

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

July 2021 Edition

Deadline for August Thursday 15 July

Queen to honour Maura Regan with a damehood

Sedgefield's Maura Regan has been made Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours, in recognition of her outstanding leadership and service to education in this region.

Raised in Fishburn, the daughter of a miner, Maura began her teaching career in London teaching History and RE, returning to the North East to take a pastoral role before becoming Deputy Head Pastoral and subsequently Principal of Carmel College.



As the architect of Carmel Education Trust, Maura became its founding CEO, having led the successful transformation of Carmel College from a single outstanding College to the lead school in a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

The Trust, now known as Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust, is recognised nationally as a leading organisation, with all of its schools rated as good or better on inspection after joining the Trust. At present, Bishop Hogarth CET comprises 26 schools, both primary and secondary and by 2022 it will have become a Trust of 35 schools.

In her role as an NLE (National Leader for Education) Maura Regan and her Leadership Team have supported schools across the region as well as nationally, from all phases.

Carmel College is one of the top performing schools nationally and is a Maths Hub, leads a Science Learning Partnership and is a designated Research School. Carmel College has a long history of Initial Teacher Training and is now one of the largest providers in the North East.

Maura has been highly pro-active in supporting NETSP (North East Teaching Schools Partnership) in the delivery of NPQH, NPQSL and NPQML and a National programme 'Women into Headship'. She also works with the Department for Education on the Tailored Support and Trust Support programmes.

She is a Trustee of Schools North East, Director of The Emmanuel Foundation Trust and a Governor of Durham School.

Maura is regularly invited to address national audiences on a range of educational initiatives, more especially on the benefits and complexities of establishing and leading a MultiAcademy Trust in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity, solidarity and support for the common good. She is a keynote speaker for the CES National Executive Leader programme.

Maura is a member of the National Advisory Group looking at Recruitment & Retention among teachers and is also a member of the sub-group working with the DfE on the Opportunity North East Programme, established by the Secretary of State.

Maura is passionate about making a difference and believes that 'every child should be given every opportunity to succeed'.

"I am proud to be the CEO of Bishop Hogarth CET and grateful for the opportunities it has afforded me. Having been in education since 1979, it is a genuine pleasure to have had a positive impact on the lives of so many children and staff over the years. It is a great honour and immensely humbling to be recognised in this way."

50 years of the Sedgefield Players

In May 1971, the newly formed Sedgefield Players staged its first production, 'Bonaventure', never thinking that 50 years down the line, & around 300 productions of plays, pantomimes, reviews & Mediaeval Fayres later, it would still be going strong.



As current Chairman of the group, I have been reflecting recently on why the group has stayed together for so long, and why so many members have been part of the group for so many years. Is it the choice of play, the scenery, the acting, the venue, the price of the tickets? Maybe those things are part of it, but really it is all about people, & three words:- friendship, enthusiasm & support.

Undoubtedly, Walter Howell, a founder member, and still a member today, has been its mainstay for the majority of those 50 years. Although no longer Productions Director, he is still very much a part of the group and contributes with advice, artwork and general support. Without his enthusiasm, hard work and dedication over the years, the group certainly would not be in the position it is in today.

Our membership still includes one other founder member, Thelma Flood, another member who has been very active and influential for over 40 years, Norma Neal, plus at least ten members, including myself, who initially signed up over 30 years ago.

Norma requires a special mention, not only for her fine acting, but also her hard work & dedication over the

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Happy 100th Birthday to Les Butler

A much loved and well-respected member of Sedgefield's community, Mr Les Butler recently celebrated his 100th birthday in fine style. The sun shone for the guest of honour and his wife Marjorie, whose daughters Pam and Elaine had set up a party area on the front lawn, complete with nostalgic wartime music. Sedgefield Village Veterans paraded with their standard and also provided beautiful flowers, a magnificent cake and bubbly to toast the centenarian. Other friends joined in the celebrations and the Queen's telegram boy arrived to a rousing cheer.



Born in Birmingham on May 19th 1921 Les Butler came to Sedgefield at the age of 19, called up to serve with the Northumberland Fusiliers at Hardwick Camp. Les and his mates were made very welcome in the village, their regular camp dances proving very popular with the local girls. Many a romance - and subsequent marriage - began to the music of the Fernley Mitchell Band. Les and Marjorie married at St Edmund's Church in September 1943. No fuss, no photographs, no fancy honeymoon. But married bliss was short lived. In 1944, Hardwick Camp closed down and, after combat and jungle training, Les was shipped off to fight in Burma. A very tough environment.

