

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

February 2022 Edition

Deadline for March - Tuesday 15 February

Congratulations to Jack Smith MBE

More than 30 Paralympic champions appeared on the New Year Honours List and were in receipt of MBEs honoured for service to sport. We were delighted to see the wheelchair rugby team including Sedgefield's Jack Smith recognised for Paralympic GB's maiden victory in a team sport. See more on Jack's next adventure in wheelchair rugby on our Sports Page.



Our history making wheelchair rugby champions embrace in Tokyo



Jack returning home from Tokyo last summer

Sedgefield in Bloom Christmas Tree Collection

Sedgefield in Bloom would like to thank everyone who once again supported us in our annual fund raising tree collection. The monies raised are an invaluable source of income which this year will be used for our spring planting.



Working in conjunction with Durham County Council (DCC) Recycling team nearly 80 trees were collected by our volunteers on a sunny January day. The trees were taken away by DCC to be composted, helping us all towards a greener future.

Thanks again to all our volunteers, supporters both in the Village and surrounding areas and Durham County Council.

Sedgefield Community Association present

26 FEBRUARY
DOORS 7:30 PM

Live
MUSIC NIGHT

Featuring
Lol & Maxine Crallan
Whisky & Wine

and welcoming
Mamma Said

Ceddesfield Hall, Sedgefield
Bar Open, Charity Raffle

FREE Entry

To help us manage numbers and be COVID secure, please let us know you are coming by calling Sarah on 01740 622185

Supporting our community

Over the course of the last term, a lot of work has gone on at Sedgefield Community College (SCC) in order that we may support charitable causes. It is important to the climate we are working to foster in school that we teach our students the importance of 'community,' and to encourage them to think about the ways in which they can contribute. The students raised £1,223 through a non-uniform day, the sale of tickets from our Christmas concert and a raffle that was held the same evening. We received a number of generous raffle donations from local businesses and would like to express our gratitude for this. It really did feel like a community effort. Students voted as to which charity they would like our donation to go to, and were unanimous in their decision to support Children's Cancer North.



A student led project also resulted in the donation of 3,750 food and toiletry items to Durham Foodbank. The students take great pride in collecting food for this appeal annually, and do so with maturity. It is the fifth year they have organised this collection and every year more items are donated. We are already looking forward to our plans for next year!

Emotional wellbeing

Pupils' emotional well-being is placed as a number 1 priority at Sedgefield Primary School.



There has been an increased emphasis on well-being since lockdown and pupils have continued to love lessons on this topic. Laura, our yoga teacher, works with classes regularly throughout the school.

Pupils thoroughly enjoy the calmness and collaborative teamwork involved in these sessions.



Balanced team support in Year 6.

Pupils have also been writing well-being cards to promote resilience and determination. Comments such as "If you believe, you will achieve" (Lewis, Year 5) and "You can do anything if you keep going" (Lucy, Year 5) support pupils as they work. These colourful cards are there to support pupils throughout the day. We have been focusing on goal setting within our class assemblies.

Technology upgrade



After the Christmas break, the children returned to school to find that Santa had also visited: new iPads all around! Year 2 to Year 6 all received new iPads, replacing their well used old models. The children noted the new versions were larger with an improved user friendly system.

Hannah (a year 6 pupil) noted, "The larger screen makes it clearer to see the details of the school presentations and the apps we use in school."



Luckily, Santa also brought new protective cases to avoid accidental damage as the children move around the school to each subject classroom. Josh commented, "The new cases allow the iPad to stand at different angles so it can be seen at all times."

The children had obviously been on Santa's good list as he had also upgraded the internet connection to allow instant access to the appropriate apps used in school....which also pleased the teachers!



