

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

December 2021 Edition

Shop local this Christmas

and help support our local economy, communities and jobs

This week, I headed into Sedgefield seeking some inspiration for Christmas gifts and was delighted to find a huge range of treasures in our local independent shops. There are fabulous gift ranges in Tickety Boo, Betty's Boudoir, Peridot and From Loft to Loved.

The pandemic has changed how people shop and how they think about shopping. Many of us are now more aware of the impact of our buying decisions and there are real benefits to keeping things local.



A selection of gifts at From Loft to Loved

Many of our shops stock locally sourced products that you won't find online or in chain stores and when we shop locally, we are more likely to walk or cycle to get there – doing our bit to reduce pollution, reduce traffic and CO2.

It's not just gifts you can find, the team at Sew Clean can help me get ready for the office Christmas party by cleaning and, sadly for me, altering my dress. However, I did spot some new clothes in Betty's Boudoir so I may invest in a new outfit to wear into 2022.

Please take some time to think about using your local shops – they are a key part of our community and need your support.

Janette Savage



A selection of gifts at Peridot



A selection of gifts at Betty's Boudoir

Deadline for January - Friday 10 December

'Bees' to aid church calendar sales



Carole Lawford and the 'busy bees' team of volunteers at The Hive in Sedgefield's Rectory Row have stepped in to help the Friends of St Edmund's Church sell their 2022 calendars and Christmas cards.

They agreed to become the town's new principal sales centre for fund-raising merchandise produced by the Friends after the Toshach family, long-time supporters of the church, moved from their café in the town.

"We're delighted to be able to help, that's why we are here", said "Twinkle" (better known, perhaps, as Carole Lawford), who launched The Hive community support project just over six months ago.

Since then, thanks in no small measure to the 'busy bee' volunteers, The Hive has grown at a rapid rate and has already won praise for its policy of inviting gifts of unwanted toys, books and bikes and selling them on for a reasonable donation.



Carole is pictured (centre) with volunteer helper Anna Kenyon and Friends' membership secretary Brian Mutch

The Hive also grows and sells flowers, plants and vegetables, provides gallery space for local artists, and offers a variety of new household items.

The Friends' calendars cost £8 plus 50p for a substantial protective envelope for safe posting.

They can be obtained from The Hive, any member of the Friends' committee, or from Brian and Christine Mutch on 01740 622302 or via b.mutch@btconnect.com.

Reducing, reusing and sharing hints and tips

We at Sedgefield Community College are trying our utmost to change our ways and cut down on our carbon emissions by reducing the amount of plastic we use in our everyday lives here at school.

For example, we have started giving the new year 7s a reusable bottle that they can bring into school to cut down on their need to bring in non-reusable plastic bottles.

We have added displays to show the causes and effects of climate change and what we can do to prevent them.

We also have a display board showing some of the pledges that teachers have made to show what they will do to reduce their carbon footprint or changes to their daily life. Some of the pledges include...

- Mrs Crank (Head of History): 'I will wash clothes on a 30 degree wash as opposed to a standard 40 degree wash'
- Mr Fleming (Deputy Headteacher): 'I will reduce the amount of petrol I use each week by reducing unnecessary journeys and walking whenever I can'
- Mrs Kidd (Head of Science): 'To buy less fast fashion and make more use of thrift and charity shops'
- Mrs King (Assistant Headteacher and Maths Teacher): 'I will endeavour to take less easily recycled things (e.g. plastic bags) to the collection point that can't be put in household recycling.'

Year 10 students at Sedgefield Community College

Conference of the Pupils

Recently, the pupils at Sedgefield Hardwick have been focusing on COP26 and the impact of climate change. Pupils have been discussing the climate crisis and ways we can help the environment. Class discussions have taken place over the past two weeks, making everyone aware of the deteriorating weather conditions around the world, the impact on animals' and humans' lives and what we can do in the future to prevent any further damage from taking place.

Pupils have shown how passionate they are and have demonstrated a great determination towards providing solutions both in their local community and in the wider world. They have ongoing ideas that will create a brighter and more sustainable future. Pupils in Year 6 commented, "We are trying to improve the way we live our daily lives and the information we have encountered during the last two weeks has had a huge impact on our minds and will help us to make a huge difference in our environment."

Museum Mayhem

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed a recent visit to Bowes Museum. They were keen to consolidate their learning from the classroom by further exploring historical change from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. Pupils were proud to imitate the designs of clay pots by Stone Age people.

A treasure hunt to further investigate this fascinating Museum was another activity the enthusiastic learners of Year 3 took part in. Noah Howarth remarked, 'It was exhausting, but so interesting'.

