

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

August 2020

Deadline for next edition: Saturday 15th August



Customers & traders were delighted to be back and look forward to next time. See you on **Sunday 2nd August on the Village Green!**

**Thanks to a quick decision from the SCA, our Farmers Market DID re-open despite the weather, in Ceddesfeld Hall car park. What a joyful occasion it turned out to be!**



Volunteer stewards at every entrance helped smooth any difficulties

Our plans for the safe return of the Farmers Market were made even more difficult by a forecast of high, gusting wind. Everyone agreed that the last minute move was a good, workable solution. New volunteers, who allowed the more vulnerable to stay away, were worth their weight in gold and the patience of queueing customers was amazing. We are so grateful.



Following the yellow arrows one way round the stalls



## Some hope for good news soon from Ceddesfeld Hall

Home of Sedgefield Community Association (SCA)



Following the most recent (July 4<sup>th</sup>) Government guidance and advice relating to community venues, the Trustees of SCA are working towards a limited reopening of Ceddesfeld Hall.

They are aware of their legal responsibility under health and safety law and have prepared the necessary 'Covid-19 Secure' risk assessments, which outline the reasonable measures necessary in order to ensure that the premises, access to it, and any equipment or substances provided are safe for people using it, so far as is reasonably practicable.

An explanatory letter has been sent to all sections, groups and members and the risk assessments may be viewed on the SCA website. It is

essential going forward, that regular users of Ceddesfeld Hall (groups and sections) respond to the letter to let us know their thoughts and plans for a possible return, within the current limitations and restrictions.

The SCA are aware that some of the larger groups, (because of the practical nature of their activities), will not be able to return for the foreseeable future, but it is possible that smaller group meetings could take place, within the 2m/1m+ distance rule. Each group needs to consider their own members views and position going forward.

The bar might open, at the discretion of the bar committee and through agreement with the Trustees. The availability of volunteer bar workers

is also a key factor.

SCA is really looking forward to getting back to normal; to a time when the different activities and events can take place safely. Our members, sections and groups make a vital contribution to community life in Sedgefield.

In the meantime, the Trustees will work towards a limited reopening and look forward to hearing from members. The SCA email address is [info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk)

For all other enquiries, please contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 01740 620607, Sarah on 01740 622185 or visit our website on [www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk) or follow us on [Facebook.com/Ceddesfeld](https://www.facebook.com/Ceddesfeld)

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY AUGUST 2020

**When you read this we will be half way through The Wildlife Trust's annual "National Marine Week" which runs until the 9th August.**

It is a nationwide celebration of all things marine. This year, of course, it is slightly different due to the Covid-19 crisis, but there are still lots of things you can get involved in. We are fortunate in this area to have easy access to the coast, whether it is the sand dunes at Seaton Carew or the rock pools at Redcar and Saltburn.

A visit to the coast for me always involves spending time looking for shells, pebbles or rock pooling and can provide memorable encounters with sea life.

No matter what our marine wildlife experience, from charismatic sharks and dolphins to unassuming limpets and barnacles, they all have one thing in common. They all make us stop in our tracks and appreciate the beauty of the natural world around us.

**Have you got an all-time favourite marine wildlife experience?** Share it and you might win a prize. You can find more information here. <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/get-involved/campaign/national-marine-week>

The Wildlife Trusts are asking you to support a campaign for more protection for the marine habitat. Our seas are in an impoverished state and it's hard for our generation to comprehend how abundant our waters once were. Cod were once as long and wide as humans are tall, and whales, dolphins and basking sharks were many times more common than they are today.

**At present there are 91 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ),** which is a start, but existing Marine Protected Areas are limited in their ability to restore habitats and wildlife because their remit to protect nature only extends as far as maintaining the status quo. In these areas, only some of the most damaging activities are prevented and even then, only in some locations.