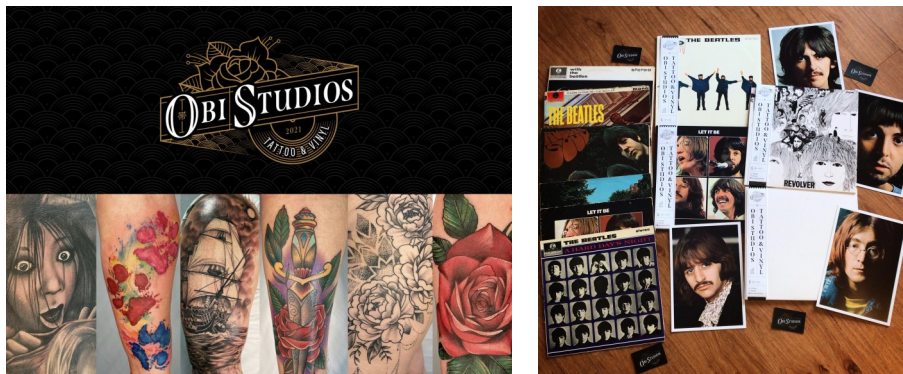
Year 5 creating the cobra

BUSINESS UPDATE

Tattoos and Records coming to Sedgefield

Abi, Mark and their young children, moved to Sedgefield to be closer to family, and to enjoy our thriving local community, but when a retail space at North End became available, they jumped at the chance to improve their work life balance by setting up Obi Studio.

Abi has been a tattooist for over 18 years with a successful studio in Sunderland. She specialises in cover up and re-work, transforming existing tattoos and covering up surgical scars. She gets a real sense of achievement when she changes how a client feels about their body.



Mark's passion is vinyl, and part of the studio will become a record store. He has a selection of vintage and second-hand vinyl with some original pressings from the 1960s and 1970s. He is also speaking to suppliers to get copies of the latest releases. He will be looking to add to his collection so if you have any old records you might want to drop in for a chat.

Obi Studio combines both their passions with the added benefit of being able to walk to work! The word Obi comes from the Japanese word for the sash used to tie a kimono. Obi strips were also the name of bands placed on vinyl record sleeves for some Japanese export releases with details of the release date and price. The fixtures and fittings of the studio will reflect the Japanese inspiration.

The studio is expected to open by the middle of February and Abi is taking bookings now. You can contact her through Facebook. Opening times are expected to be Tuesday to Saturday from 9:30am to 5:30pm but check their social media for the latest details www.facebook.com/obi.studios.sedgefield, www.instagram.com/tattoo.obi and www.instagram.com/vinyl.obi.

Join the Kynren Cast & Crew in 2022

11Arches, the organisation behind Kynren is seeking 'Archers' which is what they call their amazing volunteers. Archers are aged between 5 and 88 and are the heart and soul of 11Arches and Kynren. Archers are involved in every aspect of the production, choose where you want to be! They receive professional training from leading experts in their respective fields – stage combat, choreography, pyrotechnics, stage management, making props and costume, looking after the animals, horse riding and carriage driving, rescue divers and swimmers, first aid, setting up sound, lighting and special effects, performing in the show itself, welcoming visitors to the show, landscaping and maintaining the site during performances and out of season, managing the operations on event days.

Becoming an Archer is like joining an extended family and becoming part of a vibrant community. Many Archers make lifelong friendships, learn new skills, and discover that they can achieve great things.

Sedgefield's Colin Wears reports: "Myself and my wife have been in the show team since 2016 with a two year break and are back in the animal team. We bring sheep, cows, goats and geese onto the stage during the show. We look after the animals before and after the show. There is something for everyone as the website describes from wardrobe to technical and you can even gain your PADI diving licence at the expense of Kynren because to rise as a Viking from under the water on a Viking ship you have to be a qualified diver!!!

To find out more, visit www.11arches.com/join-us.



Sedgefield
Primary School

Learning Together for Life

Do you have an interest in shaping the education of the children of Sedgefield and skills you could offer?

Sedgefield Primary School is looking for a new member of our Governing Body who has skills to contribute (an interest in finance would be of particular benefit) and an interest in education. Training and support will be provided.

Our Governors are friendly, welcoming and dedicated. They thoroughly enjoy their role and find it interesting and rewarding.

If you are interested in finding out more, please ring the Headteacher, Andrea Cox, on 01740 620359 or send in an email to sedgefield.primary@durhamlearning.net and she will be happy to discuss the role in more detail. The closing date for expressions of interest is 1 March 2022.

Your LETTERS

Thank you

I would like to thank the lovely postmaster and customers who came to my assistance when I became unwell in Sedgefield Post Office on 14 December 2021. I do not know your names and might not recognise you again but it is heart-warming to know that there are some kind and compassionate people in our village. My sincere thanks to you all.