This fabulous class visit has inspired many pupils to wish to return to this museum with parents for a re-visit. Bowes Museum is the North's Museum of Art, Fashion and Design and a real hidden treasure of Teesdale.



Sedgefield Rock & Blues Club

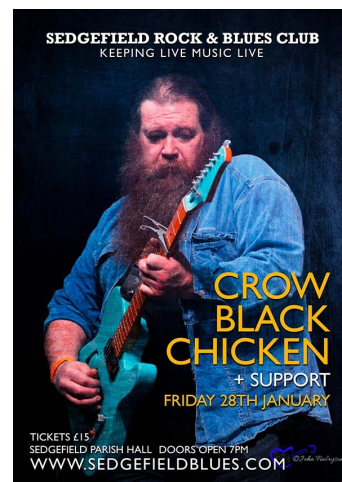
We've weathered the COVID storm!!

We started back up again in August with a reduced capacity (25%) to keep people a little more socially distanced than before and Sean Webster plus The Herbal Remedy was just the tonic people needed. With so much positive feedback, we moved on to September and Xander & The Peace Pirates hooked you in with some melodic riffs and sublime vocals suitably supported by The Dust Raisers, who blew everyone away, what talent with have in the North East. November saw local band, The Rain Kings, pouring out tunes that were very well received before Ben Poole ripped up the stage with some oceanic guitar playing. Also in the same month, we welcomed the future star of Italian rock blues, Eliana Cargnelutti, wow, what a performance and it was a pleasure to be part of her UK tour. So, with the December gig selling out well in advance, we move on to 2022, so here are the dates for your diary.

28 January: Crow Black Chicken + Support

18 March: Malone Sibun + Support

22 April: Trevor Sewell + Teresa Watson Band



We want to wish all our music friends and supporters good health and keep live music live in 2022 and beyond. www.sedgefieldblues.com

Future composers?

Year 5 pupils have been enthusiastic about creating and performing musical compositions based on 'The Highwayman'. Pupils worked in collaborative groups to produce these and combined voice with musical accompaniment. They were enthused by this opportunity to adapt elements of the classic poem by Alfred Noyes and learnt to modify tempo. Perhaps we have future composers in our midst at Sedgefield Primary School?

BUSINESS UPDATE

Until the cows come home

About a quarter of a mile down Racecourse Road you will find the entrance to a dairy farm. The farm has around 300 cows, but milk wasn't the drink I was interested in when I chatted to Harry Brown from Hopper House Brew Farm. The microbrewery and tap house started a couple of years ago as a hobby and a retirement project. It was forced to close when COVID wreaked havoc with the hospitality industry but Harry, fresh from university, is now looking to take it on.

The old milking parlour has been turned into a tap room with five standard beers on tap: blond; golden; ruby; IPA; porter; and a Christmas special coming soon. In addition to the drinks, you can also get bar snacks, and on certain dates, food vans provide something a little more substantial. When the weather allows, there are (literally) acres of space for the beer garden, so you can have a pint while watching the cows wander by.



The farm is keen to be as environmentally friendly as possible. Solar panels on the roof of the cow shed provide all the energy required for the brewing operation. The waste grain and hops from the brewing process are used as feed for the cows. The journey from brewery to tap room is about 30 feet and the bar is built from reclaimed materials found around the farm.

The beer is available, naturally in recyclable glass bottles, from the Lost Robot in Sedgefield, and Harry can be found at the Sedgefield Farmers Market.

Hopper House Brew Farm will be open Boxing Day (26 December), 27 December and New Year's Day. For further opening dates and more details, check out their Facebook page www.facebook.com/HopperHouseBrewFarm/.

Paul Savage

Sedgefield Church bells silenced

The bells at Sedgefield's St Edmund's Church will not be heard again 'for the foreseeable future' says the man with special responsibility for over-seeing maintenance of the 900-year-old building.

Serious rot has been discovered in a 200-year-old oak beam (it's 12 feet long, 7 inches wide and more than 9 inches deep) that supports 3 of the 6 bells in the church tower. Durham's Diocesan bell advisor has said that it is now too dangerous to ring them.

Emeritus warden Brian Mutch, who has special responsibility for maintaining the fabric of all churches in the parish of the Upper Skerne, said this week: "We want to have the beam replaced as quickly as possible but there is only one company in the country capable of doing the work. We are now waiting for them to visit and give us a quotation but it is clear that the bells will not be rung again for the foreseeable future."

