

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

## June 2021 Edition

### Café @ NETPark

The Work Life Food Company has opened its café doors at NETPark. Two of our intrepid journalists *[editor - you do know there isn't an expense account with this job?]* were despatched to investigate.

The company prides itself on serving locally sourced food in a sustainable way. The café promises bird friendly coffee, compostable packaging and you can help yourself to used coffee grounds to fertilise your garden.

The menu consists of sandwiches, light meals and refreshments with plenty of vegan and gluten free options. We enjoyed a cup of coffee and a slice of cake as we sat outside in a rare moment of May sunshine. There are plans to deliver food direct to the local offices and for ice cream deliveries on hot summer days. In keeping with the high tech surroundings, the company has an app (*right*) to order food and drinks, which can be done in advance or from your table, simply scan the QR code and download or look for "OrderPay" in your app store of choice.

The café will eventually open 7 days a week, but at time of writing, is open Monday to Friday. Right, where's that expense form?



## Deadline for July: Tuesday 15 June

**The Café at NETPark, by Work Life Food Co**  
North East Technology Park, NETPark,  
Thomas Wright Way,  
Sedgefield, Stockton on Tees  
TS21 3FD

Opening hours

Thursday	07:00 - 16:00
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Available services

Click & Collect	07:00 - 16:00
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Click & Collect

Table service

### BAT Project rolling (and walking) on!

As we mentioned last time we wrote in the News, the Sedgefield Bicycle Users Group that was originally set up in response to increased cycling in the village during lockdown has re-branded as Sedgefield BAT – Bicycles and Active Travel. This follows lots of conversations with people who, in addition to taking up or re-starting cycling were walking or running more and had ideas for improving the facilities for those who wanted to get around on two feet as well as two wheels.

The Facebook page now has 143 members - you can find it by searching Facebook for Sedgefield Bicycles and Active Travel – and we would love to hear from you there if you have any ideas about improvements we can work towards. Some of the ideas raised already include:

- A 20mph speed limit throughout the village.
- Increased cycle parking, including a pop-up bike park at the Farmers' Market.
- Improvements to the traffic 'chicanes' in the village to allow cyclists to get through more safely.
- Introducing traffic restrictions to make cars use the bypass rather than cutting through the centre of the village.
- Improvements to dropped kerbs and pedestrian crossings.
- Joining up the shared cycleways/paths around the village and the local area.

We would love to hear any opinions you have about these ideas or other thoughts you have about how to make improvements.

We are still waiting on news regarding the A689 cycleway improvements which have gone to Parliament and we will keep you informed. We also have one member of the group who is interested in starting a Bike Bank to recycle and lend out bikes to people to try before they decide what is best for them.

We had our stall at the Farmers Market in May, and will be there again next time where we will again be offering basic safety checks, so if you've just got your bike out of the garage or want it adjusting for you do please come over to see us!



Mark Darling, ready to check bikes at the May Farmers Market

### Sedgefield Farmers Market is set to expand.

New produce and a return to Community stalls and music has been signalled - all very cautiously of course! **See page 8 for more**



## Walk For Autism: Update and a huge THANK YOU

As the final day for fundraising comes to a close, I'd like to share the fantastic achievements for this cause. The school, pupils and staff are proud to say that the final total was, including gift aid, £10,995. We set out to raise £100 and my hope was to simply raise awareness of autism and try and help the charity along the way.

This total and the numbers that have got involved in whatever capacity has blown me away. I just wanted to let you know how the story has played out. I now hope to keep the momentum going here at Sedgefield and keep raising awareness with our young people in the hope we, as a society, can support people with a diagnosis of autism to lead as normal and fully inclusive life.

Amy McGowan

SENCo and Designated Teacher



Some of the staff and students from Sedgefield Community College who participated in Walk for Autism

## Go Well Heart Challenge

Over the last few weeks at Sedgefield Hardwick, we have been taking part in the 'Go Well Heart Project'. Some of our children have been selected to take part in a 'top secret' research mission! They have been provided with their own bag of special sporting equipment including footballs, tennis rackets, skipping ropes, frisbees and training cones, and each week they need to complete two challenges aimed at keeping everybody fit and healthy!

