

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

January 2022 Edition

Deadline for February - Saturday 15 January

*HOPING FOR A BETTER NEW YEAR? MAY YOUR WISHES COME TRUE IN 2022!*



## OPINION Not just any old place

Sedgefield, looking glorious in one of Paul Heasman's lovely photographs: now imagine it held under a sky-sized net of tiny twinkling lights, like the best ever starry night. What would it say to you? A pretty place to live in and go to work from 5 days a week? Your home - your safe haven? Or a special place held together by people who help us to connect? If it's the first, I hope that if you stay long enough, you will begin to share that special sense of place felt by so many who live here. It can take a while to feel you belong and it can creep up slowly, but when it does, you should discover a place that's powered and enriched by all sorts of organisations which are able to operate solely on voluntary effort. Exploring ways of giving time to one of these groups can wrap you in that sense of togetherness, as I have

come to understand well during my almost 20-year involvement in this publication.

It was expressed beautifully early in 2020, when COVID19 forced us to appeal for extra volunteers to deliver the News. Our aim was to protect the network of older or vulnerable residents who had been the resolute backbone of our distribution system from day one. The response from the next generation was generous, stunning in fact. We smiled for days! Whole families got involved and when the grown-ups were at last able to return to normal working, some of their older children and teenagers took on the responsibility for delivering Sedgefield News - perhaps as a pocket money job or as their good deed for the day. Whatever the reason, it gives us a warm glow to know that it happens.

We always try to get the News to your door by the beginning of the month and when the diary page is packed with events from first to last it's particularly important - but sometimes things can slip. When we hear that delivery is falling behind regularly on a particular route, we try to find out if there's some way we can help, and there usually is, but occasional late deliveries happen for any number of reasons. To send a young person home with harsh words ringing in his ears has little to do with our special place. Up on my imagined sky-net, a little twinkling light went out when I heard of that happening.

How much better to say thanks, ask if all is well and maybe offer just a gentle reminder? When all is said and done, good deeds by old and young have built this community. SC



## Our Family and Autism

In July, Sedgefield Community College (SCC) had a visit from Paddy McGuinness, who was recording content for a documentary: 'Paddy and Christine McGuinness: Our Family and Autism.' Paddy and Christine's three children have all been diagnosed with autism, as has Christine. The documentary explored their experience of raising children with the disorder and the challenges they have faced. Paddy came to SCC after hearing that our staff had raised £9,500 for 'Walk for Autism' earlier in the academic year. The documentary finally aired on 1st December, and shone a light on the work we do at SCC with neurotypical and neurodiverse children.

The absolute stars of the show for us were our very own Jack, who was told he is autistic sometime before he was 6 years old, and Maggie who was diagnosed more recently. They both used their appearance to raise awareness of what autism actually is, with Jack describing it as 'thinking weirdly' and Maggie adding that there is a misconception that it is just about poor behaviour.



Paddy was reassured by how resilient Jack is and expressed his hope that 'every school starts to think like Sedgefield because they're opening kids' minds to the idea that we all think differently and the next generation will have an idea of autism that mine never did, and that's encouraging.'

We are very proud of everyone who was involved in filming the programme and hope it helps to promote a greater understanding of ASD. It is available to watch on BBC iPlayer.

## Stone Age children

Year 3 at Sedgefield Primary had a super day as they dressed up and tried to imagine life as a stone age child. They researched artefacts found by archaeologists that showed children were very much valued in their tribe and probably played games, similar to those of today.

They made their own weapon (out of card of course!) to enable them to join in the family hunt for a woolly mammoth, aka an unfortunate teacher!

You can see from the picture how well they took to this activity, looking extremely ferocious. As Tilli said, 'I've had a good day but I still wouldn't want to be a stone age person'.



## Partnership with Feeding Families

Sedgefield Hardwick has recently formed a partnership with a charity based in the North East of England known as Feeding Families. Feeding Families offer support, hope and security to those experiencing food poverty, ensuring that thousands of families across the North East who are in desperate need, including those 'close to home', have access to Emergency Food Boxes and support packages.

At the beginning of December, the pupils of Sedgefield Hardwick managed to collect a significant amount of food and toiletries, which will go some way to helping Feeding Families achieve their target of supplying over 7,000 hampers this Christmas. Sarah McPhie, from Feeding Families, thanked the pupils of Sedgefield Hardwick for their generosity and suggested that the collection of food and toiletries would be enough to make around 30 Christmas hampers.

In the New Year the pupils of Sedgefield Hardwick will continue their partnership with Feeding Families to raise awareness of food poverty. Through working in partnership, both parties aim to remove the stigma associated with food poverty and help the pupils to be empathetic and supportive of those in desperate need.

