the Upper Skerne and we are very much looking forward to this new beginning in the life of our parish.

Michael King

BHF Coffee Morning

Stuart and Marjorie Watt are pleased to announce a final total of £565 was made at their fundraising coffee morning for the BHF last month.

Thanks to everyone who supported us.



Are you looking for a new interest and to meet new friends?

Do you love living in Sedgefield and have a couple of hours to spare?



We need help with the following:
social media - planting -
sweeping - leaf collecting -
pruning - driving - finance -
grant applications - baking -
fundraising etc. etc.

Please contact any Bloom member or Sedgefield in Bloom Chair - Alice Hobson chairsib@gmail.com or call 07443 606 907.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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.

CRIMESTOPPERS

Did you know that Crimestoppers is a charity?

CrimeStoppers.

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100% anonymous. Always.

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We're an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up and stop crime – 100% anonymously.

We believe that everyone has the right to feel safe from crime.

Whoever you are, wherever you live, from communities to companies.

You can contact us by phone on 0800 555 111 and online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org, 24/7, 365 days a year.

We also share advice on how to protect the people you care about from crime so everyone can feel safe.

Anonymous means:

- You will never be asked for your name
- Your call isn't recorded
- Your call or online form cannot be traced
- No statement, police contact, or court appearance

A report is created from the information you've provided, and our call handlers check the report doesn't contain any information which could identify you.

We never attempt to trace or record calls, even for quality control or monitoring purposes. Online forms are sent to us on a secure connection, ensuring you and your computer are anonymous.

You can contact Crimestoppers anonymously about any crime or criminal activity that you know about. We know there are times when you may not feel able to speak to the police, for whatever reason, this is why Crimestoppers exists. Crimestoppers is not a replacement for 999 or 101, as we're not an emergency service, we are a charity, but we're here to ensure people can report their concerns about crime, completely anonymously.

Fleur Brown

Crimestoppers North East Regional Manager



BUSINESS UPDATE

The artistry of clinical denture technicians



In the realm of dental care, there's a vital yet often overlooked group of professionals whose expertise is essential for restoring smiles and confidence: clinical denture technicians. These skilled artisans play a crucial role in crafting custom dentures that not only fit comfortably but also restore function and aesthetics for individuals who have lost their natural teeth.

Clinical denture technicians are highly trained specialists who work closely with dentists and patients to create personalised dentures tailored to each individual's unique oral anatomy and needs. From initial consultations to final adjustments, these technicians are dedicated to ensuring that every patient receives a denture that not only looks natural but also functions seamlessly.



The process begins with a comprehensive assessment of the patient's oral health and jaw structure. Clinical denture technicians work closely with dentists to obtain precise measurements and impressions, ensuring that the dentures will fit securely and comfortably. Using advanced techniques and materials, they meticulously craft each denture to replicate the appearance and function of natural teeth.

One of the most challenging aspects of their work is achieving a natural-looking smile. Clinical denture technicians possess an artistic eye and a keen attention to detail, allowing them to meticulously replicate the shape, size, and colour of natural teeth. Whether it's matching the shade of existing teeth or creating a completely new smile, these technicians use their expertise to create dentures that blend seamlessly with the patient's facial features and enhance their overall appearance.

In addition to aesthetics, clinical denture technicians also focus on functionality. They carefully design the dentures to ensure proper alignment and bite, allowing patients to eat, speak, and smile with confidence. Through precise adjustments and fine-tuning, they strive to achieve optimal comfort and performance for each individual.

Beyond the technical aspects of their work, clinical denture technicians also play a crucial role in providing emotional support to patients. Losing natural teeth can be a traumatic experience, affecting not only one's physical health but also their self-esteem and quality of life. These technicians approach their work with empathy and compassion, guiding patients through the process with patience and understanding.

In our community, we are fortunate to have a team of dedicated clinical denture technicians who are committed to restoring smiles and transforming lives. Their expertise, craftsmanship, and compassionate care make a significant difference in the lives of those in need of dentures, helping them regain their confidence and oral health.

Next time you see someone with a radiant smile, take a moment to appreciate the artistry and dedication of the clinical denture technicians who played a part in restoring it. Behind every smile lies the skilful work of these unsung heroes of dental care.

Philip Wears, Mango Dental Technologies

Golden Wedding celebrations

Ida & Alan Brown (Alan Brown & Company Accountants based in Sedgefield High Street) celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 9 March, 50 years to the day since they married at St Peter's Church in Redcar!