The repair will be funded by the Friends of St Edmund's who have only recently paid for remedial work to the roof where 'holes you can get your hand into' were discovered during a recent drone survey. The Friends have also agreed to pay for the long-overdue refurbishment of the two faces on the church clock and its striking system, the provision of bronze safety bars on the tower roof to enable visits, repairs to the vandal-damaged lychgate roof, making good areas of the main building fabric and to contribute to the lifting of the crossing floor.

The Friends are now inviting donations of any size from well-wishers to help with the work. Donations can be made via their new 'Just Giving' page, which can be found on <https://justgiving.com/fo-stedmundschurch> or by sending a cheque to the Friends' membership secretary, Brian Mutch, at 6 Hasledon Grove, Sedgefield, TS21 2JW or call on 01740 622302.

New sculpture trail

New carved sculptures are proving popular at Hardwick Park. There are 6 wetland-inspired oak pieces, designed and carved by North East artists Lee and Jill Brewster.

The artworks, depicting a dragonfly, frog and other wetland animals, were commissioned by the Discover Brightwater Landscape Project team as part of its £3.3million programme of activities funded by National Lottery players and distributed through the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Even before the trail was complete the carvings saw plenty of interest during the recent October half-term break.

Discover Brightwater is a programme of events, projects and activities to restore, reveal and celebrate life around the River Skerne which runs from Darlington, through Newton Aycliffe, Sedgefield, Bishop Middleham, Fishburn and the Trimdons, up to Hurworth Burn Reservoir.

The sculpture trail starts at the park's visitor centre, taking in the Serpentine Bridge, Fen Carr Boardwalk, main lake and west end of the Serpentine Lake before ending at the back of Temple Field. The last sculpture marks the way to Bishop's Fen, a new 25-hectare nature reserve which is being developed by Discover Brightwater's lead partner Durham Wildlife Trust, 2km north of Bishop Middleham.

A children's activity booklet containing fun animal facts, trivia questions and sensory activities for families to use while visiting the sculptures will be available from Hardwick Park in the coming weeks.

"We hope that more people will visit the site and enjoy taking part in the trail for many years to come, learning more about nature and getting exercise outdoors in the process."

More information on Discover Brightwater is available at www.discoverbrightwater.com.



Diyon and Chathumi Tennakoon in front of the dragonfly sculpture

SUSTAINSEDGEFIELD

Getting practical

The COP has been and gone, but the need to do something feels even more urgent! Using the 5R's of waste disposal from last months column and a stall at the Churches Together COP Cafe, this month is about sharing some practical suggestions for addressing waste, alongside a real life dilemma and a potential solution.



Refuse: Say no to plastic wrapping on vegetables by buying loose, reusing your own bags, or growing your own.

Alternatively refuse to buy produce which has been transported a long distance and instead buy local and seasonal. Melanby's veg stall at the farmers market does all this and is excellent value for money too!



Reduce: Turn the heating down and keep warm by being more active. Rather than using shower gel or liquid handwash,

use soap instead. As well as removing the need for single use plastic bottles, there are reduced transport costs and water usage.



Reuse: Margarine cartons, the inside of cereal packets, and takeaway containers

can be used for a variety of purposes – storage, freezer containers, packed lunch boxes. Yogurt pots and bottles make great musical instruments for children or can be used for water play. Tetrapacks can be reused as plant-pots, particularly helpful for seedlings.

Repair dilemma:



We know that it is not easy to make changes. One person said 'If you try to repair something and you make a mess of it, you have wasted your time. Sometimes it is easier to buy new because you know what you are getting.' One way to get over this fear is to have some help from people with experience of repairing, which is the idea behind a Repair Café.

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY DECEMBER 2021

Recently we had a walk along the river at Shincliffe, and I decided not to take my camera – a fatal error of course as I always see something when I haven't got the camera with me. We sat for a minute on a seat overlooking the river and by the far bank an otter came into view and we watched it as it made its way, swimming close to the bank, downstream and round a corner, probably some of the best views of an otter I have ever had and right on our doorstep. Of course it is possible to see other mammals whilst walking in the British countryside, including one which is causing lots of issues – the American mink. This is an invasive non-native semi aquatic mammal, typically with rich dark brown fur that can appear black when wet. They will often have a small white patch on their chin or throat. As a member of the Mustelidae family, they are relatives of stoats, weasels, polecats and otters to name a few. At around the same size as a polecat or ferret, they are smaller than otters and possess a shorter fluffier tail.

American mink were originally brought to the UK from North America in 1929 to be farmed for their fur, a practice which continued until 2000 when the Fur Farming (Prohibition) Act was introduced. Inevitably, this adaptable predator found its way into the wider landscape, through escapes and deliberate releases. In 1956 they were confirmed to be breeding in the wild, barely a decade later they were widespread across much of England, Wales and lowland Scotland. Today American mink are almost ubiquitous in Great Britain.