## Sock snowmen

Sock snowmen have been very much the theme for Year 5 in the lead up to Christmas. Pupils have been delighted making unique individual sock snowmen. They have looked at product design and attributed special features to their sock snowmen, considering who their target audience would be if they were to market their product.

Each snowman has been individually named. Pupils are keen to use this product to inspire their creative writing. Stories set in remote arctic settings are currently underway!





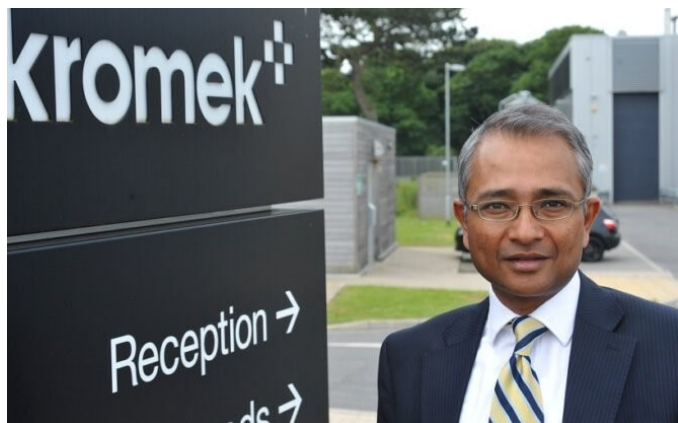
## BUSINESS UPDATE



### Award for Kromek Chief Executive

Dr Arnab Basu, chief executive of Kromek Group plc, has been awarded an honorary fellowship by the Institute of Physics (IOP). The IOP recognised Dr Basu for: 'outstanding and ongoing contributions to business in the field of physics-based technological innovation, scientific advances of immeasurable significance, and commitment to the global advancement of security and our health.'

Kromek, based at NETPark in Sedgefield, provides detection capabilities for a wide range of applications including radiation and nuclear detection for deployment in civil and defensive environments, and medical imaging for the early diagnosis of life-shortening or limiting conditions such as cancers and osteoporosis. Recently, Kromek has diversified into biosecurity, developing the world's first airborne COVID-19 detection machine, as well as a broad-spectrum device which could be used to build national or global early warning system for pathogens, emergence and spread.



As founding chief executive, Dr Basu has grown the company, exporting products to more than 40 countries, and employing in excess of 150 people, including at sites in Pennsylvania and California.

Dr Arnab Basu MBE DL, said: "It is tremendous honour to receive this prestigious recognition from the Institute of Physics and a testament to the exceptional dedication and ingenuity of my team at Kromek. We are all immensely proud of the work we do and the things we have achieved in delivering innovation to make the world safer and in helping people to live longer, healthier lives."

### Co-op fund in bloom

On behalf of the team, Sedgefield in Bloom chairman Howard Smith and secretary Norma Neal recently accepted from the Co-op community fund a cheque for over £2,000. The Bloomers are very grateful to the Co-op staff and customers for their generosity. All donations will be put to good use in future Bloom projects, helping to keep Sedgefield blooming beautifully.

As they move to pastures new in spring 2022, Howard and his wife Barbara have handed over the roles of chairman and treasurer to Alice Hobson and Carole Milne respectively. As yet, no replacement has stepped forward to take over from Norma Neal, who will also, in January 2022, relinquish her various roles as Bloom secretary, sponsorship secretary and publicity officer. Norma has also taken responsibility for preparing a portfolio and presentation detailing the work and activities of the Bloomers for annual judging visits. She has also gained a new persona, working alongside staff and very young pupils of Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School as Mrs Bloom.

Current members of the Bloom team would be delighted to welcome on board new members who may be interested in taking on any or all of Norma's previous roles. We know that Sedgefield is rich in people with a multitude of talents. Anyone who can help out will be welcomed with open arms by this very friendly team. For more details and brief job descriptions of each of the roles, please contact Norma on 01740 620091 or email [norma@neal.myzen.co.uk](mailto:norma@neal.myzen.co.uk).



## Get the Balance Right

**Five ladies from the Balance Right class in Sedgefield will be on our screens in January showing the people of County Durham how they can move more from home.**

Anne Gray, June Beveridge, Josie Gatenby and Connie Spring taught by instructor Sue Boylan, have been taking part in some filming with Local TV Ltd to produce four short episodes which will be shown on Channel 7 in January. The episodes are part of a series filmed for Move Durham TV, an element of Durham County Council's Move campaign which will encourage everybody in County Durham to get moving.

Deborah Breen, Wellness Coordinator for Durham County Council said "These episodes are aimed at housebound people, older people and those with long term health conditions or disabilities. Exercise is important at any age but particularly as we get older as it can help to maintain independent living, reduce your risk of falls and helps to manage the symptoms of some health conditions. Many people in our county can't get to a class like the one at Sedgefield Parish Hall. With Move Durham TV we can bring the exercises to people so they can join in from their own home."