Les didn't get back home until October 1946. He had to walk from Ferryhill Station back home to Sedgefield and a hero's welcome from Marjorie and their baby daughter Pamela, two years old before her daddy met her. Sister Elaine came along a few years later and the family enjoyed a happy life in the village. For many years, Les did painting, decorating and occasional building work for Sedgefield Rural District Council, based at the Manor House. Thanks to his early apprenticeship with a Birmingham art company, Les was also in great demand as a sign writer for various local businesses and other organisations beyond the village. He also turned his hand to bell ringing at St Edmund's and, in later years, helped out at Sedgefield racecourse.

Norma Neal of Sedgefield Local History says, 'Les is a fascinating character with a phenomenal memory. He has been a great help to local historians, with a wealth of knowledge, reaching back over the years. It was a privilege to honour him on his hundredth birthday.'

Robots at Sedgefield Hardwick

Since returning to school after the May half-term, pupils in Year 5 from Sedgefield Hardwick have been incredibly excited to get to grips with another new piece of technology, Sphero robots.

These robots mean the children can use their programming skills and watch these skills come to life within a physical object.

Children in Year 5 started the topic by mastering how to control the speed and colour of the robots. Then, the pupils took part in very competitive races, which seemed like mini versions of a Grand Prix, to see who could manoeuvre their robot the best around a circuit. Shortly, the children will use block commands to instruct the robot to do certain things, such as move forward, turn right and left and change colour at different speeds.

Once the children fully master the controls of the Spheros, they will once again compete against each other to complete an obstacle course using a coding program they have created, which will include the block commands they have worked on during the topic. Hannah, a pupil from Year 5, stated, "We all really enjoyed driving these robots around a circuit and we can't wait to watch the robots move on their own."



Year 5 students with Sphero robots

Paralympics GB squad

Congratulations to Sedgefield based wheelchair rugby star Jack Smith, who has been selected in the Paralympics GB squad for the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.



Jack now plays his club rugby for Leicester Tigers but still trains with The North East Bulls at The Hub at Sedgefield Community College, although he's restricted to GB training for now.

If you are interested in playing wheelchair rugby, or volunteering, you can pop along to The Hub on a Tuesday or Thursday between 6:00pm and 9:00pm. Find out more at "NE Bulls WRC" on Facebook.



Jack Smith (right) in action vs Australia

30 Days Wild



Year 1 at Sedgefield Primary completed the start of the '30 Days Wild' challenge for homework in half term. Some of the challenges they participated in were: No Gadget Day, find all of the colours of the rainbow in nature, look for shapes in the clouds, place bare feet and hands on the ground.

Rebecca said, "I put my bare feet in the sand, it felt tickly between my toes. It made me feel happy."

Junior said, "I was really sad about No Gadget Day but it was really fun and I got to go on lots of walks!"

Travis said, "I saw a T-rex shape in the clouds."



We are planning on doing more outdoor learning and '30 Days Wild' challenges at school this half term. Some examples of these activities are: a picnic with the birds, create some wild art, identify wild flowers and threading a daisy chain.

BUSINESS UPDATE

NETPark Plans

Plans to create an additional 270,000 sq ft of space are well underway at The North East Technology Park (NETPark) in Sedgefield.

Space at NETPark, managed by Business Durham is at a premium, with 100% of the available laboratory, office and clean room accommodation currently occupied or reserved by science, engineering and technology companies.

Since opening in 2004, NETPark had big ambitions to become one of the UK's leading science parks, it is well on its way to achieving that goal with over 35 companies and 550 people employed on-site.

The success of NETPark is such that expansion space is needed so that companies can reach their full potential. In the Autumn plans will be submitted to Durham County Council to add an additional 270,000 sq ft of space. This would help to accommodate growing demand, both from businesses already established within the park and from companies looking to relocate or expand their operations to this thriving science community.



NETPark provides an abundance of resources on site, including CPI's three National Innovation Centres, two National Catapult Centres and Durham University, a world top 100 University. These plans support Durham County Council's vision of creating more and better jobs, to build a stronger competitive economy and helping people get into work.

To find out more about NETPark's ambitious expansion plans visit www.northeasttechnologypark.com.

Volunteer needed for Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

Since restarting in May, it has been wonderful to welcome so many new parents, carers and children, and to reconnect with all of the families that we haven't seen since last March. We have been amazed at the number of families interested in attending and we want to thank all of you for coming.

At the same time, it is also a bit sad because Sedgefield lost so many other baby & toddler groups during the pandemic. It is so important for young children to socialise and to be around other children, and equally important for parents and carers to have the opportunity to socialise with other adults and to feel a part of the local community. We are therefore looking to expand our weekly group to run twice per week on Monday and Tuesday mornings (currently we run on Tuesday mornings only).