They celebrated in style with their family, son Martyn and daughter Helen and grandchildren Sam, Grace and Holly and all their friends at Rockcliffe Hall in Darlington. See their "then and now" photos on the right with 2 of their bridesmaids Janet (Alan's sister on the right) and Pam.

Congratulations to Ida and Alan.

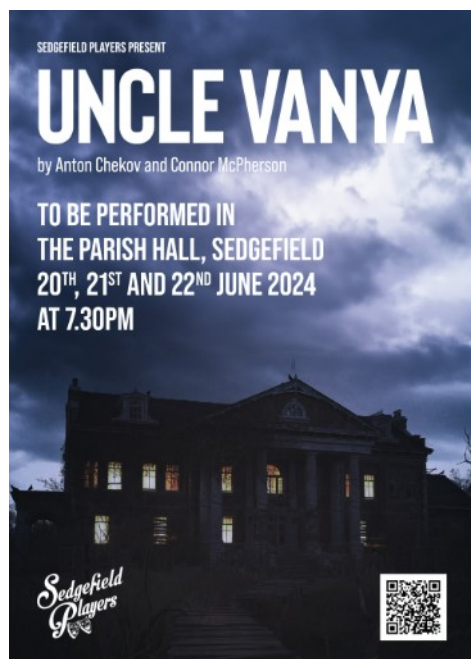


ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Sedgefield Players' update

At the time of writing the Players were about to start their three night run of *Calendar Girls*. The whole cast thoroughly enjoyed the whole rehearsal process and were delighted that each night was a sell out. Raising money for the Butterwick Hospital, this play brought laughter and tears and thanks must go to director Sarah Atkinson for bringing it to life. With thanks to Dress Circle for the set and props, the Ladies of the WI for providing some of the flowers, Adam, Richard and Lucy for tech support and Millie, Amy, Kelsey and Emily for their fabulous help backstage. Just as *Calendar Girls* is put to bed, so the process starts again for the June production. This year the group will be performing *Uncle Vanya* by Anton Chekhov. The play portrays the visit of an elderly professor and his glamorous, much younger second wife, Yelena, to the rural estate that supports their urban lifestyle. Matters are brought to a crisis when the professor announces his intention to sell the estate, with a view to investing the proceeds to achieve a higher income for himself and his wife.



Never to be outdone, our SPYS have started rehearsing an adaptation of *Peter Pan* to be performed on the 12th & 13th July 2024. The story of free-spirited and mischievous Peter Pan, who spends his never-ending childhood having adventures on the mythical island of Neverland as the leader of the Lost Boys, interacting with fairies, pirates and mermaids, and occasionally ordinary children from the world outside Neverland. *Sedgefield Players*

50 years of The Lyric Singers

2024 is our 50th Anniversary year, an impressive feat for a community choir. It's been a busy start to the year, and exciting things are already afoot. North-East film maker, Carl Joice has been capturing the essence of what makes us a great bunch of people to sing and spend time with. He is creating a documentary not just about the music, but us merry musical Sedgefield folks too. We can hardly wait to see just what he's uncovered about us all! Local composer Bridie Jackson ran three writing workshops to gather ideas and inspiration for the lyrics to a piece commissioned just for our Anniversary. We have already begun to rehearse it and it sounds magnificent! Make sure you're there for its premiere at our Summer Concert in June. With a change of venue to the acoustically-fabulous, St. Edmund's Church, our summer performances promise to be something suitably special to celebrate our 50th year.



Whilst it would be easy to overlook the bunch of people who love to get together to sing. We are delighted to award Honorary Life Membership to our own, talented and rather special soprano, Kay Marsland, for dedication above and far beyond the norm. As a child, Kay supported all the choir's activities. Now, as a talented soprano, Kay encourages everyone to be more confident, always has a word of welcome and sings with passion, skill and beauty. A founder-member of Lirica, she continues to delight with her talents across our choral family. Congratulations, Kay on receiving your Honorary Life Membership, it is thoroughly deserved. *Sedgefield Lyric Singers*

More local events

The Great Carrot Hunt Trail, Hardwick Park

An opportunity for kids and adults to celebrate the arrival of Easter and (hopefully) some better weather over the holidays in the beautiful setting of Hardwick Park. 28 March to 14 April, £1

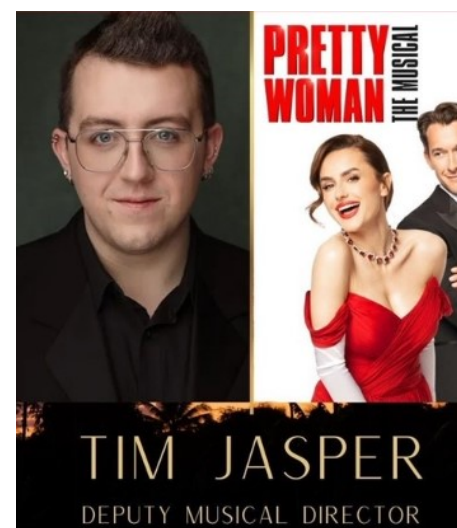
Mamma Said, Sedgefield Social Club

A female-fronted local 4-piece covers band performing a repertoire of the best classic pop, soul and rock from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Saturday 13 April See Facebook page [Mamma Said](#).