*The Balance Right Group pictured before the COVID pandemic*

Sue Boylan, Exercise Instructor, said "We have really enjoyed taking part in this exciting venture with Durham County Council. Our class has been running for more than 16 years and the benefits and improvements to our quality of lives go beyond just the physical to include our emotional well being too. We are thrilled to have an opportunity for some of these benefits to be delivered into peoples homes."

It is anticipated that the Sedgefield episodes will be shown on a Wednesday in January on Local TV North East which is on Freeview channel 7, Virgin Media Channel 159 and Sky channel 117.

If you would like further information on how to get moving you can go to [www.durham.gov.uk/move](http://www.durham.gov.uk/move) or call Durham County Council's Wellbeing team on 03000 262539.

## SUSTAINSEDGEFIELD

### Water water everywhere!

At this time of year when we seem to have far too much water falling from the sky, it is difficult to remind ourselves what a rare and precious resource it is. Water is essential for life. It takes energy to collect, clean, store and pump to where it is needed. So using water wisely will reduce carbon emissions and limit environmental impact.



Average water consumption per person in the UK is about 150 litres per day in the home for things like washing, cooking and flushing the toilet, so what can we do to reduce it?

#### Kitchen:

- Wash vegetables in a bowl rather than under a running tap. Then use the same water to water plants.
- Choose energy and water efficient appliances, and wait until they are full rather than doing half loads in the washing machine or dishwasher.

#### Bathroom:

- Shower rather than bath. Restrict the flow on a power shower.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Reduce the toilet flush capacity, and flush less often - 'If it's yellow let it mellow, if it's brown flush it down'

#### Outside:

- Collect rainwater or use grey water for watering plants
- Use mulches or let the grass grow longer to conserve moisture
- Avoid power washing

We also need to take into account 'embedded water' that is water used in the production of food, textiles and manufactured goods. Making these processes more water efficient is mostly down to the businesses that make them. There are lots of examples of embedded water in different products for example 700ml of beer uses 208 litres as opposed to 870 litres in the same volume of wine. Processed foods will use more than home prepared. Items which come from water stressed areas of the world such as flowers from Kenya should be avoided. Use water intensive products like cotton, paper and metal sparingly, and prolong the lifespan where possible.

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY JANUARY 2022

I was pottering in the front garden the other week and I noticed something strange on the bare soil beneath one of the shrubs. I wasn't sure what it was, initially I thought it was a pile of cat poo which is a perennial issue in my garden. But it wasn't - it was a strange looking fungus called an Earth Star.

Autumn is the best time to see fungi, but during wet milder winters you can still see a selection. I am quite interested in fungi and spend time looking for them, so finding this in my own garden is a bonus. I think the one I found was one of the commoner ones called Collared earthstar, (*Geastrum Triplex*), they have a diameter between seven and ten centimetres. They have between five and seven rays, which crack as they arch and result in the spore sac seeming to sit on



*Collared earthstar (Geastrum Triplex)*

a saucer. It is often found in a number of habitats especially if there is a lot of leaf litter. Initially resembling a small brown bulb, after it splits these open into pointed rays, the collared earthstar is star-shaped. As the rays continue to turn back on themselves they create the 'saucer', which the round fruiting body sits on. This fascinating fungus would look at home at the bottom of the sea. It may be small but its transformation from bulb-shape to star, to saucer, to support its delicate spore sac is truly remarkable. The spore sack measures up to 5cm in diameter and up to 10cm when fully outstretched. The spore mass is dark brown and the spores are round and covered in small, spiny warts. They disperse when raindrops fall on the delicate skin of the spore bag. The Native American Blackfoot call the earthstars ka-ka-toos, which means 'fallen stars.' They believe them to indicate supernatural events. The earthstar is also used in traditional medicines of the Chinese and Native American cultures. The fruit bodies of *Geastrum Triplex* have been chemically analysed and shown to contain a number of bioactive chemicals. Various chemical derivatives of the fungal sterol ergosterol have been identified along with several fatty acids. The earthstar is used in traditional Chinese medicine to reduce inflammation in the respiratory tract and to stop bleeding and reduce swelling. The Cherokee put fruit bodies on the navels of babies after childbirth until the withered umbilical cord falls off: as a prophylactic and therapeutic measure.