So far, these challenges have included 'Through The Gates', where our researchers had to accurately direct a ball through cones in order to score goals, and 'Mountain Climber', where the researchers had to climb enough steps to scale Roseberry Topping or even Ben Nevis!

Researchers in Year 3 have especially liked being able to design their own tasks. "It gave me a good challenge to see what I could do and what I had learnt from the other tasks!" said one researcher.

All of our participants of the Go Well Heart Challenge are super excited to complete the final challenges in the programme and report back with their findings!



A Go Well Heart Challenge researcher at Sedgefield Hardwick

## Bikeability at Sedgefield Primary School!

This term, a thrilling event took place at Sedgefield Primary School – Bikeability arrived! The pupils found this an exciting event as they knew how much fun lay ahead of them. This important lesson taught the children how to safely and securely ride a bike on the road. Two experienced instructors trained pupils in Class 5 for four continuous days. The aim was to pass levels 1 and 2.

The first level was taught in the school playground and focused on teaching the children how to safely ride their bikes and use hand manoeuvres. However, level 2 was a bit more challenging as they were taking their skills onto the public roads around Sedgefield.

The wise and safe instructors taught the eager children how to do many important and useful biking skills: checking over their bikes using the M check, signalling to cars when turning, checking over their shoulders and how to be correctly positioned on the road.

It was vital that the children were sensible and respectful to the demonstrators, otherwise they would be unsure on what to do and make a mistake on the road! Instructors informed teachers that Sedgefield Primary pupils' behaviour was exemplary!

Yvie Gibson, age 10 stated, "I found Bikeability very exciting and it was very refreshing to be out in nature for half a day throughout the week."

Emilia Heslop Class 5



Pupils from Sedgefield Primary School participating in Bikeability



## Cricket crazy!

Lucy Pringle from Chance to Shine spent several weeks working with Years 2,3,4 & 5 to improve the children's cricketing skills, whilst having fun. Our staff also benefitted from an evening of whole staff training.

The whole school is looking forward to a cricket competition on 7 July on the school field where we will enjoy several competitive games of fun cricket throughout the day.

It is great news to have these events returning to school life at Sedgefield Primary.

## Want to try beekeeping?

Check out the opportunity on Page 8





## BUSINESS UPDATE

### First for UK anatomy at NETPark

The UK's first Stratasys J750 Digital Anatomy 3D Printer has been installed at CPI's National Healthcare Photonics Centre at NETPark by UK company Laser Lines.

The 3D printer can produce incredibly realistic body parts based on actual patient-specific scan data. For example, surgeons who want to be able to practise before an operation takes place can print an exact replica of the patient's organ. The surgeon can print the part as many times as needed before the procedure. The anatomical models, let surgical teams, consultants and their patients make better-informed decisions before embarking on surgery or a treatment regime.



*Employee at CPI's National Healthcare Photonics Centre utilising an anatomical model made with Laser Lines' 3D printing technology.*

The materials can be printed to different sizes, strengths and resistances to create accuracy down to a thickness of 14 microns – just a bit bigger than the width of a red blood cell! This makes it an invaluable tool as part of the design and prototyping phase of medical device development. As the first facility in the UK to offer access to this capability, CPI's National Healthcare Photonics Centre will enable its partners to create more personalised MedTech innovations, verify new devices quicker, and minimise associated costs. This important addition could help accelerate the development and commercialisation of new medical devices.

## Your LETTERS

### What a winter's tale!!!

Around four months ago if someone had told me that life could get worse I would not have believed them. COVID was still upon us, going through a second wave, confined to the house, no family face-to-face contact, all activities halted, masks and hand sanitizers at the ready. Then it happened; the central heating boiler started to play up, just as the weather got really cold. It wouldn't stay alight and then wouldn't re-light once it went off.