**The Wildlife Trusts back a new form of protection for the sea** and call on the Government for an ambitious delivery plan for Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMA) within a year. In Highly Protected Marine Areas, all damaging activities including fishing, dredging, construction and sea angling would be banned. This new type of designation means that nature could properly recover. HPMA's could be monitored to allow us to understand what a thriving seabed and restored marine life really means. They could set a bar against which other sorts of protected areas could be measured. **For more information and to support the campaign visit [www.wildlifetrusts.org/help-save-our-seas](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/help-save-our-seas)**



### Sedgefield News from the past

**This year, Sedgefield Show takes on a different look - it goes virtual!** In doing so, the organisers are maintaining an event with a long history, but in a new format. The website for Sedgefield Show says that Sedgefield & District Agricultural and Horticultural Society have held a show for 164 years with the exceptions of Foot and Mouth outbreaks. However, there have been years when no show took place - during the war years, for example. And 100 years ago, in August 1920, the Sedgefield Show was revived after a period of 16 years when no show took place.

**The Show held on Saturday 14 August 1920 was a great success.** There were 800 entries, and whilst the number of cattle entered was disappointing, there were 153 entries in the classes for agricultural horses. Those attending enjoyed not only cattle and horses, but also dogs, rabbits and poultry, lots of farming produce, a pony scamper and a musical ride, and were entertained by Mainsforth Colliery Band in the afternoon.

**At Sedgefield Show in 1928** the pony scamper saw two ponies run into the crowd. A gamekeeper and two children were knocked down: the former was 'severely bruised' and the latter received 'extensive cuts': the newspaper reported 'Their injuries were not serious, however', suggesting that people really were made of stronger stuff in the past!

**The first Sedgefield Show took place on 7 October 1859** and for the first decade shows took place in October, before moving to September, then late August, before settling on the second Saturday in August. Once the event was merged with the Durham County Show, as on Monday 7 August 1939, just a month before the start of the Second World War.

Sadly, due to Covid 19 and ongoing restrictions Sedgefield Show cannot take place this August in its traditional format, but the Virtual Show must go on!

Classes will be judged on Facebook in a public in a count of 'Likes' during the week before what would have been show day (2nd-6th August) and winners will be announced on Saturday 8th August. Winners will receive a rainbow rosette in recognition as well as being celebrated on the Facebook page for Sedgefield Show. *Martin F Peagam: The Time Traveller, on behalf of Sedgefield LHS.*

## GREENER SEDGEFIELD

It isn't long since those headlines about wildlife roaming free as humans had to lock themselves indoors. Air quality and visibility in the cities had improved and carbon emissions were dropping. As we regain more freedom, the impact of our daily lives becomes more visible. The pandemic is still very much here as we try to re-establish our lives, but much about our habits has changed, and unfortunately not for the better.

A surge in marine plastic waste has been recorded, a huge amount of it new types of waste - face masks, plastic gloves, hand sanitiser bottles. Supermarkets which had moved away from single use plastic shopping bags have brought them back and all home deliveries have been in plastic bags by default, no chance of opting out. The recycling industry has suffered during the pandemic with many recycling streams not operating. Meanwhile, globally plummeting oil prices have reduced the cost of producing virgin (new) plastic, confronting many companies with a tough decision. Is recycling economically viable or do they opt for new plastic which is cheaper, but not environmentally sustainable. The global market for packaging is estimated to have grown by 5.5 per cent during the pandemic, the vast majority of it plastic! What can we, as customers and consumers, do? Obviously plastic has its uses as it always had and always will, especially at a time when the world is trying to protect itself from the deadly virus, but let's approach it with some common sense.

You need to wear a face covering but must it be a medical grade disposable mask if you don't work in a healthcare sector or could you invest in a reusable one, or make your own following a simple online tutorial? Research has proven that the virus will die when the material is cleaned in soapy water so in most instances a reusable fabric face covering will do the job.

Do you need antibacterial hand wipes and hand sanitiser at home? A cheaper option like a bar of soap will do the same job. Do you need disposable wipes and kitchen paper to disinfect your house, or could you use a reusable cloth, which is safe and ready to use again after a cycle in your washer?