Do you remember any of your early experiences with nature? I have always been interested in natural history and my enthusiasm was fuelled by a science teacher who used to run a nature club. Whether actively engaging with wildlife, or just spending time in wild places, developing a connection to nature from a young age is so important for health, wellbeing and for attitudes towards nature. But did you know many students spend less time outdoors than maximum security prisoners? That's why The Wildlife Trusts are calling for learning in and about nature to be embedded across the curriculum, for all ages and throughout all subjects. They have launched an e-action to show policy makers that there is widespread public support for this ambition. You can find it here [action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/93304/petition/1](https://action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/93304/petition/1).



#### Are you a fixer or a mender?

**Do you enjoy getting handy with a hammer or a needle?**

**Is there something you want to fix?  
Would you like to share your skills  
and learn new ones?**

You are invited to Sedgefield Repair Café open meeting on January 18 2022 at 7pm in the Parish Hall, Sedgefield.

We will share ideas for setting up a repair café locally, look at what skills people have and what they want to learn. For more information email [admin@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:admin@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk)



## Rain stops play at Carols in the Car Park

As the PA and Event Manager, Gary, sat in Sainsbury's café watching the rain pour down as it had done all day on 5th December, the sad decision was reluctantly taken to cancel Carols in the Car Park this year. We were so disappointed! But the PA gear could not be set up in such wet and windy conditions.

Volunteers and people who had booked places were contacted promptly, and the information was rapidly posted on sedgefieldweb and on social media by helpful souls (you know who you are – thank you!). The word spread effectively, and come the time, only a few cars turned up to a dark and damp car park, to be met by a couple of stewards well wrapped up against the weather. Some lessons there to learn for next time.

Huge thanks to everyone who was involved in organising the event and ready to stage it – your willingness, effort and community spirit are precious. Goodwill makes the world go around. Sedgefield Area Churches Together, Gary at PLW Event Management, Nic and the team at Sainsbury's, Richard who was going to give the message, Fishburn Band, singers from the Lyric Singers and Lirica, Chris and all the stewards he gathered, Gary from Radio Tees, and others – you are much appreciated.

## Interested in global issues and international development?





The ONE Campaign, an organisation campaigning to end extreme poverty and preventable disease, is looking for young people to join their UK Youth Ambassadors programme for 2022.

This role is ideal for those keen to gain more experience in the international development sector and who want to join a network of inspiring young activists across the world fighting to end extreme poverty and preventable disease. From representing ONE at high level events, influencing your MP, to organising events in your community and using social media to inspire change, you will learn skills in campaigning and advocacy, and would be supported by The ONE Campaign team all the way. You can find more about the role and apply at [act.one.org/survey/youth-ambassadors-2022-uk](https://act.one.org/survey/youth-ambassadors-2022-uk) by Sunday 9 January. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the role, you can always reach out to [uk@one.org](mailto:uk@one.org).



## Arwen and Barra – solving utility supply issues

Storms Arwen and Barra caused electricity outages across the North East. This has prompted us to share with you information on how to seek help should your supply of essential services be disrupted:

		
	<b>Electricity</b>	<b>Gas</b>
<b>Helpline</b>	105	0800 111 999
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://northernpowergrid.com/power-cuts">northernpowergrid.com/power-cuts</a>	<a href="https://northerngasnetworks.co.uk">northerngasnetworks.co.uk</a>
<b>Twitter</b>	@northpowergrid	@NGNGas
		
	<b>Water</b>	<b>Landline telephone</b>
<b>Helpline</b>	0345 717 1100	151 from BT landline or 0800 800 151 from mobile
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://nwl.co.uk">nwl.co.uk</a>	<a href="https://bt.com/help">bt.com/help</a>
<b>Twitter</b>	@nwater_care	@bt_uk
<b>Text</b>		Text PHONE followed by landline number to 61998

## SEDFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



### NOT Neighbourhood Watch

Some of you will have received leaflets through your door recently from an organisation which purports to be 'Nextdoor Sedgefield'.

Please note that this is NOT from Neighbourhood Watch and is NOT from a local organisation. There is no organisation called 'Nextdoor Sedgefield'. This is seeking to put your details on a database. It is basically a poor quality social media page and those that have used it have found that it is poorly regulated and abuse is common.

**DO NOT** click on the website and **DO NOT** enter any personal details.

The information is on a blank sheet of paper with no heading, address or contact details and suggests that their app can be used:

*"to find out what is going on in Sedgefield, recover lost pets, find free stuff or sell an old bike, borrow a ladder, share safety tips and much, much more."*

If a sheet with this wording (or similar) comes through your letterbox, ignore it and throw it away!

If you have neighbourhood information to share then please use the Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page.

### Season's Greetings

Merry Christmas from us all at Sedgefield NHW and remember to keep safe, lock your doors and check your light timers. Enjoy your presents, whatever Santa might bring you, then flatten boxes for recycling - boxes left on display are an advert to burglars for the goodies available inside your house.

### Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch Committee

The Committee Members are resuming Neighbourhood Watch meetings in the Social Club in 2022 and are planning to meet the second Wednesday of every month at 7pm. The first will be on 12 January and is open to attendance by any Sedgefield resident.

**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](mailto:amy.jorgeson@durham.police.uk).

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

### John Law's Renaissance

Jazz contemporary pianist John Law will be performing in Durham Cathedral on Friday 21 January.



John Law started performing in public aged just six, and trained as a classical pianist at the Royal Academy of Music before making the switch to jazz at 23. He now performs internationally and will be showcasing his latest project *Renaissance*, which pairs minimalism, jazz and ambient styles with choral voices, all set amid mesmerising visual effects. Tickets are available at [durhamcathedral.ticketsolve.com/shows/1173618609](https://durhamcathedral.ticketsolve.com/shows/1173618609) or visit [youtube.com/watch?v=PIUiVKOii7k](https://youtube.com/watch?v=PIUiVKOii7k) for a preview of what to expect.

### Ed Byrne Durham Gala

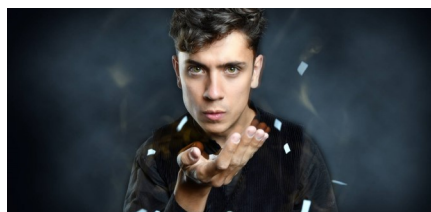
Ed Byrne is now firmly established as comedy royalty and is a household name across the UK & Ireland, due to his long and successful career in stand-up, that has led to countless TV guest spots on *Have I Got News For You*, *QI*, & *The Unbelievable Truth*. He has also starred on *Live at the Apollo* both as headliner and as host.



This show, '*If I'm Honest*' was written in 2019 and won numerous plaudits from press. The show is not recommended for under-16s, but an evening of Byrne's trademark observational comedy, delivered in his own well-honed & inimitable style, is sure to prove a winner. Book tickets for Friday 28 January at [galadurham.co.uk/book-online-cinema/?EventInstanceId=422802](https://galadurham.co.uk/book-online-cinema/?EventInstanceId=422802).

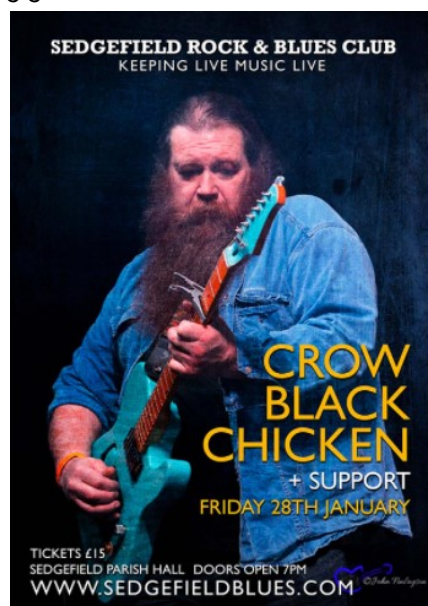
### Funny Way to Be Comedy: Magician Ben Hart

Some of you will remember Ben Hart from his successful run to the final of *Britain's Got Talent* from 2019. He won the votes of the public as well as the judges with his unusual blend of storytelling and theatricality, a style which has since seen him perform one-man shows at comedy venues such as Edinburgh Fringe as well as appear extensively on TV since his *BGT* breakthrough. As a prolific designer as well as performer of magic he has added several new tricks to his repertoire for this national tour, '*Wonder*', which is drawing fantastic reviews and leaving audiences amused as well as bemused. He will appear at the Witham in Barnard Castle on Saturday 29 January next year. Book tickets at [benhartmagic.com](https://benhartmagic.com).



### Sedgefield Blues Club: Crow Black Chicken

Sedgefield Blues Club has been operating for over 10 years and is an established highlight in the social calendar of the village. The first act of 2022 will be Irish 3-piece Crow Black Chicken. Crow Black Chicken have been gigging over ten years & as part of a nationwide tour of English venues they bring their blues rock sound to the Sedgefield Parish Hall on Friday 28 January, along with an as yet unannounced support act. Visit [www.sedgefieldblues.com/gigs.html](https://www.sedgefieldblues.com/gigs.html) to book tickets at £15.



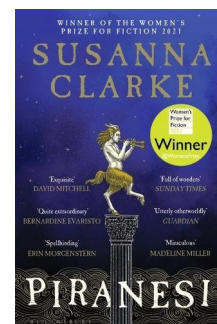
## New Activities for New Year: Watercolours, Ballroom Dancing, & Creative Writing

If you would like to approach the new year with a new challenge there are lots of opportunities locally to try something different, with classes in watercolours, ballroom dancing, and creative writing all available in January.