Gill



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

SUSTAINSEDGEFIELD

Sedgefield Repair Café

A new national citizen science initiative www.bigrepairproject.co.uk wants to hear from you! What do you do when household items break down - do you repair it yourself? Ask a relative or friend to help? Throw it out and buy new? If you want to do more repairing yourself, come and get involved in our local group....



The initial meeting with the aim of setting up a local Repair Café was held this week, attracting 15 people, and involving lively discussion covering a range of ideas. Members shared a wide variety of skills, interests and hobbies, ranging from general 'fixers' and 'do-ers', to repairing computers, bikes, furniture, wood, metal and electrical items, textiles and clothing, camper van refurbishments and even self builds! We will be developing ideas and discussing venue, resources, and what we can offer, over the next few months.

If you are interested in helping the project get off the ground, please come along to the next meeting, on Tuesday 15 February at 7pm in the Parish Hall - everyone is welcome!

Register your interest in a community run electric car club

Derwent Valley Car Club are interested in hearing from Town or Parish Councils, community associations or community groups and anyone who wants to know more about EV car clubs through their online survey.



The survey, the first of its kind in the UK, aims to identify the need for rural electric car clubs that could help communities tackle the decline in public transport and reduce their carbon footprints.

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY FEBRUARY 2022

So, another year another new bird list. It is a tradition amongst some birdwatchers in the new year to start a new bird tick list, noting down everything you see throughout the year. This quite often starts with the really keen birders out on New Year's Day! I was a bit slow off the mark this year for various reasons but after a couple of weeks birds have been coming in thick and fast.



Of course, with a year tick list common birds like House Sparrow are every bit as important as a Red-flanked Bluetail (yes they do exist!). The Red-flanked Bluetail is by far the best bird of the year so far, a little bit of a trek to see it but not too bad. The bird was spotted by the River Tees at Bowlees, not far from Low Force and was present for quite a few days (it may be still there). Only a short distance from the car park along a muddy path, we arrived to find around a dozen or so people watching this rather pretty little bird hopping along the ground and on fallen trees whilst bobbing its tail up and down, looking for insects and berries. It used to be thought of as a member of the Thrush family but is now classified as an Old-World flycatcher; it and related species are often called chats.



Red-flanked Bluetail, M.Nishimura

It has blue upperparts, head and tail. The belly and throat are white, flanks are orange-brown, and breast has a grey wash. It breeds in mixed coniferous forests in Asia, Europe, from Finland across Siberia, to Kamchatka and Japan. It winters in Asia, in the Indian subcontinent, the Himalayas, Taiwan, and Indochina. The Red-flanked Bluetail's breeding range is expanding through Finland and as a result it is a rare but increasing vagrant visitor to Europe, mainly to Great Britain.

Indeed, 2020 proved a record autumn for Red-flanked Bluetails in Britain, with in excess of 40 birds reported nationwide. I wonder whether this could be the first of many for 2022. Some years, when due to a combination of factors including cold weather, a successful breeding season and lack of food we get what is called a bird irruption where we get high numbers of birds such as Waxwing, Fieldfare and Redwing showing up. The sight of a Waxwing can brighten up any winter day, no matter how dull the weather. Not only do these Starling-sized birds have rather smart plumage, but they also have bags of personality and are easily seen. Quite often they are seen feeding on berries in supermarket car parks, believe it or not. So the next time you see an unusual bird either on your usual walk or whilst shopping, take a close look, get a picture, share it, and you never know, you may have discovered a Red-flanked Bluetail, Waxwing or Black-and-White Warbler (yes they exist too!).

The high purchase price of electric cars can be off-putting for many drivers, and this could be overcome by joining an electric car club. It also has the advantage of reducing the number of cars on the road by as many as 20 cars per car club vehicle.

Susan Ross from Derwent Valley Electric Car Club says: "We have been successfully running an electric car club in our rural community for over 8 years and although we started with one car, it has been so successful, we now have 3 electric cars."

The online survey, which is currently live, should take less than five minutes to complete and can be found at bit.ly/32kKtOP.

Treefest benefits for Scouts and Guides

The 1st Sedgefield Scouting and Guiding groups have each been presented with cheques for £650 – thanks to the generosity of visitors to the 2021 Christmas Tree Festival in the town's Saint Edmund's Church.