We called out our local heating engineer and he went through all the usual causes, contacting the manufacturers on several occasions for their supposedly 'expert' advice, really quite similar to how the doctor deals with your ailments especially when you are as old as we are - a process of elimination.

Finally just when we were due to use a very large hammer and end it's days before it ended ours, our engineer who has a wonderful obstinate character in terms of "never to be beaten" finally cracked the problem.

We always try to support our local tradesmen and this was no exception however things got so intense that we would not have been surprised if he had walked away, however he didn't, and in this case we owe a debt of gratitude to Jonathan for his perseverance, his technical ability and his determination to getting the job done!

Well done JPL!

*Gloria and Brian Wills*

*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.*

## SEDGEFIELD NEWS FROM THE PAST

### June 1971 – 50 years ago

**Newspapers were full of reports of the rescue of a miner from Fishburn Colliery.** Mr William Marsden, a deputy at the pit was recovering in Sedgefield General Hospital, having been trapped underground for twelve hours when his leg was caught in a ventilation door.

### June 1921 – 100 years ago

**It was reported in the Shields Daily News on 21 June 1921 that:**

Lunatics belonging to the Stockton Union and housed at the county asylum Sedgefield have intimated through a guardian that they prefer to be known mentally defective.



*Winterton Hospital, previously known as Durham County Lunatic Asylum*

### On 2 June 1921, Easington District Council met.

They considered, at length, a report on pig killing and whether miners who owned pigs should be allowed to kill them at home rather than at the slaughter house. The Council went on to consider plans for a new road between Trimdon and Trimdon Grange and agreed that these be submitted to Sedgefield RDC.

### June 1871 – 150 years ago

At the weekly meeting of the Sunderland Board of Guardians held yesterday with Mr G. Child, vice-chairman, there was discussion about a smallpox epidemic. It was reported that there were 315 cases over a two-week period and concern was expressed about the Sedgefield Asylum. A lunatic pauper had been refused admission by Dr Smith, because there was smallpox in the Workhouse. It was questioned whether the doctor had the authority to do this.

**If you would like to know more about your local history, visit the Facebook site of Sedgefield Local History Society or come along to one of our meetings.**

*Martin F Peagam - The Time Traveller - on behalf of Sedgefield LHS*



## GREENER SEDGEFIELD

As a practical solution to the ever increasing global problem of plastic pollution, the use of eco bricks has been suggested as one way to tackle it. Eco brick is a plastic bottle tightly filled with non recyclable plastic, basically any plastic from household rubbish that can't be recycled, and used in construction for building shelters, garden furniture or even playgrounds. It is regarded as a fun family activity and even having a therapeutic impact. Sounds like a good idea? Let's dig a bit deeper.

In many parts of the world where there are no proper recycling facilities and the locals are drowning in plastic pollution - often the fault of other countries, trying to use the plastic rubbish in a practical and productive way is definitely a solution - at least a temporary one. With the help of eco bricks, shelters and housing can be provided at a low cost and plastic kept out of landfill and waterways. However, critics say it's just a diversion from the fight against plastic pollution.

There are several concerns about eco bricks, which critics say should be called bottle bricks instead as there isn't much "eco" about them. One of the main worries is that if the eco bricks are not packed tightly enough, they are not reliable building material, as they may collapse under the weight of the construction, jeopardising people's safety as well as releasing all the plastic back into biosphere.

Another concern is that if the plastic inside the bottle is not clean, food debris can cause methane to build up which can break the entire brick. Often eco brick buildings have at least part of the bottle exposed which reduces the life expectancy of the construction even further as plastic gets brittle in the UV light and breaks down. And we can't ignore the fact that eco brick making takes some recyclable plastic out of circulation.