Like many invasive species, American mink are highly adaptable and are able to thrive in a range of environments, feeding on a wide variety of prey, from nesting birds to fish and of course small mammals. Of particular concern to us is their catastrophic impact on water vole populations. Over millennia water voles have evolved effective defence strategies against their native predators. Land based threats, such as foxes and stoats can be avoided by diving into the water and kicking up a cloud of silt to obscure their view.

Those predators which can pursue them through the water, such as otters and pike are thwarted by escaping to the nearest underwater burrow. Of course the voles don't always evade capture but enough do for the population as a whole to continue to thrive. Sadly, in the face of this new threat, the American mink, water voles have met their match. Mink are adept at catching water voles on land, in the water but most critically, female and young mink are small enough to pursue them into their burrows, leaving the voles no effective means of escape. A single female mink is capable of clearing an entire colony of water voles in a matter of a few months. In conjunction with habitat loss and degradation, predation by American mink is responsible for the more than 90% decline in water voles over the past century. The three North East Wildlife Trusts are working together on a Naturally Native project. Naturally Native will stop the decline of our native water voles in the North East of England and ensure they can, once again, thrive along our rivers, streams and ponds. There are many ways to get involved in the project including letting them know if you see water voles, otters and especially mink. You can find out more about the project at www.facebook.com/NaturallyNative.



Water vole

©Terry Whittaker/2020VISION

Solution:

Sedgefield Development Trust want to bring people with repair skills together with people who want to learn, starting with textiles. Can you replace elastic in waistbands, sew on a button, transform a favourite top into a new item of clothing? Can you help others or do you want to learn? We are planning a meeting early in January 2022 to get this idea off the ground so get in touch at news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk to find out how you can get involved.



Café COP – Caring for Creation

Climate change needs action by all 7 billion plus of the world's inhabitants to keep an emergency from becoming catastrophic. Regardless, humans will probably have to adapt to living in harsher, more changeable environmental conditions.

As COP26 ended, *Nature* reported comment by Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations: , "COP26 President Alok Sharma brought down the gavel on this contentious and hard-fought agreement. The outcome is an important step, but it's not enough. The climate battle is the fight of our lives and that fight must be won."

Our little bit to help may not seem much, but 7 billion little bits add up, alongside national and international scale actions. We are all in this together. Thus Sedgefield Area Churches Together organised "Café COP – Caring for Creation" on 6 November with information and activities in the Parish Hall based around low-carbon issues, and moving, reflective prayer spaces on climate themes in St Edmund's. Those fronting stands representing the Woodland & Wildlife group (with reusable natural tree to decorate), Durham Wildlife Trust, SDT's fledgling sustainability initiative and Fair Trade as well as the craft table saw many positive conversations. Local MP Paul Howell popped in. There was a convivial buzz as people enjoyed chat, low-carbon and recycled crafts, coffee and home-made cakes.



The pledges written on cardboard leaves and Christmas pictures will be hung on the SACT tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in St. Edmund's.

About £150 was raised to split between the Climate Stewards charity and staging Carols in the Car Park on 5 December. Sincere thanks to all who came and to all who helped, for your generosity of heart, time, care and donations.

Mayor's Christmas Present Appeal

I would like your help please as I am organising an appeal for a Christmas present for a homeless person OR a child in need. Some ideas to help a homeless person: - Biscuits, Socks, Gloves, Scarf, Soap Toothpaste & Sweets, a puzzle, towel or T-Shirt etc. wrapped in Christmas paper.

A small gift for a child whose parent is in prison. All gifts will be delivered discreetly. Just put the gender and age of the child on the front of the parcel wrapped in Christmas paper. You can deliver either gift to 3, The Square, Sedgefield or leave it at the Town Council Office, on Front Street, Sedgefield. Thank you very much, I do appreciate your support. The final date to help is **Sunday 5 December.**

Councillor Ann Carr

Sedgefield Players Present
A First Class Murder
 to support
Sedgefield Mayor's Charities
 Youngminds & Local Charities
 Sedgefield Parish Hall 7.30pm
 Saturday 19th February 2022
 Tickets £14 incl two Course supper
 Bar Services
 Tickets from
 Sedgefield Council Office.
 also
 Ann Carr - 07831452011
 anncarr6@aol.com
Make it a 1920's night & COME IN COSTUME
 MURDER SUSPECT

SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Contactless card warning

Which?Money has warned that fraudsters can use skimming devices and laptops to steal people's contactless card details. The device is a card reader that scans contactless card details without you knowing. Criminals can then use these details to spend thousands of pounds online or over the counter with cloned cards.