The presentations were made to Andrew Guppy (Scouts) and Julie Towler (Guides) and were watched by members of the team who organised the highly-successful Treefest event: Brenda Moore, Brian Mutch, Julia and Chris Rowsby, Terri Larcombe, Julie and David Latheron, Michael King and Rachel Stephenson.



Chris Rowsby, Treasurer of St Edmund's Church and a member of the organising committee, said this week: "We are delighted to have been able to help two very deserving local groups and look forward to supporting other community organisations in two years' time when we are planning another Christmas tree festival."

County Durham Libraries for You: Get Involved

County Durham Libraries are carrying out a review of our library service and want your views on what you need from libraries. Whether you use your local branch library or access digital library services they want to hear from you on how library services should be delivered in the future.



This is not, at this stage, about any significant changes to the existing service but about understanding the needs of the community the service provides for and how things might be improved.

In recent years we have experienced massive digital and technological advancements and as a result, library services have needed to be revitalised to reflect this.

At this initial stage, County Durham Libraries want to gather views and opinions to help understand what library users' value about the services, why some people don't use the library and what you would like the service to be like in the future.

Have your say by completing the questionnaire at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation or at your local library branch where friendly staff will be able to assist.

The deadline for comments is 5pm on Friday 1 April 2022.

Over 55 and interested in a free driving MOT?

Durham Constabulary is encouraging eligible drivers to take part in Durham County Council's Safer Driving with Age (SAGE) driving assessment. SAGE consists of a 40-minute session with a driving instructor with residents taking a drive in their own car, along roads they know well, and at the end the assessor will provide feedback and offer any additional tips. SAGE has been running in County Durham for several years with many drivers repeating the experience annually.

Assessments are available all year round. If you are interested, call the council's road safety team on 03000 268172 or email road.safety@durham.gov.uk.

Alternatively, drivers can fill out an application form and find more information, at www.durham.gov.uk/article/6545/Older-driver-training.

Green hints and tips



Post your rubber bands

You can post elastic bands straight into Royal Mail post boxes, no address required. If they're useable the Royal Mail will reuse them, if not, then they will be recycled.

Read used books

It is estimated that each book consumes an average of two kilowatt hours of fossil fuels and approximately 7.5 kilograms of carbon dioxide. Use the local library or you can donate and purchase second hand books at The Hive of Sedgefield.

Save water in your garden

Stop watering your lawn. It's ok to let your grass go brown during dry spells – it will bounce back as soon as it rains again.

Hoses and sprinklers typically use about 1,000 litres of water an hour. This is more than 12 baths.

Recycle what you can

Durham County Council has a full A-Z list of how to dispose of household waste items at www.durham.gov.uk/article/1886/Reuse-and-recycling-A-Z.

SEDFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch Committee

The Committee Members have resumed Neighbourhood Watch meetings in the Social Club in 2022 on the second Wednesday of every month at 7pm and they are open to attendance by any Sedgefield resident.

The next meeting is on 9 February at 7pm and will include a presentation of Home Security Equipment which is available to residents of Sedgefield in exchange for a small donation. This includes TV Simulators, Auto Phone Diallers and CCTV cameras.

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

The Spanish Gallery, Bishop Auckland

February sees the very welcome reopening of The Spanish Gallery in Bishop Auckland. It first opened in 2021 before shutting for the winter, and it is the first UK gallery dedicated to the art & culture of Spain. This gallery is one pillar of the highly ambitious Auckland Project, intended to bring extra prominence and commerce to the town, under the patronage of Jonathan Ruffer.



The Penitent Magdalene Oil on canvas
c.1620, Luis Tristán de Escamilla

Though this is the only dedicated Spanish gallery in the country, it builds upon a tradition of prominent Spanish art finding its home in the North East. Rokeby Park was for many years the home of the Velázquez *Toilet of Venus* and the Bowes Museum has long had a fine representation of Spanish paintings. What's more, the centrepiece is Francisco de Zurbarán's *Jacob and His Twelve Sons*, a series of large paintings which had been acquired by Richard Trevor, Bishop of Durham in 1757 and then resided in Auckland Castle for 250 years before a £15m donation in 2011 secured them for public display.