So are the eco bricks/bottle bricks good or bad? There are definitely (temporary) benefits in some parts of the world until a better solution is found, but things are completely different here. Much of the plastic we stuff into eco bricks is recyclable here - bottles collected with kerbside recycling, bread bags, carrier bags, even the inside of cereal packets taken to supermarkets for recycling. Even crisp packets are recyclable under TerraCycle scheme, although it's not easy to find drop off points for these nearby. Anything that isn't recycled is incinerated, providing heat for homes. Nothing ends up in landfill. Eco bricks may be a solution elsewhere but they make no sense here. And we should definitely not fill bottles with our rubbish and dispatch them to other countries, which are already suffocating under our rubbish.

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY

### JUNE 2021

#### What will you be doing on 1 June?

I will be taking part in The Wildlife Trust's launch of this year's 30 Days Wild campaign by having a Big Wild Breakfast. I am not sure what to do yet; it could be an early visit to a reserve bird watching with a bacon sandwich, or perhaps butterflies and bagels, worms and waffles or toads and toast in the garden. Either way I will start my 30 Days Wild by spending 30 minutes observing wildlife, along with my breakfast.

#### The Wildlife Trusts invite everyone to see how much wildlife they can spot in just 30 minutes. It's a breakfast bio-blitz!

The 30 Days Wild annual challenge has had more than a million participants to date – a record 650,000 people took part in 2020 alone. Every year, people sign up to do a 'random act of wildness' every day for 30 days in June. Popular activities include listening to birdsong, taking wildlife photographs and planting seeds.

#### 30 Days Wild has been proven to boost your health, happiness and your sense of connection to nature.

If you register to take part in 30 Days Wild you get a Big Wild Breakfast nature 'bingo' placemat to download, a bundle of educational and fun resources, top technical tips from wildlife webcam experts, details on how to record your breakfast bio-blitz nature spots, wildlife guides, how-to guides, a fun quiz event and much more.

There's a pack of wild ideas with options for schools, care homes and businesses to take part too. Thousands of people share their own top tips and inspiration via the 30 Days Wild Facebook and Twitter communities.

In 2020, a five-year review of 30 Days Wild participants, run in conjunction with the University of Derby, found that people reported they felt happier and healthier from taking part, with positive effects lasting for up to two months afterwards. What could be better than making time for yourself and connecting with nature for just a few moments of your day?

**It's fun, free and easy - and after such a challenging year, we've never needed nature more! Will you join me this year?**



*Photos above copyright  
Evie and Tom Photography  
All photos below copyright  
Matthew Roberts*



**Sign up at [www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild)**



## William of Durham and Walter de Merton

by Alex Priestley-Leach

Sedgefield's position in global history is mightier than most, having played host to a President of the United States of America and regular convergences of news crews during every election. This is recent history however, and Sedgefield's prominence can be found to stretch back further; with two residents founding colleges that have educated a prime minister, a president, the breaker of the four-minute mile and the writers of the waste land, the Chronicles of Narnia, Ozymandias, and I'm Alan Partridge. Referred to here are alumni of two Oxford colleges – University College and Merton College, founded by William of Sedgefield/Durham and Walter de Merton respectively. Both have links to Sedgefield that could be and should be embraced. Unfortunately, owing to these colleges being founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the founders' lives are somewhat difficult to patch together, explaining how their historical links have been lost to mists of time. University College was founded when William left money to support education of divinity after his death in 1249. In many records he is known as William of Durham – this is how he is referred to during his time being educated in Paris, as an archdeacon in Caux and practicing in Rouen. However, one record differs.

*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. The Durham Assize Role can be found in the Surtees Society Vol. 127 (1916) p. 33 (which can be found online). A P-L*

## Bitten off more than you can chew?

**Bought a puppy during lockdown and thinking you might have bitten off more than you can chew? We might be able to help...**

If you've found yourself in the position of no longer being able to care for your pup, it could be the perfect opportunity for it to become a new police recruit.

Our Dog Support Unit is looking for new dogs to join the team, working with officers as Specialist Support Dogs on a wider range of jobs like PD Lottie was doing this morning.

If your dog likes to play, then they could be an ideal candidate for the next course starting later this year.