Inkapture is a creative writing course run in fifteen 2-hour weekly workshops, and is suitable either for beginners or for intermediate writers who are looking for an opportunity to hone their skills, develop their own writing style, and generate imaginative, creative ideas. Registration is completely free. Call 0191 334 5769 for details.

The Witham in Barnard Castle will host a watercolour class from 19 January 2022. The class is open to those of all abilities, and looks to the likes of JMW Turner & John Singer Sargent for inspiration. While there is no guarantee that your results will match theirs you will learn valuable skills and enjoy the process. The course costs £100 for ten classes and tutelage will be provided by accredited fine art teacher Ginny Whittle who is also a nationally exhibited artist in her own right. Book a space on the course at: [thewitham.org.uk/event/watercolour-painting-and-drawing-course-all-abilities](https://thewitham.org.uk/event/watercolour-painting-and-drawing-course-all-abilities).

The Witham also welcomes the return of ballroom dancing classes in January, no expertise is required but with the range of styles including Ballroom, Latin American, Sequence and Salsa there will be plenty for intermediate & advanced pairings to get stuck into as well. Lessons are £7 per class starting weekly at 7:30pm from 19 January. Visit [thewitham.org.uk/event/ballroom-dance-classes-3](https://thewitham.org.uk/event/ballroom-dance-classes-3) to book ahead.



If you are looking for something less energetic then Darlington Waterstones is hosting its next book club on 5 January, with the book under discussion being the award-winning '*Piranesi*' by Susanna Clarke – attendance is free but please register in advance at [waterstones.com/events/darlington-bookclub/darlington](https://waterstones.com/events/darlington-bookclub/darlington).



## DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to [diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com](mailto:diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com)

### January 2022

- Monday 3** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Sedgefield in Victorian Times by Alison Hodgson, Ceddesfeld Hall 7:45pm. Contact Suzanne Hopper 01429 882250.
- Thursday 6** **Sedgefield T Dance**, 1pm. Please contact Joyce or Ann for more information on 01740 622601/01740 629070.
- Friday 7** **Sedgefield and District U3A**, 10 year celebration, Parish Hall, 2pm-4pm. All members welcome. Contact 01740 629674.
- Monday 10** **DIDO**, Start the New Year with Wellness, Parish Hall, 1pm-3:30pm. Scottish theme with fun and quizzes. Contact 01740 629574.
- Wednesday 12** **Neighbourhood Watch Meeting**, Ground Floor, Social Club, 7pm
- Tuesday 18** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club** AGM, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall, 2:30pm. Refreshments will be provided, please come and join us. We would love to welcome our members and new members to help re-start the club. Contact 07533 752870 or 07721 767408.
- Thursday 20** **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](mailto:ian@sedgefieldshow.co.uk).
- Friday 28** **Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club**, Crow Black Chicken & Support, Parish Hall, 7pm. Tickets £15.
- Sedgefield Veterans**, New Year Extravaganza coffee morning, Parish Hall, 10am. There will be a tombola and a raffle with lots of prizes.

### Treefest cash boost for town's Scouting and Guiding groups

Sedgefield's Christmas Tree Festival raised £2,600 – half of which will be shared equally between the town's Scouting and Guiding groups. The remaining £1,300 will go to further work at St Edmund's Church where the festival was staged.

Organisers have paid tribute to everyone who helped make the 5 day event such 'a great success.'

"We want to thank all those who sponsored a tree, donated to the festival or helped to run it, as well as the many visitors, some of whom travelled quite a distance to support us."

Organisers say they hope to stage a similar event in 2023.

### Thanks from the Mayor

#### Gift campaign

I would like to thank everyone who donated a gift for a child of a family in need appeal. The gifts were wrapped in a variety of coloured papers and sparkles and will be a delight for any child to open. These gifts will be distributed to children at a Visitor Centre family day.

The appeal for a gift for a homeless person also had the wow factor!

Many were wrapped in Christmas paper and others included slippers, socks, hats, jumpers, gloves, sweets, scarves and toiletries. Everything will be delivered before Christmas and help someone with desperate needs.

On behalf of all the people you don't see but help and support, thank you very much indeed.

#### Flower Demo & Afternoon Tea

A very big thank you to everyone who attended or supported this event to support Youngminds and local charities. Mrs Val Guest a member of NAFAS National Association of Flower Societies treated us to an outstanding artistic demonstration of flower arranging. Val gave her time on the day to support the charities. This was followed by a fabulous afternoon tea by Wendy Rowley and Sheila McMillan from the Pop-In Club with great support from families and friends. With everyone's help and support from the staff in the Council office we raised over £1,000. To everyone "Thank you very much indeed".