In order to expand interest & variety of experience there are a number of reproduction items on display, both among the collection itself and the fixtures, which make for opulent, vivid surroundings far from the minimalist settings of most gallery spaces. The focus of the art is the 16th and 17th centuries; we view pieces by El Greco, Velázquez and Murillo as well as Zurbarán, but not all of these will be originals. You will be hard-pressed to tell which are not.

Opening Hours are 11am to 3pm, guided tours run at 12 noon.

Full-priced adult tickets are £10 each. Visit aucklandproject.org for details.

Cobweb Orchestra

The Cobweb Orchestra is made up of a number of regional groups across the North of England from Billingham to Dipton, Morpeth to Tebay & York.

The Billingham group are welcoming applications from interested players of all backgrounds & skill levels.

It is a very inclusive and welcoming group so if this is something that appeals to you why not give it a try?

Visit cobweborchestra.org.uk.

| | |
|--------|--|
| Where? | St Aidan's church hall, Tintern Ave, Billingham TS23 2DF |
| When? | Monday evening (school term only) 7.30pm to 9.30pm |
| What? | Music in a range of styles |

For more information
Contact: Peter Gulbis petergulbis5@gmail.com
Or visit cobweborchestra.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1118758. A company limited by guarantee: no 6057812, England.

A First Class Murder

On Saturday 19 February, the 'Players present a Murder Mystery Evening, featuring fancy dress, a 2-course meal, an open bar and a lot of fun. Please note that this is an evening of food and drink, roleplay and live-action, NOT a traditional theatrical production; audience participation is very much central to the occasion.

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

Folk in February (and March)

There are some tremendous evenings of entertainment for fans of traditional folk over the coming weeks, including both a living legend of the North-East scene and folk royalty performing in an intimate, if unlikely setting. Global superstars *Fairport Convention* are coming to ARC Stockton Arts Centre on 10 February.

The contribution of *Fairport Convention* has spanned decades and can hardly be overstated. Now entering their 55th year their best-known work remains 1969's *Liege & Leif* which has now become widely cited as the most important record in the history of British folk. Notwithstanding personnel changes the current line-up have each served a minimum of 20 years and have now released 29 albums. Tickets are available at arconline.co.uk/whats-on/fairport-convention/.

Easington's Jez Lowe is also a folk stalwart & authentic chronicler of working-class life in the North East in the blue-collar tradition of Woody Guthrie & Pete Seeger. He has achieved great success both as a solo performer and as one quarter of the *Pitmen Poets*, among other collaborations. Now one of the biggest names in UK folk, he has been recognised at the Radio 2 Folk awards and the Sony awards for his performing and song-writing, which has reached still wider fame due to cover versions by the likes of *The Dubliners*, *The Clancy Brothers* and *Fairport Convention*. Jez performs at the Old Cinema Launderette, Durham on 24 February.

The same venue will also host Peggy Seeger on Saturday 5 March. A true icon in her own right Peggy Seeger is also woven into the fabric of the folk tradition on both sides of the Atlantic, related by blood to Mike Seeger & Pete Seeger, and by marriage to Ewan MacColl and Kirsty MacColl, she was ostracised during the 1950s in her homeland due to her outspoken liberal views and made the UK her home, recording over 60 albums in an illustrious and hugely influential career. Her son Calum MacColl joins her on stage at the Old Cinema Launderette – it is a very 'cosy' (tiny) venue so book early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets at for both nights can be bought at oldcinemalaunderette.uk/events.