In order to do that, however, we are looking for volunteers to help organise and run the sessions. If you

enjoy working with families, this may be a great opportunity for you. Ours is a "stay and play" group, which means that parents/carers will be there to supervise their children, but we can really use help to make everyone feel welcome, to make the space welcoming and to run special activities such as crafts or singing - we are always open to new ideas! Other responsibilities will include setting up and tidying up and all volunteers will undergo a DBS check. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please get in touch with us via our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sedgefieldplaygroup>) or via email at mmclose@gmail.com.

We plan to offer this expanded service from September. Likewise if you are a parent or carer and you are interested in attending our group, more information can be found on the Diary page of this Newsletter or again on our Facebook page.

Friends run for pancreatic cancer

THREE Sedgefield residents are running 48 miles in 48 hours to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer UK and are asking for your support.

Catherine Sutcliffe, Jo Bowman and Kate Stanley will run a four-mile route around Sedgefield, every four hours, for 48 hours – starting at 9am on Wednesday, July 14th and finishing with a final run at 5am on Friday July 16th.

The trio will run from The Meadows to Queen's Drive, along Station Road, down Durham Road to Winterton, back to the centre, over the village green and alongside Sedgefield Primary School.

The gruelling 4x4x48 challenge was inspired by ex-Navy Seal and ultramarathon runner David Goggins and aims to push runners to the limits both physically and mentally.



They are running to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer, in memory of Kate's father David Bowman who died of the disease ten years ago at the age of 67.

Kate, from Church View said: "Pancreatic cancer is known as the Silent Killer because it is extremely hard to spot and in 80% of cases is diagnosed at a late stage, when the cancer is too advanced. Dad died just four weeks after diagnosis and was robbed of his golden years of retirement and grandchildren."

Some 10,300 people are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer every year yet research into the disease has been underfunded for decades, receiving only 3% of the UK cancer research budget.

Jo, from St Edmund's Manor, said: "Funding is paramount and we hope that by doing this tough challenge we can encourage people to help us raise money for vital research into this disease."

Catherine, from The Meadows, added: "We would love it if residents would support us and cheer us on. We will be easy to spot in our purple Pancreatic Cancer UK running vests!"

To donate, visit www.justgiving.com/48in48forCancer

Fishburn & Bishop Middleham Circular Walk



Experience a rare landscape and ancient species, and journey through the first stronghold of the Prince Bishops.

Discover Brightwater have published a circular walk starting on Front Street in Fishburn, passing the airfield and going on to Bishop Middleham Quarry, a nature reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The walk continues through Bishop Middleham across to the River Skerne and through Carr Wood following the River back to Fishburn.



A Discover Brightwater walk suitable for families. Find the guide at www.discoverbrightwater.com/roamfromhome.

Distance 11.7km/7.3 miles

Sedgefield in Bloom

Sedgefield in Bloom are immensely grateful to the brilliant Find and Fix team from Durham County Council, *photo right*, who transformed the centre of the village in just six days in June. Team leader Jeremy, along with Shane, Paul, Dan, Aven and Phil took advantage of the fine weather to spruce up all the benches in the vicinity of the green and beyond, and to paint the handrails on the church steps and outside the social club. They even gave the bus shelter a bit of a make-over and tidied litter bins and lampposts as necessary. Bloom secretary Norma Neal said, 'Nothing was too much trouble for the team and their efforts have given a real boost to the centre of the village. Along with our elegant new lampposts and other attractive property developments, as well as emerging summer colours, Sedgefield is truly coming back to life after lockdown.'

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY

The other night, on one of those balmy hot nights we have sometimes in June, we were in the garden with friends listening to the swifts reeling around the dusk sky. It's quite an evocative sound which many of you might be familiar with.

Swifts are easy to spot as they look like an arrow whirling through the sky, and often fly in groups. We even reported our sightings on the Swift Mapper App. Originally they would have nested in trees or cliffs, but they now prefer the roofs of old buildings like churches. They spend the winter in Africa but travel to Britain every year in April and May to feast on small flying insects by catching them in flight. Insects are collected in a special pouch at the back of the swift's throat, where they are bound together by saliva until they form a kind of pellet known as a bolus, which can be regurgitated and fed to chicks. A single bolus can contain over 300 insects, with some holding over 1,000! Swifts spend most of their lives flying – even when sleeping, eating and drinking – only ever landing to nest. They like to nest in older buildings in small holes in roof spaces. Specially designed nest boxes help this species to survive in our towns and villages, where renovation work often blocks the small holes they use to access their nest sites. To discover more about swifts and the range of boxes available, visit www.swift-conservation.org.