Officers are specifically looking to recruit from working dog breeds such as Labradors or Spaniels, that are 12 months to a maximum of two years old.

If you would like to put your dog forward, please email Ann Younghusband at [ann.younghusband@durham.police.uk](mailto:ann.younghusband@durham.police.uk) for more details.



PD Lottie and PC Ian Squire

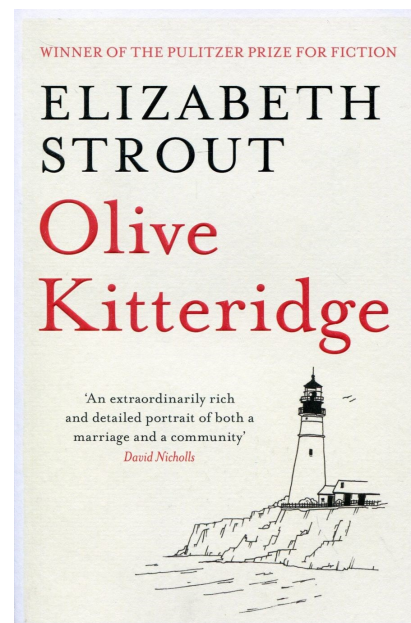
In a Durham Assize Roll of 1242, there is an entry concerning our man of the cloth. 'Ecclesia de Warmue esse debet de donacione domini Episcopi. Magister Willelmus de segefield eam tenet de dono Ricardi Episcopi secundi'. For those that find their school Latin lacking, do not worry, the Sedgefield News is nunquam non paratus, translating it as 'The Church of Wearmouth ought to be from the gift of the Lord Bishop. Master William of Sedgefield holds it from the gift of Bishop Richard the Second [Richard Poore, Bishop of Durham (1229-37)].'

The founder of University College was rector of Bishopwearmouth (Church of Wearmouth) in the 1240s and thus can be assumed to be the same William. It has been suggested by the college archivist, Dr Robin Darwall-Smith, that William was 'of Durham' when travelling to places that might not know of Sedgefield so as to avoid confusion (fortunately, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century information age, residents never have to simplify to such an extent).

Here then is strong (for medieval standards) evidence of an Oxford college founder coming from Sedgefield.

But our town has never been afraid of punching above its weight. See next month for the conclusion of Alex's study.

## Sedgefield U3A Book Club



The book is a series of connected individual stories and Olive is the link through them all. This collection of complete stories is about the neighbours, students, people that Olive knows, their hopes, aspirations, mistakes and successes.

Olive is a "bulldozer" of a woman, she's brusque, difficult to like and rarely shows any compassion for others or understanding; apart from three occasions: a suicidal boy, an ex-student; an anorexic girl; and the young man who holds a group of people, including Olive, hostage at gun point in the hospital. Sadly, but not surprisingly, Olive has few friends. Her lack of understanding has caused a chasm to develop between her and her son. This difficult, prickly relationship led to some considerable discussion in the group.

Olive is difficult to like, fascinating to analyse and, as her husband Henry says, she has never, ever apologised!

What we did all agree upon, was Elizabeth Strout's wonderful writing. The descriptive passages took the reader along the roads Henry was driving along. The superbly evocative descriptive sections of the coast were wonderful. The characterisation was detailed and intense; how else could we learn so much about this prickly awkward person and dislike her so much, but also understand what made her tick? Several criticisms were made about the negativity in the book, is true life really that sad and lonely? One member commented "There is nothing uplifting in the book."

This was contentious book choice; the final scores ranged from several tens down to a four; with an average of 6.4.



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

## The Witham Art Gallery

Two exhibitions of local artists will be hosted during June at the Witham, Barnard castle, both celebrating the nature and landscapes of Co. Durham & the North East, but in totally different ways. Simon Pell moved to Barnard Castle in 1987 after having studied at the Slade & worked as a set designer for the Castle Players, staging Shakespeare at the Bowes museum. His exhibition at the Witham is an exploration of the local landscape in vivid colour, employing a combination of techniques to create vibrant brilliant renderings of nearby scenes he has photographed. Gill Kopka works mainly in pencil & watercolour, and represents nature much more faithfully. Her work will be exhibited from 16<sup>th</sup> June-13<sup>th</sup> July.