Remote card fraud has increased by a phenomenal 47% and has almost doubled since the year before.

For people who are not comfortable with contactless technology there are ways avoid the risks.

Which?Money explain that some banks allow people to remove the contactless feature altogether, while others will allow people to just fix a specific limit. Note that the current limit is being increased to £100 and roll out of this by banks started on 15 October 2021.

It is also good practice to protect your card by keeping it in a RFID protecting wallet that incorporates a metal mesh to prevent ingress by electronic signals.



Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch Committee

The Committee Members are resuming Neighbourhood Watch meetings in the Social Club in January 2022 and are planning to meet the second Wednesday of every month at 7pm. This is open to attendance by any Sedgefield resident and future dates will be published in Sedgefield News.

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

To report anything suspicious in your area call Durham Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

To report concerns, seek advice or pass on information call 101. Keep notes, ask for an incident number. Information received will be developed & acted on.

Confidential email address:

amy.jorgeson@durham.police.uk.

ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap email: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Sedgefield Players Pantomime:

Jack and the Beanstalk

No need to travel far to experience a traditional panto this Christmas! Come and see the Sedgefield Players staging *Jack and The Beanstalk*. To be performed in the Parish Hall, Sedgefield on 27, 28, 29 and 30 December 2021.

Having been dark for the last 18 months, the Sedgefield Players are now back on stage and in full rehearsal mode for this show, which provides family fun in the time-honoured pantomime tradition.



In between rehearsals the 'Players also found time to celebrate turning 50 with a golden celebration in the Parish Hall. Members past and present attended and there were a lot of photos from past productions. After a hog roast supper they chatted about memorable things that went wrong, and remembered those no longer with us.

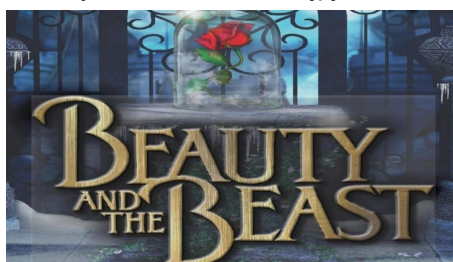
Jack and the Beanstalk promises to be another memorable success for the 'Players.

Book early to avoid disappointment, tickets are available from www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk, Tickety Boo or call 07957 104434.

Pantomime Across The County

Anybody unable to see the Sedgefield Players' *Jack and the Beanstalk* during the last week of December due to family or other commitments will still be able to find pantomime locally. In fact, we are spoiled for choice...

Spennymoor Everyman Theatre: *Beauty & The Beast*, 2 to 4 December. Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/spennymoor/spennymoor-settlements-everyman-theatre/beauty-and-the-beast/e-ojpjla



Durham Gala Theatre: *Robin Hood*, 24 November to 9 January galadurham.co.uk/galapost/robin-hood



Bishop Auckland Town Hall: *Jack and the Beanstalk* from 17 to 19 December bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk/bishoppost/panto-jack-and-the-beanstalk/



Barnard Castle The Witham: 17 to 24 December. Tickets from thewitham.org.uk/event/sleeping-beauty/



Hartlepool Art Gallery

Hartlepool Art Gallery hosts the 74th Annual exhibition of Hartlepool Arts Club until 15 January in the main gallery on Church Street.

This event, showcasing the work of local artists, is a traditional fixture in the calendar and helps to cement the place of the gallery at the artistic heart of the community. Open each Tuesday to Saturday until 15 January, and free to enter, it also presents an opportunity to pick up a unique and unusual gift for Christmas. Whether browsing for pleasure or buying to support the region's art scene it is well worth a trip.

MR James on the BBC

The ancient custom of telling spooky tales at Christmas has undergone a minor revival in recent years, thanks in part to Sedgefield's Mark Gatiss' adaptations on the BBC. Following his staging of MR James' *The Tractate Middoth* in 2013 & *Martin's Close* in 2019 (as well as two compositions of his own in a similar vein in 2008 & 2018) this year Gatiss returns with James' *The Mezzotint* starring Rory Kinnear and Robert Bathurst.

Already a favourite of MR James fans, *The Mezzotint* tells the tale of an artwork that starts to show supernatural properties. The adaptation is directed and adapted for screen by Mark Gatiss, an avowed devotee of the macabre, and will air on BBC2 and iPlayer over Christmas.

Carols

There's no better celebration of the spirit of Christmas than attending (or participating in!) a carol service.