Scientists assure us that it is safe to use reusable containers and coffee cups as long as basic hygiene is employed, so hopefully shops and cafés will accept them again soon. Small steps towards sustainability matter now even more than ever before, so let's carry on doing our bit.



## New Headteacher for Sedgefield Community College

Mr Geoff Robinson has been appointed the new Headteacher of Sedgefield Community College. Mr Robinson has been a Deputy Headteacher at the college for 11 years, working closely with Mr Davies, to create an Ofsted rated outstanding school. On his appointment Mr Robinson commented "As a parent myself, my rationale has always been to create a school I would be profoundly happy for my daughter or son to attend."

When Mr Davies took over as Headteacher the school was in serious decline with student achievement amongst the worst in County Durham. The quality of teaching and learning was rated as inconsistent, sometimes poor, and there was very low staff morale.

After a lot of hard work Sedgefield Community College is now consistently both the highest performing school in County Durham, and amongst the top 5% of all North East and Cumbria secondary schools. The school regularly features in The Sunday Times list of the UK's 50 highest performing 11-16 schools.

As well as the academic success Mr Davies and his team have created a school the community can be proud of, with a happy, positive atmosphere for the children who attend.

Mr Davies won't be going too far as he has accepted a position with the Laidlaw Schools Trust to oversee secondary education provision. He will also oversee the build and development of the teacher training hub located in Sedgefield. Thank you to Mr Davies and his dedicated team, for the hard work and tremendous achievements at the school - and good luck to you and Mr Robinson, in your new roles.

## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS

*Working for the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Fishburn*

### Our 6th year of Energy Switch

August sees the anniversary of our energy switching programme and as we continue to believe that it offers the best opportunity to reduce energy bills, we will continue to promote the scheme for another year. For those whose current contract comes to an end before the end of the year and wish to continue, or for people wishing to join for the first time, here are the key dates.

**Registration opens on 4th August and closes on 5th October. The Auction follows on 6th October, with Personal Offers issued from 19th October. Acceptance closes on 17th November.**

If you are confident online, go to [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk/energyswitch](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk/energyswitch), click on 'Free sign up' and 'Sign up today' buttons and simply fill out your details. If you prefer to register and receive information through the post, or need any help, call the Trust Helpline on 07980 134 594 and we will help or register for you.

If you need more information, find us at the SDT stall during Farmers Market.

**We hope Sedgefield News will return to 12 pages soon, complete with Diary!**

Send details of your meetings or events to our brand new email address -

**[diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com](mailto:diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com)**

### A letter of thanks from Audrey Lofthouse

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to my dear friends for their kindness in sending so many cards and flowers on the occasion of my 90th birthday. I was overwhelmed and very touched. In current circumstances we were restricted so I had two parties, one each for my Darlington and Wakefield families! I also had an early surprise when some friends from the OSF group visited. Fortunately we were lucky with the weather so could celebrate outside.

Many thanks once again. I feel truly blessed to have such good friends.

## On yer bike!

You can't have failed to notice the dramatic increase in cyclists around our villages and country lanes.

Whether it's the chance to get outside in the fresh air, get a little fitter and lose some lockdown pounds, or to find a cheaper alternative to getting to work, you might be thinking of giving it a try. But where to start?

If you have a bike gathering dust in the shed or garage, perhaps needing minor repairs - a puncture or maybe it's stuck in that really tough gear, this is where your local bike shops can help. Bike shops were considered essential during lockdown and many remained open and will be happy to help get your old bike on the road. If you don't have a bike or want to upgrade to something a little smarter, there are schemes that can help. The biggest is the government's Cycle to Work initiative, which allows employees to buy bike & accessories, saving at least **25%** while spreading the cost over monthly instalments. The scheme is pretty simple:

- Your employer registers with a scheme provider. Many employers have already done this (they save on national savings contributions and get a healthier employee)
- You choose the bike and any accessories
- Your employer pays for the bike and accessories
- You pay your employer with monthly contributions taken from your salary

How does this save you money? The monthly contributions are taken from your gross salary, before tax has been deducted, meaning you don't pay tax or national insurance contributions on the monthly amount. This works out at a 32% saving for a basic rate taxpayer. Reducing your gross salary may impact other benefits so make sure you check this out.