<https://thewitham.org.uk/exhibitions/>

## Hardwick Hall Events

Hardwick Hall is of course a fantastic venue for outdoor music events like Hardwick live, which is returning to Sedgefield in August (tickets available now at [hardwickfestival.co.uk](http://hardwickfestival.co.uk)) but live music is returning to the grounds long before that. On Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> June a mass karaoke sing-along event called 'Kroud Karaoke' will be held. Tickets are sold by the table (of 4 or of 6), and catering is available [hardwickhallhotel.co.uk/events/kroud-karaoke-night](http://hardwickhallhotel.co.uk/events/kroud-karaoke-night).



## Local Theatre Returns

Northern Stage theatre company has launched several outdoor performances to local audiences on our doorsteps. The initiative, entitled, *Out On The Toon* will be totally free & will visit Durham, Consett & Stockton among other venues throughout June. Visit [www.northernstage.co.uk/Event/neighbourhood-events](http://www.northernstage.co.uk/Event/neighbourhood-events) for venues & times.



A weather-proof alternative for those happy to get their theatre fix at home comes from Elysium Theatre Company, which has released 5 new online plays. Elysium is an independent award-winning theatre company based in Durham. Their latest works, *The Covid Monologues*, were released due to the closure of theatres across the country & are available to view online for free. Find *Elysium Theatre Company* on Facebook for news & links.

## Nightingale Niceties

Spennymoor's new arts & crafts outlet Nightingale Niceties has announced a programme of workshops during June both for kids & adults. The store opened in 2019 but unfortunately was forced to close its doors by government edict within 6 months. Newly reopened, it offers unique gifts & homeware as well as fun and informative workshops, both for adults and for children, while also supporting 25 local traders. Workshop numbers are still limited & are filled early so please book well in advance. Visit [www.nightingalesniceties.co.uk](http://www.nightingalesniceties.co.uk) for full programme of events & to browse the store.



## Sedgefield Lyric Singers

Sedgefield Lyric's Youth Choir has been working with Ed Carter, the Artist In Residence at Hardwick Park. They are creating a performance piece based on an old poem about the Park. The Lyric Singers will also be working with Ed over the next few months to create their own Hardwick based composition. It is hoped that these works will be performed in The Park as part of a Spring festival in 2022. Singers eagerly await further Government clarification as to when large group indoor singing will be permitted.

## Poems in a Pandemic

Sedgefield's Marie Barrigan and Angela Richardson of Hetton-Le-Hole have compiled an anthology of art & poetry journaling the experiences of social care staff and those they supported during the COVID crisis.

*Poems in a Pandemic* is a collection of over 100 poems and 10 pieces of Art offering insights into the most beautiful and painful moments of the pandemic, as experienced by carers and cared-for in social care.

Contact [marie@acetraining.uk](mailto:marie@acetraining.uk) to order a copy. The volume costs £25 +P&P. Ace training is a not for profit company, dedicated to the supporting social care sector.

## Falling On Your Feet

Helix Arts, in partnership with Durham County Council, has launched a fantastic initiative to get people up and dancing both at home and at Eastlea Community Centre, Seaham. The programme, aimed at those over the age of 65, offers weekly classes with professional dancers while encouraging mobility, combatting the risk of falls, and benefitting the mental health of participants. Classes in June run each Thursday morning 11:00-12:30 from 10 June to 22 July. Technical support is available if any software issues arise. Book places online at [www.helixarts.com/foyf.php](http://www.helixarts.com/foyf.php)



## DIARY & EVENTS

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

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

### U3A Day June 2nd 2021

An opportunity to learn more about the opportunities and new experiences that come from being no longer in full-time employment or bringing up children.