This year once again we will be privileged to see and hear the community coming together to hear *Carols On The Green* here in Sedgefield; traditional carols followed by refreshments at Ceddesfeld Hall in the week before Christmas. What more could one hope for? *Well dry weather, of course - wrap up warm!*

The Witham in Barnard Castle is hosting a weatherproof alternative on 12th December: *Carols by Candlelight*. This event will see three established choirs coming together to perform a mix of modern and traditional carols. Tickets are £8 each and can be bought here: thewitham.org.uk/event/carols-by-candlelight.

DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

December 2021

- Thursday 2** **Civic Carol Service**, 7pm. Information from Sedgefield Town Council.
- Friday 3** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Coffee Morning**, Parish Hall, 10am-11:30am. Coffee/tea plus scone or cake for £2. cake stall and raffle. Please join us!
- Sedgefield and District U3A**, Christmas Celebration, Parish Hall, 2pm-4pm. Contact 01740 629674 .
- Karaoke Night**, Sedgefield Social Club, 7:30pm until 11pm
- Sunday 5** **Farmers Christmas Market**, Village Green,, 8:30am—12:30pm
- Carols in the Car Park**, Sainsbury's car park, everyone welcome but booking is essential. See below for further details.
- Monday 6** **DIDO**, Christmas celebration with Sedgefield Community College Choir, Parish Hall, 1pm-3:30pm. Fun and quizzes, bring a plate of food for your table. Contact 01740 629574.
- Friday 10** **Sedgefield in Bloom Christmas Coffee Morning**, Parish Hall, 10am-11:30am. Refreshments, delicious home made cakes and biscuits, book stall, tombola, raffle and Christmas goods.
- Friday 17** **Carols on the Green**, Sedgefield, 6:30pm, followed by refreshments in Ceddesfeld Hall. All are welcome.
- Saturday 18** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club workshop and afternoon tea**, Parish Hall, 1pm (prompt)-5pm. Blooms and bubbly, a fantastic alternative to Xmas wreath making. All materials, afternoon tea and bubbly provided. £30 per person, contact 07533 752870.

Save the date

- Thursday 6 January** **Sedgefield T Dance**, 1pm. Please contact Joyce or Ann for more information on 01740 622601/01740 629070.
- Friday 7 January** **Sedgefield and District U3A**, 10th anniversary celebration. All members welcome. Contact 01740 629574.
- Monday 10 January** **DIDO**, Start the New Year with Wellness, Parish Hall, 1pm-3:30pm. Scottish theme with fun and quizzes.
- Friday 28 January** **Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club**, Crow Black Chicken & Support, Parish Hall, 7pm. Tickets £15.

SEDFIELD LIBRARY

Tel: 0300 026 9521

The library is open again with temporary opening hours:

Wednesday 9.30 to 12.30

Thursday 9.30 to 16.30 (Closed for lunch from 12.30 to 13.30)

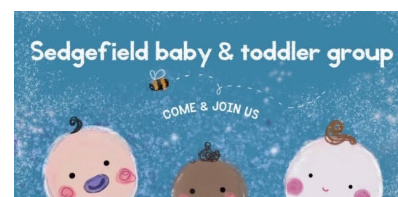
Friday 13.30 to 17.30

Saturday 9.30 to 12.30

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

See www.durham.gov.uk/libraries for updates and information about any service changes.

Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group



Methodist Church on alternating Mondays and Tuesdays. All sessions run from 9:30am—11am.

Monday: 13 Dec,
Tuesdays: 7 Dec, 3 Jan

Sedgefield Area Churches Together

Advent discussion group

"Old Testament Nuggets—Born of David's Line", Methodist Church, led by Revd. Chris Humble. Everyone is welcome, just turn up!

Thursdays: 2 Dec, 9 Dec, 16 Dec

Sedgefield in Bloom Christmas Tree Collection

12 January

£5 per tree, collected from your home and recycled through Durham County Council. For more information, ring 01740 622706 or email alicehobson.ah@gmail.com.


Sedgefield Area Churches Together

Carols in the Car Park

Sunday 5th December, 7 pm

Sainsbury's car park

Everyone welcome – *the event is free but booking is essential*

Please book your space via Eventbrite

With the kind involvement of Sainsbury's, PLW Event Management, Fishburn Band, Lyric Singers, BBC Radio Tees, volunteer stewards and many more



Carols on the Green

Friday 17th December, 6.30 pm, Sedgefield
Followed by refreshments in Ceddesfeld Hall
Come young and old, everyone is welcome

Sedgefield Area Churches Together

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS

Tony Magee

I was preparing this page when I heard the sad news that Tony Magee had died earlier this week. One of the brightest sparks I ever encountered, he was one of the News team for much too short a time before he received his diagnosis.