Common Swift

Flying amongst the swifts as it got darker we noticed something else - it was a large bat. I quickly got the bat detector out and set it to 25kHz and as the bat flew over our heads we heard a strange 'chip-chop' sound as the heterodyne bat detector converted the sound the bat makes into a sound that we could hear. It was a noctule, our largest bat.

Like all bats they are nocturnal, feeding on midges, moths and other flying insects that they find in the dark by using echolocation. Noctules roost in holes in trees and bat boxes, but rarely in buildings. During the summer, females form maternity colonies and have just a single pup. You can see Noctules feeding on insects over the tree canopy; they particularly enjoy eating flying beetles, such as the large cockchafer. They are normally the first bat to appear in the evening just before it goes dark.



Noctule bat

Later, I returned the bat detector to 45kHz and this time we heard a different sound - "clicks and a slap and a buzz" - as the bats homed in on their prey. These were our smallest bat - the pipistrelle. Pipistrelles are the commonest and most widespread of all British bat species. They were flying in a fast and jerky flight as they dodged about, pursuing small insects just above our house and garden. The next time you have barbeque, don't forget to look up as it goes dark. You never know what you might see.



The Find and Fix Team—Aven, Dan, Jeremy & Paul

William of Durham and Walter de Merton Part 2

by Alex Priestley-Leach

At a similar time to William of Durham's rise to prominence, a young man from Surrey by the name of Walter was making his name known in service of the new Bishop, Nicholas Farnham (Bishop 1241-49). Whereas William was perhaps born in Sedgefield and moved elsewhere for education and employment, Walter hailed from Merton (from London borough) and was brought up alongside other southerners by Nicholas who, as his name indicates, was from Farnham.

Again, his movements are not very clear, but parts of the Merton College Rolls indicate he held the parsonage after 1247 and the mention of the parish in his will demonstrates his affiliations. He likely did not spend much time in Sedgefield, returning to London to clerk for the Lord Chancellor, William of Kilkenny before 1249. From there he advanced quickly to a canon at St Pauls and then to Lord Chancellor in 1261 and Bishop of Rochester in 1274. During his time as Chancellor, he founded a 'house of the scholars of Merton [Priory]' which was transferred to Oxford and established as a permanent house under his supervision.

Walter certainly did not spend much time in Sedgefield; however, the current church was built around the time of his stewardship. It is perhaps due to this southern man's influence, who often spent time in Oxfordshire, that it was dedicated to the recently dead archbishop of Canterbury, St Edmund of Abingdon (who himself is the namesake of St Edmund's Hall, Oxford). As such, Walter's influence upon Sedgefield is one of the most noteworthy and long lasting.

In researching all this, a feeling of lost potential arose. Here Sedgefield stands, forgotten by the establishments that its son and benefactor respectively founded. One hopes that in future these links can be rekindled, so that when one asks, 'so where are you from?', the answer does not need to be, 'how good is your knowledge on New Labour?'

I thank Dr Robin Darwall-Smith, archivist of University College, Oxford and Julian Reid, archivist of Merton College, Oxford for their help in digging out these links. J. R. L. Highfield The early rolls of Merton College Oxford (1964) contains a biography of Walter de Merton. Manuscripts that Highfield references have proven to be a struggle to find by both Mr Reid and myself.

JOB VACANCY

Carer / Housekeeper

to assist an elderly gentleman with day to day living in Sedgefield .

Applicants should have experience of dealing with medical needs.

5 days per week, regular hours by agreement, with the possibility of occasional weekend work.

Hourly rate, above minimum wage, to be negotiated.

Please call/text **07717 472827** to arrange an interview.



The tomb of Walter de Merton in Rochester Cathedral, where he was appointed Bishop in 1274.



Ploggers meet the Wombles

The Fishburn Wombles, Trimdon Wombles and Sedgefield Ploggers joined forces to clear up footpaths that run alongside Salters Lane. Together, they filled dozens of bin bags on Sunday morning and plan to work together again in the future.

The Fishburn and Trimdon Wombles have both been litter picking since March 2021, regularly meeting up in their villages and the surrounding areas.

Founded in 2019, the Sedgefield Ploggers combine jogging with litter picking, tidying up sections of the town together at a sociable pace, with residents of all ages getting involved. The Wombles and Ploggers made contact with each other earlier this year and decided to join forces to clear up the roadsides together.