Pretty Woman: the Musical, Sunderland

The hit musical continues to tour the country under the musical supervision of Sedgefield's Tim Jasper and arrives in Sunderland late in May. 28 May to 8 June atgtickets.com/shows/pretty-woman-the-musical/sunderland-empire/



SPORTS UPDATE with Chris Lines chrisjlines@aol.com

After all of the rain over recent months, we'd be forgiven for thinking that summer is still a long way off. However, and I hope that this isn't wishful thinking from a weather perspective, it should be upon us soon. With that in mind, we're reaching the traditional transition from winter to summer sports seasons. Here in Sedgefield, in practical terms, this means that the likes of St. Edmund's FC, Sedgefield District RUFC and Sedgefield Squash Club are preparing for the finales of their respective campaigns, which are set to be exciting for different reasons, and the last few cross country running fixtures will be completed soon too. Meanwhile, the cricket season will start here in April – here's hoping that the sunshine arrives with it.

Cricket

Saturday 20 April will mark the start of the local cricket season, with Sedgefield Cricket Club's 1st XI beginning their campaign with a home match against Great Ayton. Captained again by Ben Swindale, the team is confident of improving on last season's cup win and high league finish. The 2nd and 3rd XI begin their seasons the same weekend, away at Normanby Hall and Barnard Castle respectively, before both play at home on 27 and 28 April. Weather permitting, there will be a home match every Saturday until early September. The club has invested in some much improved spectator seating around the boundary and with the bar open all day, also showing all of the major TV sport, it's a great place to visit. More updates will follow as the season progresses, with cup ties and junior team competitions getting underway in May.

Squash

To kick off, there is some brilliant news for Sedgefield Squash Club. Every year, squash's national governing body, England Squash, recognises the achievements of clubs and individuals involved in the sport. Sedgefield prepared a submission to be recognised as Club of the Year, and recently learned that it had been listed amongst the top four in the country. The club was absolutely thrilled to receive this news and will hear at the beginning of April if it has won the award. 2023 was a busy year for Sedgefield in terms of fundraising for improvements to the building, which were carried out in November, launching a new junior coaching programme, and working with others in the community to improve the ground and environment around the club building.

It's also been a busy time of competitions for the members of Sedgefield Squash Club. The club was well represented at the Durham & Cleveland Masters Competition for over 35s, hosted by Nunthorpe Squash Club. Patrick Billany and Chris Rowsby were winners in the plate finals for the over 50s (3-0) and over 60s (3-2) respectively. Closer to home, the individual handicap competition, which runs from December to February, was won by Chris Bunting, beating Gary Ankers 11-4, 9-11, 11-7, 11-4 in the final. Last, but not least, rising star Huey Lamb achieved success in the recent U11 England Championships, and in the Junior Open Gold Event held in Warwick. He came second in the plate competition at the championships, and finished 10th (above his seeding) in Warwick.

The club is nearing the end of the season for the teams competing in the Durham & Cleveland County Leagues. I will report on their final placings and achievements next month. Finally, there are some key up and coming dates for the club. The Club Closed Championships will be held in April, culminating in the finals on 25 and 26 April. That will be followed by the annual presentation night in the Parish Hall on Friday 10 May, and the club AGM in Ceddesfeld Hall on Monday 13 May.

Anyone interested in joining or volunteering, email info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk, or visit www.sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.

Rugby Union

Sedgefield District RUFC's season is drawing to a close as the first team strives to preserve their position in Durham & Northumberland Counties League 2. Since the start of the year, their league position has been bolstered by a run of victories against DMP Elizabethans, Houghton and Whitby, along with a bonus point against Seaham, but there is still work to be done to avoid relegation. The campaign will conclude on 6 April with a home fixture against Gateshead, followed by an end of season celebration at Sedgefield Cricket Club.