ARC
Stockton Arts Centre



DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

February 2022

- Thursday 3** **Sedgefield T Dance**, 1pm. Please contact Joyce or Ann for more information on 01740 622601/01740 629070.
- Friday 4** **Sedgefield S'Milers Walking Group**, coffee morning, Parish Hall, 10am to 12pm.
Sedgefield and District U3A, guest speaker is Martin Lunn, MBE (Astronomer), 'A very British meteorite'. To be held on Zoom at 2pm. Contact Brenda on 01740 629574 for details.
- Sunday 6** **Sedgefield Area Churches Together**, Taizé -style ecumenical service, St. Alban's Church, Trimdon Grange, 6pm. Everyone is very welcome.
- Monday 7** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Annual General Meeting. Ceddesfeld Hall 7:45pm. Please contact Suzanne Hopper 01429 882250.
- Wednesday 9** **Neighbourhood Watch Meeting**, ground Floor, Social Club, 7pm. Home security equipment including TV simulators, auto phone diallers and CCTV cameras. Some will be available to residents for a small donation.
- Thursday 10** **Sedgefield Show Planning Committee**, Sedgefield Social Club, 7.30pm. We would welcome new people who would like to get involved or could support the show. Email Ian Mason at ian@sedgefieldshow.co.uk.
- Monday 14** **DIDO**, with singer Ian McDonald, Parish Hall, 1pm-3:30pm. Cream tea, quiz, bingo and a Valentine's Day card/poem competition. Contact Brenda on 01740 629574.
- Tuesday 15** **Sedgefield T Dance**, 1pm. Please contact Joyce or Ann for more information on 01740 622601/01740 629070.
Repair Café, planning meeting, Parish Hall, 7pm-8pm. For more details please see page 4.
Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club, flower demonstration by Pamela Alexander titled "Just for you", Parish Hall, 7:30pm. All welcome to join us. Members - no charge, non-members - £5. Contact 07533 752870 or 07721 767408.
- Saturday 26** **Sedgefield Community Association**, Live Music Night, Ceddesfeld Hall, doors open at 7.30pm. Featuring Lol & Maxine Crallan, Whisky & Wine, and Mamma Said. Bar open, charity raffle and **free entry**.

SEDGEFIELD 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 every Monday from 9:30am—11am.

Sedgefield Social Club

Singer every Saturday from 9pm.

Quiz on **Friday 11 February** and Friday 11 March at 8pm.

Karaoke on **Friday 25 February** at 8pm.

Message from the Mayor

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the Christmas period and into the New Year.

In this Newsletter you will see there is going to be a Murder Mystery night on **Saturday 19th February**, this should be a good fun night. If you haven't been to one before come and join in. Tickets are limited. This is to support the charity Youngminds.

On **Friday 4th March** we will hold the Mayor's Ball, I look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes

Councillor Ann Carr

Everyone is welcome

Reflective, meditative
Taizé-style ecumenical
service at Candlemas

St. Alban's Church,
Trimdon Grange

Sunday 6th February, 6:00 pm

Followed by refreshments in the church hall

Sedgefield Area Churches Together



Sedgefield Town Council

Mayor's Civic Ball

Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield
Friday 4th March 2022



Drinks Reception: 7pm - Dinner 7.30pm

Dancing to MOSAIC

Carriages Midnight

Tickets £35

available from

Sedgefield Town Council Offices

Telephone 01740 621273

Raising Funds for Youngminds

Local Groups & Charities



SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*



Sedgefield Woodland & Wildlife Bird Census

In 2021, the first breeding bird census was carried out at the Woodland & Wildlife community woodland, to identify the number of species present and to better inform site management. A total of 50 bird species were recorded, of which 28 species held territory. A total of 139 pairs of birds were present.

The 'top ten'...

Rook – 28 active nests

Blackbird – 12 pairs

Wren – 11 pairs

Chaffinch – 10 pairs

Woodpigeon – 9 pairs

Duncock – 9 pairs

Robin – 7 pairs

Blue Tit – 7 pairs

Blackcap – 6 pairs

Whitethroat – 5 pairs

The census uses a mapping technique, which allows us to pinpoint key habitats. For example, it was obvious that all the Rook territories were located in the woodland alongside Salters Lane, but it also showed that Blackbird, Wren and Chaffinch were evenly spread across the site with no specific habitat preference.

In contrast, all Whitethroats (see photo) were located in the 'marginal' scrub hedgerow and weedy belt that border the north of the site, underlining the importance of this often-disregarded habitat.



This census illustrates that 'our' woodland is home to a rich and abundant variety of birds. Other notables included Great Spotted Woodpecker, Kestrel, Buzzard, Sedge Warbler and Reed Bunting.

In addition, several breeding birds, such as Song Thrush, Tree Sparrow, Yellowhammer and Linnet, are listed as 'Red' Species of Conservation Concern. Increasing the number of nest boxes, for example, would support Tree Sparrows.

Censusing will be carried out annually so we can build upon our knowledge of the site's birdlife. Fieldwork starts again in spring, if you are on site, please say hello, and find out more about the birdlife. The 2021 full report can be found on our Facebook page.

We aim to construct birdboxes in February and would welcome any donations of scrap fencing timber or floorboarding (in reasonable condition please), as well as old wellies (for box hinges).