For more information Sustrans, a national cycling charity, has a good guide at [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk).

As the name of the scheme implies the bike should be used for commuting to work, but this doesn't need to be every day (or even every week) and you are free to use it for other cycling adventures. Don't forget to think about using your bike for shorter journeys. A bike can be a great way to get to all the great local shops, cafes and restaurants.

## Bowls update

Fishburn Bowls Club will remain closed for the rest of the 2020 season. The membership looks forward to a full season in 2021.

Potential members can obtain further information from treasurer, Terry Graham: 01740 621627 or secretary, Carol Mason: 07446 032450.

## Nervous on your bike, particularly on busy roads?

If you're interested in joining other beginners, and people getting back into the saddle, on some short easy rides on quiet roads to gain confidence in your cycling, please get in touch by emailing [diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com](mailto:diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com)

Also the Sedgefield Get Active cycling group for more mature members of our community, meets at the far end of the Hardwick Park car park on Tuesdays from 9.30am - 11am. Led by trained Marshalls, this is social cycling for fun & fitness. Beginners are welcome with full training given. Bikes & helmets available for anyone who requires them. For more information on this scheme, please call **Leo McCormack on 01740 621037**.

## Sedgefield Charities Education grants for students

The Trustees of Sedgefield Charities make a number of awards each year to help students from lower income families who are taking up full time study beyond A level or equivalent.

**Students of any age may apply.**

Applicants must live in

**Bishop Middleham, Bradbury, Cornforth, Fishburn, Mordon, Sedgefield, Trimdon.**

Application forms & further information can be obtained from the new joint

**Clerk to the Trustees,**

**Anne Gladwin & Simon Nott**

**46 White House Drive,  
Sedgefield, TS21 3BU.**

**Telephone 01740 620811**

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

**The closing date for applications is  
September 30th 2020.**

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## SEDGEFIELD VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### What3Words



Durham Police Officers have been able to identify the locations of more than 350 incidents using an app which pinpoints the user's exact location no matter where they are.

'What3words' has been used in dozens of different circumstances recently, including to help find a missing boy, rescue a dog which had fallen down a ravine, track down stolen vehicles and find three walkers reported missing. The concept operates by dividing the world into three by three metre squares, giving each a unique three-word address which equips people with a simple way of referring to a specific location.

Since it was introduced to Durham Constabulary it has helped police call handlers and officers to locate hundreds of people who have needed help. Without the technology it is likely that it would have taken longer and used more resources to provide the help and assistance required.

Anyone unable to identify their location when calling 101 or 999 can be sent a text message with a link which will provide them with the three-word code they need to provide. This will be relayed to the call handler who can, if necessary, pass it on to an officer who can use What3words to locate someone in need of help, or recover evidence or something causing an obstruction.

A spokesman for Durham Constabulary, said: "We always knew it had the potential to make a difference when responding to an incident, particularly in rural areas where it is often more difficult to provide an exact location.

However, it is great to see the positive impact this has had, especially when people have been in significant danger or distress and we have been able to find them and provide help quicker than we would have done without it.

Obviously, there are other ways to communicate locations but this is quirky and simple enough to use and we have received some really positive feedback from those who have needed to use it."

**The only requirement is that you use your mobile phone so make sure you always carry it with you - it can save your life.**

### Latest Scams

The latest text & e-mail scams are asking people to check and confirm their billing information for Amazon, Netflix and iTunes, amongst others. Do not be fooled by what looks like a well-known, reputable company. Remember they will never ask you for your bank details.

Others request the information in order to reinstate your 'cancelled' or 'frozen' account or to get a refund of incorrect charges. Whilst it is a big temptation to authorise a surprise refund, don't be tempted, otherwise the surprise will certainly be a nasty one.