I wish everyone in Sedgefield a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

**Councillor Ann Carr**

### 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)**

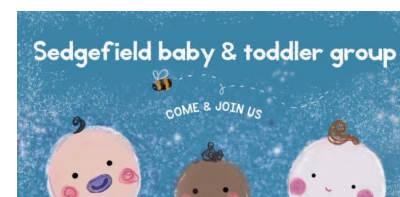
**Friday 13.30 to 17.30**

**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](http://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.

New Year sessions commence on Monday 10 January

### Sedgefield in Bloom Christmas Tree Collection

**12 January 2022**

Sedgefield in Bloom volunteers will once again run this service, collecting real trees from outside homes prior to recycling by Durham County Council.

£5 per tree, payment in cash or by BACS transfer. All proceeds will be used in future Bloom activities.

For more information, contact Alice Hobson on 01740 622706 or email [alicehobson.ah@googlemail.com](mailto:alicehobson.ah@googlemail.com).

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## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS

### DIDO - Days In Days Out

**Over 50 people attended our party to celebrate getting together again - and it really was a lovely afternoon.**

Gloria did us proud by entertaining us with her songs and she got us all up dancing and we would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication.

Gloria founded DIDO and has successfully managed it for many years. She is much loved by the members and we can't thank her enough.

**It's going to take all four of us to fill Gloria's shoes!!**

*Photos right, taken at the Christmas Party*



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So, 2021? It's over - let it go!

A big decision was made after the December market to remove some of this winter's uncertainty.

We have cancelled the January market and are taking a break until

**Sunday 6th February.**

**We look forward to seeing you then!**

We wish volunteers & readers a very happy and productive New Year. Hope to see some of you between **10am & noon** on **Saturday 8th January** to help with any real Christmas trees that are kindly donated.

### HOMESCHOOL HELP

A project of Sedgefield Development Trust

**Happy New Year, students and Homework Helpers! We are ready for the new term.**

If anyone has made any resolutions about doing a bit more study or volunteering as a helper, feel free to contact us at the usual address or find us on Facebook. We'll be pleased to hear from you.

**Have a great start to 2022.**

[homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk)

## CEDDESFIELD HALL SCA

**Home of Sedgefield Community Ass'n**


### Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!

Due to concern around the Omicron variant and the rising number of COVID cases, SCA thought it safer for all, to cancel the larger events in the run up to Christmas. We apologise for the inconvenience this may have caused to those involved in the preparation and to those who would have come along. We sincerely hope that events planned for spring 2022 will go ahead as scheduled, and we remain committed to organising a special music event in late February as well as the Easter celebrations and family activities in April.

**Mediaeval Fayre Saturday 21 May 2022 . Save the Date!** Planning and preparations are going well. SCA will soon be writing to its sections, groups, and members and to local businesses and organisations who will be asked to support the event by volunteering to help, provide sponsorship or donate gifts and prizes for the special SCA tombola which will replace the community stalls. We already have several craft stalls signed up and would welcome any new stall holders. We're looking for something a bit different, creative, or unusual, (jewellery, fashion items, scarfs, foods, jars, pickles, candles, leather goods, etc. that would appeal to a wide range of visitors. If you, or anyone you know may be interested, please contact Sarah, on the number below, or through the SCA email page.

**Sections and Groups: Subscribe to the SCA!** SCA would like to take this opportunity to thank the various sections, health and hobby groups who continue to plan and organise a very varied timetable of special interest and social activities in service of the community. There really is something for everyone! In January, SCA will begin to collect the annual subscription fees, the first since January 2020. The fees are £7 for over 60s, £8 for adults and £4 for young people and students. The benefit of SCA membership provides reduced cost for room hire as well as insurance protection for any group's activities and events. The annual fees are important, because they provide SCA with necessary funds to go towards the running and upkeep of Ceddesfield Hall, for the community. Anyone can become a member – just ask at the bar or contact any of the numbers below.

**For more information on Ceddesfield Hall events, activities, room hire & bar opening times, call Wendy: 01740 620206, Pat: 620607, John: 620042, Sarah: 622185 or visit [www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk).**



### Christmas 2021 Update

- We have had several meetings with Durham County Council and the Town Council to prepare funding bids for improvements around the village.
- We are hoping to provide new Bike Parking in the village centre next year.
- We intend to consult businesses and local residents about what their priorities are for active travel in the area.
- We are still waiting for news about the A689 cycleway—please email Ben Houchen the Tees Valley Mayor and Paul Howell the local MP to register support! [Mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk) [paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk)
- We want to look at the 20mph Limit, possible School Streets for safer walking and cycling to school, and looking at reducing traffic going through the village.