For more details, please contact

woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or see our Facebook page – Woodland & Wildlife – Sedgefield.

Sedgefield Energy Switch

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR THE FEBRUARY AUCTION

We are rapidly coming to the end of another **registration** period which **closes on Monday 14 February**. If you are a part of our switching scheme already and your contract comes to an end before the end of April, you need to register now. If you are thinking of joining us for the first time, now is the time to act.

How to register

If you are happy to register online yourself, go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk, open ENERGY SWITCH, click FREE SIGN UP, then the green Register Today, and off you go. **Remember to have your latest energy bill or annual statement with you when you start your registration.**

If you prefer to register and receive information through the post, or need any assistance, call the Sedgefield Development Trust Helpline on **07572 502904** and we will be more than happy to help or complete your registration for you.

Registering for the scheme commits you to nothing and you will not receive any of those pestering phone calls (guaranteed).



Do contact us if you need us, or if you can offer help to others. Email homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk

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



On the Green, First Sunday Morning Every Month.

With the winter break over and a resolution to make it a great year for the Market, we'll be on the Green again from 8.30am on Sunday 6 February.

Our friends at the Woodland Trust will be with us as our first charity stall of the year, alongside all those amazing producers that have become such trusted and familiar faces in Sedgefield. We can't wait! A belated but very Happy New Year to you all.

**And finally, Sedgefield Development Trust's new sustainability project -
SEDGEFIELD REPAIR CAFE
is under starter's orders.
Full story on page 4**

CEDDESFIELD HALL

News from the home of Sedgefield Community Association

There has been a limited and cautious return to group activities at Ceddesfield due to the very understandable concern over the rising Omicron Covid infection numbers and also because several volunteer helpers have had to self-isolate, resulting in the closing of the bar for a week. It is now open, and several groups are now returning to their weekly or monthly activities.

We are delighted to announce an evening of live (popular) music on Saturday 26 February, featuring three very entertaining, local groups; Lol & Maxine Crallan, Whisky & Wine and Mamma Said. Doors open at 7.30 pm for an 8 pm start. The bar will be open, there is no charge for entry, but there will be a charity raffle.

Mediaeval Fayre Saturday 21 May 2022: A Plea for Gift Donations!

Planning and preparations continue. As mentioned last month, SCA will be writing to sections, groups, members, local businesses and organisations, asking for support for the event by volunteering to help, providing sponsorship or donating gifts and prizes for two SCA tombola stalls, one especially for children. Suggestions for the adult tombola include bottles, fancy goods, health & beauty items, jewellery, gifts etc.

There will be no house-to-house collections this year, so residents cannot contribute in the usual way, but donations can be left at Ceddesfeld Hall bar, any evening from 7:30pm Monday to Friday, or on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings, from 9:30am to 12pm. If you would like anything collected, please contact one of the phone numbers below.

Craft stalls will play a larger part this year. We already have several signed up and would welcome new stall holders. We're looking for something a bit different - creative or unusual - e.g. jewellery, fashion items, scarfs, foods, jars, pickles, candles, leather goods etc, to appeal to a wide range of visitors. We would also welcome any speciality food & drink stalls. If you, or anyone you know may be interested, please contact Sarah on the number below.

Sections, Groups, and Individuals - Subscribe to the SCA!

The collecting of the annual subscription fees for 2022-23 is underway. The fees of £7 for over 60s, £8 for adults and £4 for young people and students offer very good value for money. SCA membership entitles individuals to reduced cost room hire for family events, parties, and special occasions, as well as insurance protection for any group's activities and events. The annual fees are crucial, because they provide SCA with funds to go towards the running and upkeep of Ceddesfeld Hall for the community and to keep prices low. Anyone can become a member - just ask at the bar or contact any of the numbers below.

Save the Date! More events coming up at Ceddesfeld Hall this Spring.

Saturday 19 March, 7.30pm

Ukulele Smile Time with their Springtime Kanika Pila.

Monday 18 April - 2pm to 4pm

Easter Picnic and Egg Hunt.

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. Visit www.sedgefieldspa.org.uk and follow us on Facebook.