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

Football

The local Sunday league season has been extended until Sunday 12 May due to so many postponements in recent months. At the time of writing this, the Sedgefield St. Edmund's FC team still have 12 league games to play, as well as the Heart Foundation Cup Final, which they reached after beating a poor Horden side 9-0 recently. By the end of March, St Edmund's will have also played a League Cup quarter final against Aycliffe Iron Horse. So, with eight Sundays left and the possibility of 16 games still to play, the club anticipates playing two to three games a week until the end of the season.

As well as the excellent progress in cups, St. Edmund's remain unbeaten in the league (again, at the time of writing this), having won six and drawn four of their 10 games. It will take a monumental effort to win the league as Ferryhill Dynamos have only dropped three points all season, but the two teams still have to face each other twice.

Athletics

Sedgefield was well represented in the County Durham Schools Cross Country Finals in March. Pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 at Sedgefield Primary School and Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School took part in the event. Congratulations go to Jessie Davies and Karl Thompson who both ran brilliantly to come home with silver medals after their races.



Jessie Davies and Karl Thompson with their medals

Meanwhile, the senior cross country season is nearly complete. Once again, Sedgefield Harriers' men's team has been competing in Division 2 of the North East Harrier League. With one fixture to go, the team is in ninth position, three points above the relegation zone. The final race is scheduled for 13 April for nearby Thornley Hall Farm, so there are high hopes of fielding a big squad and securing a place in the division for a third year in a row, which will be a notable achievement when competing with some of the region's biggest clubs.

CEDDESFELD HALL

Spring is on the way and SCA continue to work towards some special community events. Do look out for posters on notice boards and around town, as well as local social media platforms for more information.

Easter Monday – 1 April - Easter Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt - 2pm to 4 pm

An 'eggciting' and 'eggceptional' afternoon for the family (children under 12yrs) with an egg hunt, decorated egg, and Easter bonnet competitions! The bar will be open from 1:30 pm, and families are welcome to bring a picnic. There are prizes and goodies for all children taking part in this free event..

Saturday 20 April – Quiz Night with Pie & Peas - 7:30 pm – Tickets £10

A fund-raising event for 2024 Mediaeval Fayre, with quiz master Peter Hinde. Tickets available in advance from behind the bar at Ceddesfeld or from Pat (01740 620607), Sarah (01740 622185) or Peter (01740 621709).

Mediaeval Fayre - Saturday 18th May - 10 am to 4 pm - Village Green and Ceddesfeld Hall and Lawns

The 'Dark Ages' return once again to Sedgefield in a big way! The fayre will begin with a 'Mediaeval' walking procession - vibrant, colourful and lively, including children from local primary schools, nurseries, and sports groups. The parade will culminate in demonstrations and performances, with mediaeval knights, country dancers and some rather large bubbles!


Two SCA tombola stalls, will be full of bottles, gifts, and vouchers (donated by very supportive local businesses), whilst around the Green there will be various craft and gift stalls as well as the traditional fun fair. In the showground arena, mediaeval knights will demonstrate combat skills, local groups will do battle in the tug of war and a fantastic falconry display will entertain the crowds - not to be missed! Ceddesfeld lawns will be open, for everyone to enjoy. Attractions include Walworth Falconry, face painting, circus skills workshops, Chi Taekwondo workshops, ACLE and Escafeld Living History, with 'Knights Table', candle making and displays. True North Trades (have a go at working on the anvil) and 'Viking Realm' artefacts, have been added to this year's attractions. In the main hall, a varied menu of delicious hot and cold food, prepared by Lesley, Neil and the team from Sedgefield's own 'Mess Charcuterie', will be served throughout the day. The bar will be open from 11am.

Business Community Support and Volunteers – Mediaeval Fayre 2024

The SCA Mediaeval Fayre is organised by a small committee, who wholly rely on local people as well as various community groups, organisations, and businesses to get involved; to engage and volunteer to help in making the event successful and sustainable. Several local shops, services and groups already get involved every year, which is fantastic. Without donations and sponsorship as well as practical help from volunteers with setting up, taking down, manning stalls, running activities, etc. the event could not take place. Please do get in touch if you, your business, organisation, or your group, can offer any help with the activities.

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.sedgefieldscsca.org.uk. Follow us on [Facebook](#) or contact SCA via email info@sedgefieldscsca.org.uk.






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MAYOR'S CORNER

I am now entering the last lap of my second year as Mayor and what a ride it has been. There have been many highlights this year, as I have been spreading the good name of Sedgefield far and wide in the North East, at prestigious venues including:

- a chartered steam train ride from Bishop Auckland to Stanhope and back
- a guided tour of Hylton Castle in Sunderland
- the Mencap Nativity in Durham Cathedral
- a talk on artist Norman Cornish, given by his son in Spennymoor Art Gallery
- spending open day at the Aycliffe & District Vintage Bus Museum.