Richard Wanless of Fishburn Wombles comments: "It was a fantastic joint effort by all Wombles and Ploggers, helping to clear the roadsides all the way from Trimdon Colliery, through Trimdon Grange to Trimdon Village, Fishburn and the roads to Sedgefield and Bishop Middleham. We collected another good haul of rubbish and the area certainly looks so much cleaner.

"Both Fishburn and Trimdon Wombles are going from strength to strength and even if people can't take part in the litter picking events, just showing support by joining the groups on Facebook and keeping in touch with what they are doing is fantastic. The more members and support we have, the better. Help us create litter-free villages and towns for everyone to enjoy and be proud of."

Chris Lines of Sedgefield Ploggers adds: "It was really good to team up with wombling friends from Fishburn and Trimdon. 'Many hands make light work' is a cliché for a reason and our ploggers enjoyed meeting the Wombles to clear up long stretches of the roadsides. Everyone in the Sedgefield Ploggers and the Fishburn and Trimdon Wombles loves where they live and this was an excellent example of how our communities can work together to keep the whole area looking great. We'll definitely be joining forces again soon!"

Find out more about the groups by searching Facebook for "Fishburn Wombles", "Trimdon Wombles" and for "Sedgefield Ploggers".

Photos left from top: Sedgefield Ploggers and Fishburn Wombles; Trimdon Wombles in action; Litter collected by Fishburn Wombles

Fishburn & Trimdon



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

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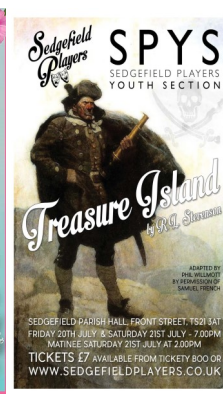
"Friendship, Enthusiasm and Support, 50 years of the Sedgefield Players: The Chairman's Thoughts."

By Viv Jacobs

years. As well as being Chairman for many years, she has fulfilled many roles, on both stage & committee, & has been responsible for building the Sedgefield Drama festival into a thriving annual event with a reputation of being Britain's 'Friendly Festival' among professional adjudicators and local groups.

However, we are certainly not a group of oldies. Our adult membership ranges from 18 to over 80 and Sedgefield Players Youth Section (SPYS) boasts 50 youngsters.

Over time, we have become great friends, sharing our lives like a family, supporting in good times & bad, laughing together, reminiscing (we do a lot of that), developing our skills, entertaining, competing and most of all, having fun. We have travelled to festivals in the Isle of Man, York, Hull, Harrogate, Whitehaven and Grasmere to name a few, and organised trips with the SPYS to Edinburgh and beyond. We have also stayed home in Sedgefield, meeting together almost every Wednesday & Sunday for the past 50 years, the enthusiasm of the team still as strong today as ever.



A selection of Sedgefield Players playbills from recent years

When Walter decided to retire as Productions Director we were fortunate to have Tom Guest ready to step into his shoes. Tom had been a youth member before leaving Sedgefield to train, returning as a professional actor who took no time in re-joining the group. Over the last ten years or so, he has given a huge amount of time and effort, as an actor, writer, choreographer, musical director and director, to both the adults and the SPYS, and has contributed hugely to the continuation of the group.

Tom now shares the role of Productions Director and SPYS organiser with long time member Sarah Atkinson, whose professionalism, hard work and enthusiasm is admirable. Throughout these COVID times, Tom and Sarah have kept the group together, organising Zoom meetings, a virtual festival and writing or finding plays to read to keep the enthusiasm alive (please watch our efforts on YouTube).

I have named a few, and apologise for not naming the many, many members who over the years have joined the group and shared their 'friendship, enthusiasm and support'. Each one, however long or short their stay, has played their part (please pardon the pun) in keeping the Players alive. I mentioned 'support' key to our longevity. Without this, the Players would just have been a group of 'enthusiastic friends'. Over the years we have had the support of so many people; not only our members, our families, our donors & sponsors, our friends in other amateur groups, festival participants, adjudicators, the SCA, and, most importantly, our audiences.

Without you, the audience, there would be no drama group – we could not perform a play without an audience (actually, we did once). At each production, we look forward to welcoming old friends and new to share and hopefully enjoy our efforts. Whether we make you laugh or cry or send a shiver down your spine, we hope to entertain, and really appreciate your loyal support.

Thanks to you all for keeping the Players alive for 50 years, and when all this COVID business is over, we look forward to seeing you all again in Sedgefield Parish Hall.

Let us raise a glass to our Golden Anniversary and start working towards our Centenary. Cheers!

Local Art Galleries in July

On July 3rd, The Mining Gallery reopens in Bishop Auckland, and from July 14th, The Witham in Barnard Castle hosts an exhibition of the work of Tonya Mitchell, a Bishop Auckland artist specializing in local scenes & subjects.