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SPORTS UPDATE

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We're still in the midst of winter, but the evenings will soon be getting lighter and the temperature should rise. Sedgefield's summer sports clubs are already starting to gear up for the season ahead, with indoor cricket training underway and various pitches and other facilities being prepared. Meanwhile, there's still plenty of other action underway, and opportunities aplenty to try new sports.

Bowls

Members of Fishburn Bowls Club are looking forward to the 2022 outdoor bowls season, with an expected start at the end of April or early May, depending on the weather, the agreement of the greenkeeper, and government guidance.

The playing surface has received a lot of attention and even in January it is looking much improved. The club ran its own competition in 2021 when the pandemic forced the curtailment of league matches. Now, there is eager anticipation of a return to normality with home and away games in locations from Wolsingham to Billingham, and Lanchester to Stockton.

Fishburn Bowls Club is renowned for, and proud of, its reputation as a friendly and welcoming club. Outdoor bowls is an excellent way to enjoy fresh air, take gentle exercise, and to make new friends. New members are always made welcome, with free tuition and sets of bowls available for beginners.

For more details, contact club secretary Carol Mason on 07446 032450, or Terry Graham on 01740 621627.

Orienteering

If you're keen to get more active in 2022, but want to try something a bit different from many other sports, orienteering is worth considering.

Combining navigation with moving at speed, it's a great way to explore, and if you like competition, there are plenty of opportunities to test your skills against other orienteers. If you've ever been a Scout or Guide, the chances are that you picked up some map and compass skills, but there are also local orienteering clubs who can introduce you to the sport.

Several Sedgefield residents are members of Cleveland Orienteering Club and are involved in an initiative to recruit new participants. They have launched 'Couch 2 Green', which kicks off in February with a series of virtual and face-to-face sessions for adult beginners. You can find more details at clck.org.uk/couch2green.htm or by contacting Graeme Addison on membership@clck.org.uk.



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Turf

Talking of orienteering, there's also a way to try it out via a game on a smartphone app called Turf. The app, which is free and available on multiple platforms and from www.turfgame.com, shows map locations of 'zones' that have been set up. You walk/run/bike to the zone and when your phone GPS recognises that you are in the zone, you capture it and gain points. You can then earn extra points for how long you hold that zone, but you're in competition with other players who can target the same zone and capture it off you. Players can see their totals in leagues across the country, and in a random worldwide league. The points system in the league encourages and inspires players to go out and get more in order to get to the top, encouraging more exercise in the process.

Turf was originally developed in Sweden and has spread to the UK. It is very popular with orienteering clubs and universities and there are loads of zones in big cities. The leading UK 'turf' is a woman in Edinburgh (where Turf is particularly popular) who goes out on a bike late at night to capture and hold zones overnight. Turf has reached our community too and there are 20 zones in Sedgefield and Hardwick Park (turfers can suggest new zones, so more are likely to be added). Whether you want to be competitive and capture and hold zones or not, it sounds like Turf is another great way to get active outdoors!

Athletics

The latest cross country running fixture in the North East Harrier League was held just up the road at Thornley Hall Farm in early January. Thornley has a reputation for delivering plenty of mud and hills and it didn't disappoint, providing a proper test for all of the runners. Once again, Sedgefield Harriers sent a large squad of senior athletes and enjoyed a very successful day. The men convincingly won the fixture in their division and have a huge lead at the top of Division 3 with just one race to go. In fact, they have a perfect record so far this season, having won each of the five outings, which started back in September – a great, sustained effort. There were so many Harriers in action that a second full team from the club came seventh on the day too. The men will now be mustering to confirm promotion in the final race in Alnwick on 5 March. Meanwhile, the senior women also turned out in force at Thornley and came third on the day in Division 3.



The senior women head for the first hill at Thornley Hall Farm

Like most grass roots sport, the Harrier League can only happen thanks to the hard work of an army of volunteers. Alongside the core team of organisers at Thornley, it was notable that a few folk from Sedgefield were mucking in (quite literally, given ground conditions). Great work everyone!

Wheelchair Rugby



Sedgefield's Paralympics gold medal winner Jack Smith hasn't rested on his laurels. After last year's thrilling success in Tokyo, Jack has now been selected for the European Championships which will take place in Paris from 22 to 26 February. As the reigning champions, Great Britain will be aiming to retain the title.

Best wishes to Jack and the squad and look out for more news about wheelchair rugby in Sedgefield soon!

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