If you experience scam texts or telephone calls please let Susie Blake know. Email [Susie.blake@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Susie.blake@durham.pnn.police.uk)

**For Local Police, call 101 & for Crimestoppers, 0800 555 111** (anonymous)

**CPO Rona Stocks** [rona.stocks@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rona.stocks@durham.pnn.police.uk)

**Police Community Cohesion Officer Faye Callan** 101 Extension 742317:

[Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Faye.callan@durham.pnn.police.uk)

**Confidential email address:** [John.lamb@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:John.lamb@durham.pnn.police.uk)

**Crime isn't as common as you think... but don't be a victim. Please lock up, stay safe, and sleep well.**

### Housing Development Money may be allocated to the community, but how will it be spent?

As members of the team that spent time putting forward the majority community view on housing applications in Sedgefield we think it is time for an update on S106 monies (money allocated to a development, and paid by the developer, to make it acceptable and mitigate problems it may cause in the community i.e. school places, access to doctors, infrastructure issues and general community needs.)

Whilst it is Durham County Council (DCC) who manage the allocation of monies, at planning meetings and appeals we were assured by Inspectors and DCC legal team that our community would be consulted and 'have a say' on the use of the monies. We have asked for that consultation for about 2 years but it has not been forthcoming; we've requested an update on allocated and available amounts of money for our community (some money is paid 'up front' whilst some is paid as houses are completed.) However, it seems because of COVID 19 DCC are attending to other priorities than S106. They gave the following advice:

*We would advise that all projects may need to be reviewed in light of current circumstances, particularly in relation to the potential economic impact, and how it affects developer contributions, club or group sustainability and so on. We will be in touch when we can commence this work.* (from Culture & Leisure Senior Officers.)

We feel sure that the effects of this lockdown will mean many **continued on p7**



## ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap, email: [sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com](mailto:sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com)

### Sedgefield In Lockdown

#### 'Don't ask the Family'

Update by Tom Guest

From the beginning of lockdown the Players and SPYS have been meeting on Zoom, to continue to work as much as possible but also to keep contact and stay social with one another.

As part of this we began to develop and record material, utilising a different set of techniques than we are used to.

We started reading plays and, as we were to miss our June production, decided to film something instead. It was very difficult to find something that had the right number of characters to fit the ages of the actors we had.

Our group varies in age and technological ability and getting into zoom initially was quite hilarious. Often people would disappear or we could see them but not hear them; they might appear upside down; or occasionally we would have someone call in via phone as they couldn't get on at all (truthfully, we still aren't fully to grips with it!) Also, during this time a huge number of Family Quizzes were happening, so we decided to write a comedy series based around a family Zoom Quiz.

At the time of writing we have released 3 episodes and there are three more to come on the next 3 consecutive Sundays. They are fast paced, a little bit daft; occasionally politically inclined, but essentially a normal family meeting during lockdown.

Just search for Sedgefield Players on YouTube - you'll find us there.



#### Mark Gatiss on John Minton: The Lost Man of British Art

Sedgefield's Mark Gatiss pursues another of his long-standing passions in this BBC documentary, which sheds light on a lesser known figure who was at one time at the vanguard of the British art scene; an associate of Lucian Freud & Francis Bacon & one of the leading lights of 20th century art in the UK.

The film paints a vivid portrayal of Soho during the 1950s, still recovering from WW2 & presents an affecting portrait of John Minton himself, whose death at just 39 casts a dark shadow over the story. He had a vivacity & passion for life that made him the centre of the social scene, and was gifted with an extravagant, versatile talent; equally gifted as illustrator or painter: portraiture, cityscapes or still life.