The Ark Block in Seaham welcomes East Durham Artists Network from 29 June to 23 July,



Durham Brass Festival

The acclaimed Durham Brass Festival returns on 14 to 18 July, with performers including Richard Hawley, Trevor Horn, Field Music & much more. For information, see brassfestival.co.uk/.

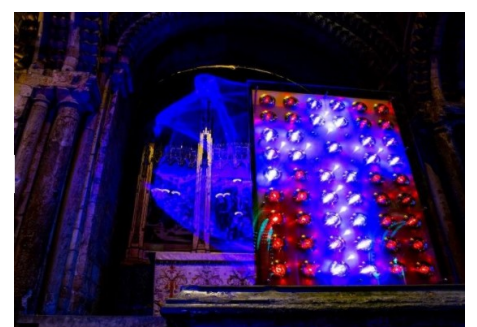
Durham Fringe Festival

The annual calendar of theatre & performing arts grows a little busier this year with the arrival of the inaugural Durham Fringe festival in July. The scale is already impressive, with 30 acts planned across four venues on five dates.

The launch was delayed from 2020 by the ban on public performances last year, but from 28 July, the city is now geared up to welcome comedians, dancers and theatre performers from across the North East & beyond. For tickets, visit durhamfringe.co.uk.

Durham Cathedral 'Light'

While in Durham, don't forget to visit the Galilee Chapel of Durham cathedral and see it as you have never seen it before. Canadian artist Chris Levine has created a vivid sensory tribute to pilgrimage, open to all visitors until September. See durhamcathedral.co.uk/whats-on



DIARY & EVENTS

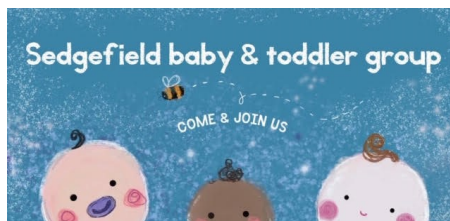
Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

To all clubs, groups and societies, this is your space. Please do use it!

Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group has returned to Ceddesfeld Hall, operating on Tuesdays from 9.30am - 11.00am. Additional measures will be in place, including one entrance, one exit, social distancing & face masks for adults. A reservation system will be in place as we can only have 15 adults in at a time.

£3 per family. Unfortunately, refreshments will NOT be available as there is no access to the kitchen, so please bring your own snacks/drinks. Please join the Facebook page for further updates or to ask any questions: "Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group".



Sedgefield Country Market

After much deliberation the producers at Sedgefield Country Market have decided to cease trading after 35 years of holding the market in Sedgefield Parish Hall. We would like to thank all our friends and customers who have supported the market over the years.

As Chairman I am extremely grateful to all the volunteers who have enabled the market to trade for so long, thank you all.

Sheila McMillan

Research your family history with new online sessions

Online sessions to help people take their first steps into researching what is in their family tree will begin later this month.

Following the success of the online family history course earlier this year, Durham County Record Office, part of Durham County Council, will be offering another opportunity to take part in this course, which is aimed at people who would like an introduction, or refresher, to getting started in family history research.

The course will comprise of three talks, all bookable individually, and will explore some of the sources that family historians use to discover their ancestors and show how archives held at the Record Office can help in their search.

Those interested can book onto a session on civil registration on Monday 21 June, a session on the Census on Monday 28 June and a session on parish registers on Monday 5 July. Participants will be able to take part in sessions at either 10am–11am or 6pm–7pm on each of the three days.

To book a place, visit the Record Office online shop at recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk/pgHome



© DCRO Ref: hord0140

The Bennett family at the Sands, Horden, 1925

SEDFIELD LIBRARY

Tel: 0300 026 9521

The library is open again with the following 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

Browsing is limited to 20 minutes and only 4 visitors are allowed in the building at one time, so you may be asked to queue patiently outside.

See www.durham.gov.uk/libraries for updates and information and to be updated with any service changes.

Also, the Facebook page - **CountyDurhamLibraries**

is absolutely full of interest and we recommend following them.

Lost & found

Found at the June Farmers Market, if these glasses are yours, please collect them from the Sedgefield Development Trust stall at the July Farmers Market.



Sedgefield Charities: Education grants for students

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

Students of any age may apply.

Applicants must live in **Bishop Middleham, Bradbury, Cornforth, Fishburn, Mordon, Sedgefield or Trimdon**

Application forms and further information can be obtained by contacting the Clerk.

Post: 46 Whitehouse Drive,
Sedgefield, TS21 3BU.