Working alongside Sue Dobson and I, Tony brought warmth and wit to our meetings and wonderful writing to Sedgefield News. I'm sure that his friends in other walks of life would agree that he was dedicated to doing any job he tackled to the best of his considerable ability. He will be missed by many. *Sandy Clubleby*

WOODLAND & WILDLIFE

Many thanks to a young, local environmentalist!

Early in November, we met Tristan - a fantastic young man who has become very concerned about the climate emergency after learning about it at school. Tristan decided to take action, so for his birthday, instead of having a party, he decided to do a sponsored silence to raise money to help the environment.

Tristan had been part of our original planting team in 2018, so with some of the money he raised, he bought a native tree pack from The Woodland Trust and donated the 30 trees to The Woodland & Wildlife Project. With the help of a few of our volunteers they were planted on site in October. He should be incredibly proud of himself!



Our traders at the Christmas Market will be pulling out all the stops on Sunday 5 December! We'd love to see you there!



Homework Help will take a break over the Christmas holidays. Thanks and "bravo" to all the helpers and students for their good-natured hard work this term. **Happy Christmas, Happy New Year, and we'll see you in January!**
homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk



Tristan on the Woodland & Wildlife site with his tree pack

Christmas trees for habitats

On **8 January 2022 from 10am – 12noon** we will be welcoming people to bring their real Christmas trees to the Woodland & Wildlife site. This year we will use your trees to create a dead hedge and to build more habitats for insects and small mammals.

Drop your tree off with our volunteers or even better, stay for a hot chocolate, help process your tree and have a look round the site.

If you would like to know more or volunteer with us, please contact Melissa – woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or join our Facebook page - Woodland & Wildlife -Sedgefield.

Sedgefield Energy Switch: ENERGY COSTS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

Everyone who would have normally switched as a result of the October Auction should have received either an email, if you switch online, or a letter if you receive paper bills. The advice in both advises that you to stay with your existing supplier and let them move you to their Standard Tariff. You would also have been advised that your registration would be automatically rolled forward to the next Auction in February next year when it is hoped that the energy market will have stabilised. If you have any concerns regarding the information you have been sent, contact our helpline on **07572 502904** for advice. You will be only talking to Sedgefield people and won't be committing yourself to anything by calling.

If your current fixed term contract comes to an end before the end of April 2022, you need to register for the February 2022 auction. Registration opens Tuesday 30 November 2021 and closes on Monday 14 February 2022, with the auction on the following day. Offers will be issued from Monday 28 February 2022. **Remember to have your latest energy bill or annual statement with you when you start your registration.**

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

CEDDESFIELD HALL SCA

Home of Sedgefield Community Ass'n
Sedgefield Community Association
would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

Inserted in this newsletter, you will find an SCA pamphlet, providing all the information relating to activities, room hire and community events for 2022 at Ceddesfeld Hall - including...

The Christmas Eve Quiz returns this year - always very popular, with its mix of topical questions, general knowledge & picture rounds. The bar will be open and Round 1 begins at 8:30pm.

Burns Supper. Also returning, on Saturday 22 January 2022, is our traditional Burns celebration, with the regular mix of poetry, tributes, and the skirl of the pipes. The haggis will be addressed, and the Bard toasted, in an entertaining evening which starts with reception drinks. A four course meal (choice of haggis or beef) follows, along with the toast and tributes; all for £25. For the comfort and safety of diners, numbers will be limited to 50, so book early.

Mediaeval Fayre returns on Saturday 21 May 2022

The Fayre, run by the SCA is a fun day for everyone in the open air on village green and Ceddesfeld park. Starting with the parade of school children in fancy dress, there will be free entertainment all day, as well as craft stalls, show rides, a Birds of Prey exhibition, and Living History events.

All plans have the effects of COVID in mind, so for your sake and our volunteers', SCA will not call door to door, collecting goods for sale on the day. This time, we'd like you to come to us. We'll be very happy to receive any item suitable for a Tombola; your unwanted Xmas presents, toys or even spare bottles of wine. Please bring them to Ceddesfeld Hall or contact one of the people listed below.

The Fayre is a long established, large community event. Hands on, practical support in the run up and on the day is essential, so please contact SCA if you can help.

SCA is pleased to welcome back **Weight Watchers.** Meetings take place every Wednesday morning from 9:30am to 11:30am. The session leader is Nicky Wilson, and she will be delighted to see you.

For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, activities, room hire & bar opening times, call Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 01740 620607, John on 01740 620042, Sarah on 01740 622185 or visit www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk.