His output was prolific & he found huge popular success, not least with his work on Elizabeth David's 'A Book of Mediterranean food' which was a runaway success. Nonetheless the piece tells the story of a figurative artist who found himself increasingly alienated in an art world enamoured with abstract expressionism. John Minton is not a well known name now, and this reappraisal of his vivid life & tragic death is long overdue. <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6vzg5h>



#### A Walk in the Park

A Poem by William Laycock

A sea of purple hazes into the distance  
Speckled with buttercup and nipplewort yellow  
Waves ripple o'er in the gentle breeze  
Swaying white sails of mop-capped parsley

Bright blue eyes wink a lover's tryst  
"Forget – me – not, forget – me – not"  
Peeping out of the mauve topped grass stalks  
Amid the mounds of thistle and dock

Bees bumble and flies hover  
Over clover red and clover white  
Nectar for pollen in fair exchange  
A honey lover's delight

Raucous white gulls, croaky black crows  
Twitter of swallows, scream of swift  
Skimming the tops of long stemmed grass  
Hunting posh-nosh for their growing brood

Lush islands of English oak, ancient beech  
Candled chestnut and nutted hazel  
Offering first class accommodation  
For burrowers and hoverers, fur and feather

Elder flower, guelder rose, hip and haw  
Hawthorn and thorny bramble  
Sticky-jacks to hit the unwary  
Horse chestnuts for knuckle raw conkers

Who dreamed this up from land forgotten?  
Whose beauty is balm to our eye  
But will it again be sacrificed  
On the altar of fiscal penury?



#### Housing Development Money continued

community groups will need some extra financial support and maybe s106 could be accessed. There is a longstanding, urgent need to provide an area where young people can enjoy themselves other than organised clubs. DCC have recently torn down some bike jumps a father and the boys built; the kids are not allowed access to the land at what is supposed to be a community college; other green areas are too close to houses and may result in annoyance. In fact, unlike in our neighbouring communities there is nowhere in Sedgefield where young people can casually meet and have a kick about etc. That is just one example.

Pavements are in a bad way, safety measures on roads are needed, safe crossings etc. S106 should help address some of these. The new Community College build is to go ahead with money 'ring fenced'. SCC is now an Academy (private, not local authority) so we hope it is not S106 that is 'ring fenced'.

We cannot have public meetings at present but our community needs to make sure we get a say in the spend of hundreds of thousands of pounds of S106. We asked the question, what happened to the £5000 from the Thurlow Rd redevelopment to be told it was 'loaned' to Fishburn to be repaid to Sedgefield but would you believe the people responsible for it can't remember what happened to it as it was 4 years ago. We could use that £5000!

We fear our community needs to speak up if we are to get what we are entitled to. Is anyone willing to help take this forward?

Julia Bowles for Sedgefield Village Action Group (SVAG). Contact: [lizmitch47@gmail.com](mailto:lizmitch47@gmail.com)

## SPORTS UPDATE *Email your reports to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)*

Since we suspended these reports at lockdown there have been some frustrating months for active sports people and their clubs in Sedgefield. While professional sport has restarted, it's mostly a different story for the grass roots. Sedgefield News has always championed the work and achievements of our clubs, individuals, and the volunteers who make it all possible. As we start to emerge from the COVID-19 crisis, here's hoping that all those organisations can return to doing what they do so well, sustaining our wonderful, vibrant sports scene. For now, an update on the current status from many of our clubs, but do keep an eye on their updates as things are changing all the time.

### Rugby Union

Sedgefield District Rugby Club has returned to training, having implemented the precautions and guidelines provided by the Rugby Football Union, and are making use of its new training ground at Hardwick Hall. Work is ongoing to develop these facilities and the club thanks Hardwick Hall Hotel for the support.



*Socially distanced Rugby training at Hardwick Hall*

Return to competitive rugby still appears to be some way off, as the authorities continue to explore how to apply social distancing to such a high contact sport. Training is held on Thursday evenings, 7pm at Hardwick Hall. If anyone would like to get involved, please get in touch with the club via its Facebook page.

### Athletics

Even at the height of lockdown, participation in running was high, as people made the activity their daily permitted exercise. Thanks to GPS, apps and other modern technology, there has also been a proliferation of virtual 'races', which have become very popular. However, the usual summer and autumn road and track schedule has been decimated, with cancellations of everything from youth development track and field events to mass participation races such as the Great North Run.