Telephone: 01740 620811 or email sedgefieldcharities@gmail.com

The closing date for applications is **30th September, 2021.**

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS

New home for our Bicycle & Active Travel Project

It has been a busy month for the BAT project. Lots of people visited our stall at the Farmers Market and we were able to help several people with their bikes, give advice about routes and found out a bit more what people want.

The big news though is that the project has a new base at The Hive! Several of the group members met with Carole Lawford to discuss moving the bike refurbishment and exchange side of things to The Hive, and we now have volunteers getting set up and starting to work on the bikes that have been donated. As bikes become available we will let people know via the BAT Facebook Page.

We are also setting up an information station at The Hive for to use to find out more about cycling and routes they might like to try. If you have a favourite route or destination that can be reached by bike or on foot do share them with us and we can prepare route cards for people to take on their ride or walk.

We have discussed ways to use The Hive bike area for bike parking too, so keep an eye out for that in future weeks. In the meanwhile, if you own one of the local businesses, please check out <http://ow.ly/DuYx50DJyq3> to find out how to apply for a grant for a free cycle stand outside your business!

The BAT project is also now affiliated to Cycling UK so we will be looking to see how we can use their influence to build the project.

We are still open to volunteers to help at the Hive, and if you have other skills or ideas to share, do get in touch.

When we are ready for more bikes to refurbish we will let you know via the usual channels, but if you have any spare tools we would love to have them to use in the workshop. Just drop them in the bucket at The Hive.

We look forward to sharing more news soon. Please look out for us at the Farmers Market again this month, and don't forget to check the Facebook page – just search for Sedgefield Bicycles and Active Travel.



The first bikes ready for checking over before going to their new owners!

Sedgefield Farmers Market

Sunday 4 July: 8.30am - 12.15/30

Look for another new trader this month - Theo Farquharson, of Staindrop's Hedgehog Bakery.

Theo was to be invited to the market early in '20, but lockdown put paid to that plan. Now at last we can give him a hearty welcome to Sedgefield.

The SDT information stall returns this month, with volunteers on hand with project information and spare copies of Sedgefield News. And at last another chance to purchase one of our beautiful, sturdy shopping bags - yours for just £4.50!

Of course we will continue to provide for your COVID19 safety as long as necessary and we are grateful for our shoppers' loyal support and helpful attitude.



CEDDESFIELD HALL

Home of Sedgefield Community Association (SCA) 

The newly announced date for a possible Step 4 re-opening is 19 July and all we can do is wait!

Groups that have come together within the current indoor distancing restrictions, have been able to resume activities happily and very safely.

It has been great to see the toddler group sessions re-open, and there is an increasingly high demand for places. The group is going to continue at Ceddesfield Hall (Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11am) over the summer months until September, and then they will move across to the Methodist Hall. To contact the organisers, visit their Facebook page via the following link. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sedgefieldplaygroup>.

Several groups: musicians, artists, the youth choir, and community support groups such as Durham Deafened Support (DDS), have managed to get back to activities, within the Step 3 restrictions. There is disappointment from several larger sections, but all fully understand that for a while longer, the strict safety restrictions must remain.

The opening of the bar has now been scheduled for Monday 2 August.

Provisional bookings from July are pencilled in the diary. We are just waiting. The hall is looking great - quite spick and span. Sedgefield Bloomers have been busy creating their magic in the grounds and car park area. We look forward to some relaxing, family fun, summer activities at the hall and on the lawns. Fingers are still crossed!

SCA are holding a virtual AGM (over ZOOM) on Thursday 15 July at 8pm, following the usual board meeting, which begins at 7.30pm. Notification will be sent out to all sections and groups and all members (not attached to a section or group) are invited to email info@sedgefieldscsca.org.uk if they would like to receive the link invitation to join the meeting.

Any volunteers who would like to get involved with community events and activities, please do get in touch.

For more information on Ceddesfield Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 01740 620607, John on 01740 620042, Sarah on 01740 622185 or visit our website on www.sedgefieldscsca.org.uk



Heartfelt thanks to all our helpers and students for all your hard work this academic year, and for your adaptability in the face of covid restrictions. Well done, for all the good progress made.

Homework Help generally takes a break over the summer holidays - but if you need a little booster help with something, or could offer your experience to help someone else, please get in touch and we'll do our best to arrange it. Email:

homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or find us on Facebook.

Have a great summer!

To contact Sedgefield Development Trust, please email secretary@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or visit www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

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SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Lovely to see you

Thanks to those who visited us on the Sedgefield NHW Stand at the Farmers Market on 6th June 2021 and especially those who purchased home security equipment from us. Not only are you making your home safer but you are also supporting a community cause.