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SPORTS UPDATE

Email chrisjlines@aol.com

It's nearly time for the BBC Sports Review Personality of the Year. I'd love the show to revert to its format of many years ago, which provided a proper review of a wide range of sports, but the cult of personality will no doubt prevail again. Nevertheless, it should still be an entertaining show and as always there are some strong candidates for the main award - I have a feeling that a certain young tennis player might be in the mix on the night.

Athletics

In grass roots athletics, cross country racing comes to the fore in autumn and winter. Cross country is at the 'gnarly' end of the sport and is characterised by mud, hills and bad weather – it sounds really appealing doesn't it? In fact, alongside summer track and field, it's a key discipline in running and there are long established pathways to regional, national and international recognition. Many of the biggest names in athletics cut their teeth in cross country racing before they found wider recognition on the track, and that's as true here in the North East as anywhere – Brendan Foster, Steve Cram, Aly Dixon, Laura Weightman and many more have slogged around tough courses in brutal conditions in their long spikes and club vests.

And never were conditions more brutal than in 2015, when the North Eastern Counties Cross Country Championships (NEXC) came to East Park, hosted by Sedgefield Harriers. The day began cold and wet, with freezing rain greeting the first junior races. That soon turned to snow and by the time that the senior races got underway, Sedgefield was experiencing blizzard like conditions. No one who was there on that day will forget it – notable runners did include Aly Dixon and Laura Weightman, and the latter's coach Steve Cram was on hand to witness the mayhem.

Six years later and the event is returning to Sedgefield on Saturday 11 December. Once again, East Park will be the venue and while similar conditions are not expected, cross country has a habit of throwing in a curveball so watch this space!

Clubs from all over the North East will descend on Sedgefield for the event and the starts of the two senior races always look spectacular, with athletes lined up across the line (rather than 'queuing' as in most road races). The sight of the runners charging forwards as they aim to gain a good position for when the course narrows, is spectacular.



The start of the women's race at the 2015 NEXC in Sedgefield - photo by Ian Dunn

The NEXC is part of a full calendar of cross country events over the winter months, including the popular North East Harrier League (NEHL), which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this season. The senior men at Sedgefield Harriers have put a particular focus on NEHL for 2021/22 and so far, that is paying dividends. There are six fixtures during the season and the results on each are dependent on the first six 'counters' from each club. Athletes run in slow, medium and fast packs, based on their results in previous seasons and/or fixtures. The slow pack sets off first, with the medium and fast packs starting two and a half minutes and five minutes later respectively. A runner gets promoted if they finish in the top 10% of the slow or medium pack in a race. Once promoted, they stay in that pack for the rest of the season. This can lead to the bigger clubs holding back their better runners who would initially start in the slow or medium pack for a later race, in order to score better in a particular fixture and improve their league position. It can get quite confusing!

The senior men at Sedgefield Harriers have employed a fairly simple approach so far this season – field as many runners as possible in each race and have faith in their ability to deliver the goods. After 3 fixtures, the club sits at the top of Division 3, with the minimum number of points possible – in this format the lower the number, the better! Impressively, the club has fielded big teams at each race, with an impressive 17 turning out at the third event on the Lambton Estate. Promotion is a definite possibility, but the team won't be relaxing, as there are some significant, competitive clubs snapping at their heels in their division.



Squash

Sedgefield Squash Club's teams have been competing in the Durham & Cleveland County Leagues over the past few weeks. The ladies team - current champions - have had a difficult start with several senior players out through injury, but are currently third in the division. Circumstances have given the chance to blood new players into team squash, providing them with invaluable opportunities to compete against other clubs.

The five senior teams are currently experiencing very mixed fortunes in their respective divisions. The first team are third in the premier league and had a tight 3-2 defeat to league leaders and defending champions Bannatyne's. The second and fifth teams are both bottom of divisions 1 and 4 respectively. The third and fourth teams are in the same division so battled out an epic match against each other recently, with the thirds coming away with the bragging rights, thanks to a narrow 3-2 win. The next few weeks will see all of the teams involved in County Cup action, so I will have updates on their progress in the new year.

Football

St. Edmund's FC finished last season on a high, winning the Bishop Auckland Heart Foundation Cup in mid-June. This was followed by a quicker than normal turnaround for the start of the new season, with friendlies from mid-July and league games from early in August. The team experienced an indifferent start, winning only three league games out of seven and losing in the first round of both the County Cup and the Heart Foundation Cup. However, St. Edmund's have progressed to the third round in both league cups and with 12 league games left (at the time of writing this), there are plenty of points – and a couple of trophies – to play for.



James Oldfield of Sedgefield Harriers leads a group of senior men at the 2015 NEXC - photo by Karen Newton

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