In addition, it has been my great pleasure to arrange entertainment for our villagers with 6 different groups including:

- The Moondogs
- The Jersey Boyz
- Top Dollar
- The Gastric Band
- The Travelin' Band
- The Cardiac Dodgers.

Finally, my grateful thanks to Annette Lawson, who has accompanied me at almost every function, and to everyone who has donated gifts or bottles, helped me set up the Parish Hall and clear up afterwards, baked cakes, served coffee or attended my many events. It's been an absolute blast!

Dave Jasper



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SIP Approved 06/11/2023

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DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

April 2024

- Monday 1** **Easter Picnic**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 2pm-4pm. Egg hunt for children under 12. Prizes for all ages for decorated and dyed eggs and Easter bonnets. Bar open and free entry.
- Friday 5** **Sedgefield in Bloom**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am. Come along and join us for home made treats at our Easter Special coffee morning.
- Saturday 6** **Friendly Fixers**, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Repair café.
- Sunday 7** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am to 12:30pm. See page 3 for more information.
- Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. A talk by George Beautyman on the Tees Pumping Station. Visitors welcome, £3.
- Monday 8** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society with Dave Clark.
- Thursday 11** **Mayor's Fashion Show and Craft Fair**, with Betty's Boudoir and craft stalls, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Prosecco cash bar. Tickets from £6 from Sedgefield Town Council Offices (weekday mornings).
- Friday 12** **Sedgefield Cricket Club**, quiz night, 7:30pm. All very welcome, including non-members.
- Saturday 13** **Rock and Blues Club**, Laurence Jones Band and Gary Grainger, Sedgefield Parish Hall. See sedgefieldblues.com.
- Mamma Said**, Sedgefield Social Club. Sedgefield based four piece band playing pop, soul and rock n' roll covers.
- Tuesday 16** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Open night flower demonstration by Vanessa Wellock – "Bringing colour to grey". Members £5, guests £8.
- Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers.
- Friday 19** **St. Edmund's Church coffee morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-12pm. Raffle, cakes, cards available. Donations of raffle prizes and cakes gratefully accepted.
- Saturday 20** **Sedgefield Community Association quiz night**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm for 8pm. Pie and peas, £10. Groups of 6 or less. Raffle and fund raiser for Mediaeval Fayre. Bar open.
- Sedgefield Games Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, from 6pm. Come along and play a variety of board games. £2.50.

Church Services in Sedgefield across Easter

Maundy Thursday

7 pm Eucharist at St. Edmund's, Sedgefield

Good Friday

10.00 am Good Friday Procession of Witness, starting on the Green

Easter Sunday

10.00 am Eucharist at St. Edmund's (CE)

10.00 am Family-friendly service, Methodist Church. Refreshments afterwards.

10.45 am Mass at St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More (RC)



The Mediaeval Fayre is coming soon!

The Mediaeval Fayre will take place on Saturday 18 May. St. Edmund's is looking for volunteers for people to lead tower trips, serve refreshments and act as stewards. Lists will be placed at the back of the church.

SEDGEFIELD LIBRARY

Tel: 0300 026 9521

Wednesday 9:30 to 12:30

Thursday 10:00 to 18:00

Friday 13:00 to 19:00

Saturday 9:30 to 12:30

Little Movers every Thursday from 10am, places need to be booked.

Craft Group, 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 1:30pm, places need to be booked at the library.

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

Electricals and Battery Recycling

If you have an electrical item that no longer works and is no bigger than a microwave, we are collecting.

Lego Club

Every Friday from 4:30pm to 6pm. Places need to be booked.

Digital Drop-In

Every Thursday 2pm-3:30pm.

Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

Methodist Church on Mondays from 9:30am to 11am (except Bank Holidays). Suitable for babies, toddlers and preschool children. Please follow us on Facebook for regular updates.

Making Tracks

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

Sedgefield Social Club

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

Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. The first 3 afternoons are a free trial and then you have the option to become a member.

Pop-in Club at Ceddesfeld Hall

Tuesdays 9:30am-12pm
Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm
Thursdays 1pm-3:30pm

Speed Quiz at Hardwick Arms

Every Thursday at 8pm in the Hardwick Lounge Bar.

Good Friday Procession
Bible readings, songs and prayers
29th March, 10.00 am on the Green near
St. Edmund's Church, processing to
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Sedgefield Area Churches Together