**What do YOU think?**

**Sedgefield Development Trust Contact Details.** Company Secretary,  
3a Front Street, Sedgefield, Co. Durham, TS21 3AT. Telephone no 07572 502904  
email: [secretary@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk) website: [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk)



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## SPORTS UPDATE

Email [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)

Another year of sport in Sedgefield has flown by. Times continue to be strange for all grass roots clubs and participants, having to adapt to changing circumstances and regulations on a regular basis. Despite those challenges, the sporting scene in Sedgefield is as vibrant as ever. Throughout 2021, I've had the pleasure of reporting on fantastic performances and various other achievements by sports people of all ages from our community. The highlight has to be Jack Smith's gold medal in the Tokyo Paralympic Games, but I only single out that because it's an example of what can be achieved by combining talent with hard work and the right facilities and support. And as we reach the end of the year, news arrives of great success for another disability sport athlete from Sedgefield...

### Boccia

Sedgefield star Lee Maddison has been working his way up the rankings in the sport of boccia for years. Currently in the England squad, in November Lee was invited to Largs in Scotland by Team GB Paralympics, to play in a tournament where he could showcase his talents to the Boccia UK coaches.



At the competition, Lee was awarded the coaches' choice award by the Team GB coach and soon after received an email informing him that he had been nominated and shortlisted for a 2021 Boccia England Award in the category of performance athlete of the year. Lee went on to win that award – a fantastic and richly deserved double success!

Along with his sports assistant Chris Foster, Lee has worked very hard this year, despite various COVID restrictions, to improve on all aspects of their game together, and achieve new heights as competition starts to open back up. As always, Lee and his family are hugely grateful to Chris for his patience and commitment. They appreciate all that he does for Lee and are all immensely proud of them both for their achievements. I think that everyone in Sedgefield will echo that!

### Athletics

Hundreds of runners from around the North East descended on Sedgefield on Saturday 11 December for the 115th North Eastern Counties Athletic Association (NECAA) Cross Country Championships. Hosted by Sedgefield Harriers in East Park, the event is an iconic fixture on the region's grass roots sports calendar, with races for junior and senior athletes from under 11s to senior men and women. The event returned to Sedgefield for the second time in six years.

The action began at 10:35am with races for under 11 boys and girls, started by Cllr Ann Carr, Mayor of Sedgefield, and Cllr Mel Carr, Chair of Sedgefield Town Council. The NECAA championship races kicked off at 11:00am, with a series of events for U13s, U15s, U17s and U20s, and culminating in the races with the biggest fields, for senior men and senior women. Despite rain and snow in recent weeks, the course was in good condition and proved popular with athletes, presenting them with a good balance of climbs and flatter sections through the three fields that constitute East Park.

The men's race was won by reigning English National Cross Country Champion Calum Johnson of Gateshead Harriers, with a dominant performance. In the women's race, Catriona MacDonald of Morpeth Harriers was the winner. The men's team event was won by Morpeth Harriers, with Jarrow & Hebburn AC claiming the women's title. The home club was well represented in many of the races during the day and Sedgefield Harriers fielded the biggest team in the senior women's race.



Ahead of the championships, Sedgefield Harriers recruited a large team of volunteers to deliver the event, with over 50 club members contributing in many different ways. Staging the event was a big community effort. Sedgefield Cricket Club hosted the race headquarters, St. Edmund's Explorer Scouts put up marquees, Number Four tea room supplied sandwiches for the officials' packed lunches and fruit came from The Juicy Pear. Event catering for runners was provided by Ramside Estates. Hardwick East Park is owned by Durham County Council, which gave permission to hold the event on its land, and rangers from Hardwick Park provided great support throughout. Unlike in 2015, the weather didn't misbehave too much and feedback from runners was that it was a really good cross country course - fair, but challenging, and in a lovely setting. The club was delighted to welcome runners of all ages to compete in Sedgefield, representing clubs from every part of the North East. Sedgefield Harriers is grateful to all of the volunteers who made the event possible, and ensured that it ran smoothly throughout.

As if hosting a major event wasn't enough for one day, Sedgefield Harriers handed out its annual awards the same night, at a social event in the Parish Hall. The winners are:

#### Club Runner of the Year

Mark Chapman

#### Club Member of the Year

Lisa Darby

#### Volunteer of the Year

Stuart Park

#### Individual Performance

Gary Thwaites

#### Newcomer of the Year

Colin Gandy

#### Supporter of the Year

Mike Wood

#### Dave Sawyer Endurance Award

Jane Spink and Stuart Park

The club thanks Fay Uphill and Gary Forster of Lost Robot for organising the event.

**That's all for this month and 2021. Here's to even more success for Sedgefield sports clubs and individuals in 2022. Keep the news flowing to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com).**