As a responsible club, Sedgefield Harriers suspended all senior and junior coaching activities during lockdown and has been following the guidance of England Athletics since then. At the time of writing this, the status is stage three of the England Athletics (EA) Route Map for Recovery which means that sessions comprising of more than six athletes (including coach) are not permitted. With these restrictions in place, there isn't a fair way to allow everybody who wants to attend training to participate, so official club sessions will not resume until there has been news of more progress from the EA. Informal events in the name of the club, with six members or fewer, have resumed, organised directly by those involved. The club is currently considering how it can begin to expand involvement safely, resuming formal training sessions, with fewer restrictions on numbers for recreational runs.

Sedgefield Harriers has been flexible about membership renewals and is communicating on a regular basis with members. In the current circumstances, the club has cancelled this year's Sedgefield Serpentine race, which was due to take place in September. In the meantime, the club has introduced a Virtual Grand Prix, with a series of 10 routes (of different distances and on varying surfaces) for runners to attempt by 31<sup>st</sup> August (devised by club member Stuart Park). Full details are available at <https://sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/grand-prix> and the website also hosts the latest news and information from the club.

Sedgefield parkrun and junior parkrun continue to be suspended. The weekly events will return once the national parkrun team gives the green light for parkruns in England to resume.

### Junior Football

All Sedgefield Youth FC teams have now returned to training (under strict FA guidelines). While the children can't play football games, they have found that the new style of training is very good for fitness, mental health and wellbeing. Coaches have planned out training sessions with social distancing in place, plus non-contact with the equipment. Hand sanitiser is available for all of the coaches, children and the watching parents.

As with senior football, a timetable for a return to properly playing football has now been outlined and Sedgefield Youth FC awaits the details that apply to its various teams. The club hopes to back playing as soon as possible, but in the meantime, the children have taken to the current restrictions very well and are very happy to be back with their friends and having a little bit of normality back in their lives.

### Football

St. Edmund's FC is complying with guidelines set by the Football Association, which means that training sessions under strict social distancing can only be held at venues that have given teams permission to train there. At the time of writing, the FA has just announced that pre-season friendly fixtures can begin in August and that grass roots leagues can re-start in September. St. Edmund's FC looks forward to resuming competition in the Durham District Sunday Premier League once arrangements have been confirmed. For further information about St. Edmund's FC, please contact the club secretary, Phil Shann: 07944 501708.

### Cricket

Sedgefield Cricket Club has been very busy of late. Cricket is the first grass roots team sport in the UK to be allowed to resume, with the addition of many temporary rules, including stopping every 20 minutes to sanitise hands and the ball. The action restarted on 18<sup>th</sup> July. The North Yorkshire and South Durham League agreed to run a half season (with teams playing each other once), which means that the season only needs extending by two weeks. There will be no promotion or relegation. Sedgefield Cricket Club has a packed fixture list throughout August and late into September. Senior and junior coaching – with social distancing measures incorporated – has also resumed (when the weather allows!). The club is very grateful to members, existing and new, who responded so positively during lockdown. The ground is in great shape and the bar has been busy since reopening. open to everyone, but membership with reduced price drinks is £12. Contact [sccmemberships@outlook.com](mailto:sccmemberships@outlook.com) for details and follow the club on social media for the latest news.

### Squash

Sedgefield Squash Club has taken advantage of the lockdown to improve facilities, creating glass back courts. The club was allowed to reopen from 25<sup>th</sup> July, but the nature of the game means that there are significant restrictions in how that happens, meaning that it will be some time until a resumption of 'normal' squash. Meanwhile, players need to learn how to play an adapted version called 'sides', which maintains social distancing. For all the latest updates from the club visit [www.sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk).

**See page 3 for a Bowls Club update.**

Meanwhile, that's all for this month. Hopefully, I'll be reporting more real action soon. As ever, send any sports news to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com).