We will be resuming meetings shortly, the first is planned for 15th July 2021 at 7pm in the Social Club. All are welcome. Please bring a mask and adhere to social distancing.

We are also commencing informal meetings with Sedgefield Police at the Station on a monthly basis to re-establish our links, with the aim of supporting each other in fighting crime."

PCC praises the work of Neighbourhood Watch volunteers

Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen has praised the work of County Durham and Darlington's Neighbourhood Watch volunteers for their vital role to protect local communities.

She said: "On behalf of the people of County Durham and Darlington, I would like to say thank you to all the Neighbourhood Watch volunteers who do so much to help keep people safe. Neighbourhood Watch Week 2021 is a tremendous opportunity for us to build on the connections we already have with our neighbours and work together to make positive change in our communities".

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SPORTS UPDATE

Email chrisjlines@aol.com

Grass roots sports competition hasn't been back for long, but there is already a lot of success to report on by teams and individuals from Sedgefield. This update is packed with excellent news from different generations of talented folk from our community. Our own Paralympian is on page 2. Well done to all!

Cricket

Congratulations to Sedgefield Cricket Club's U17 side, who have won the League Cup. Following one-sided victories in the early rounds, the team travelled to Darlington CC for the final on 4 June and put in a superb display.

In the field first, Sedgefield bowled out Darlington for a meagre 44, with several run outs and catches taking the eye. The target was reached for the loss of only a single wicket, before the cup presentation and celebrations afterwards.

There's plenty more silverware to compete for this season and all of the club's teams

remain in with a chance of further success during 2021.

Five of the triumphant U17 team are former pupils of Sedgefield Primary School, which has strong links with all aspects of the cricket club, from All Stars all the way through to the senior first team and the coaching set up. The school continues to support cricket development by accessing training for staff, and PE lessons for children, by Lucy Pringle, women and girls cricket development officer at Durham County Cricket Club. The children have really been enjoying Lucy's sessions, so you can expect to read much more about successful young Sedgefield cricketers on this page for years to come.



Football

St. Edmund's FC enjoyed a great end to the season by winning the Bishop Auckland Heart Foundation Cup, after a 1-0 victory against Witton Park Rose and Crown. An even first half concluded with a brilliant goal from 19-year-old Keiran Parnaby on 43 minutes, when he lobbed the keeper from outside the 18 yard box. St Edmund's weathered the storm in the second and had the better chances on the break to go further ahead. Thanks to some excellent defending and goalkeeping, the team held on to secure the cup. There were great celebrations afterwards at the Golden Lion and the club is grateful to Steven, Margaret and staff for their hospitality. The new league season starts on 15 August, preceded by some friendlies. It's a quicker turn around than usual due to COVID, but on the back of winning the cup, everyone in the club is looking forward to returning to action soon and building on recent success.



Athletics

Three members of Sedgefield Harriers have completed some very long runs in recent weeks.

As previewed last month, Jane Spink and Stuart Park tackled the 2021 LDWA 100 miler. This year, it was a virtual event, with participants choosing their own route. There was nothing virtual about the 100 miles that Jane and Stuart covered over 48 hours!

Not long after, Gary Thwaites made his second attempt at the Bob Graham Round, which involves traversing 42 Lake District peaks, with around 66 miles of distance and 26,900 feet of ascent, within 24 hours. Gary had a go at the round about a year ago, but atrocious weather forced him off the fells.

This time, he succeeded in completing the iconic and very tough challenge. Jane, Stuart and Gary were all given loads of support by fellow Harriers (and other runners and friends and family), several of whom joined them for sections of their epic runs.

Meanwhile, the club has recently confirmed plans to host the Sedgefield Serpentine on Sunday 19th September. This popular local mixed terrain race will start and finish in East Park next to the cricket club and takes in trails between Hardwick Park and Bishop Middleham. For the first time, the event will have chip timing and places can be booked on the Muddy Roads website at www.muddyroads.co.uk/event/sedgefield-serpentine-10km-2021.

Anyone who entered the event last year and who opted to rollover their place won't need to do anything.

Fishburn Bowls Club

After the disappointment of the 2020 season, Fishburn Bowls Club is up and running again and the members are enjoying the season long Club Competition which is free to enter, runs until the end of August, and has cash prizes.

The competition takes place on Sundays at 2:00pm and Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm. Spectators are very welcome and if you want to try your hand at green bowls, tuition is available at no cost.

For more information, contact: Carol Mason, club secretary, on 07446 032450

Terry Graham, club treasurer, on 01740 621627

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