See what amazing and diverse things that our members get up to and challenge preconceptions of what being an older adult means.

The 2021 event will be enhanced by the multitude of projects, activities, outcomes and new approaches to communication that have emerged as a consequence of the 2020 Pandemic Lockdown period.

Check out the National Website or see what is happening on your doorstep by visiting the local Sedgefield and District u3a website for lots of information and contact details for forthcoming events.

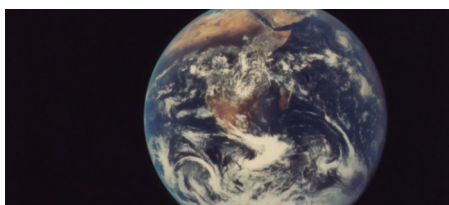


Science and Industry Group  
visit to Hitachi

### Love Exploring Space Walk

Blast off at Hardwick Park with a brand new space walk. Download the 'Love Exploring' app, find the augmented reality planets and complete the themed quiz questions on this fun, interactive walk around the park.

The app is available on Apple and Android devices.



### Space Walk

🕒 35 mins 🧑 6-106 yrs

### Get outdoors and enjoy weekly walks

As part of National Walking Month, we are promoting Walk Durham, a programme which covers the whole of the county. Walk Durham offers a variety of opportunities for people interested in walking, supporting people to take those first gentle steps through to weekly wellbeing walks.

As many people may not have been active during lockdown a series of short walks to help build confidence and fitness levels will be offered. Leaders have been fully trained and will ensure that no-one is left behind. The programme will see the return of four volunteer-led walks in Spennymoor, Witton Gilbert, Beamish and Annfield Plain from Monday 24 May.

Meet new people

All walks are being held in line with current coronavirus restrictions in the interest of public safety.

Find out more at [www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham](http://www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham)

### Thank you from the Bloomers

The Sedgefield in Bloom team are very grateful to all those kind people who have donated plants, cash and muscle to help our efforts along.

At the last count, the pink posse topped an incredible 19 members, turning out regularly on Wednesdays from 10 am. If you'd like to join us, come along to Ceddesfeld Hall gardens, armed only with enthusiasm. We'll supply the togs and tools. Plants still gratefully received too.

For further details, contact Norma on 01740 620091 or email [norma@neal.myzen.co.uk](mailto:norma@neal.myzen.co.uk).



## SEDFIELD LIBRARY

Tel: 0300 026 9521

The library is open again with temporary opening hours:

**Wednesday 9:30 to 12:30**

**Thursday 9:30 to 16:30 (closed for lunch from 12:30 to 13:30)**

**Friday 13:30 to 17:30**

**Saturday 9:30 to 12:30**

Browsing will be limited to 20 mins and only 4 visitors allowed at a time, so you may be asked to queue patiently outside.

See [www.durham.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.durham.gov.uk/libraries) for updates and information and to updated with any service changes.

Also the Facebook page [CountyDurhamLibraries](https://www.facebook.com/CountyDurhamLibraries)

is absolutely full of interest. We recommend following them.

### Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group have 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 one time.

Unfortunately, refreshments will NOT be available as there is no access to the kitchen, please bring your own snacks/drinks.

£3 per family.

Please join the Facebook page for further updates or to ask any questions: "Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group".

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon Maddie, Deborah & Lynsey



## Hedging the view to the west

At the beginning of May we planted a 100m mixed native hedgerow to make up the site's western boundary.

Yes, it's been another busy month for the volunteers at the Woodland & Wildlife Project. The 420 trees were donated by The Woodland Trust as part of their 'free trees for communities' initiative. The wildlife tree pack included blackthorn, hawthorn, rowan and hazel which were planted as a hedge. The pack also included silver birch and oak which were planted across the site.

Our last group session focused on mulching the new hedgerow with woodchip that NETPark no longer required. Although it was hard work it was a great morning working in the sun and chatting with a fantastic group of people.

With the support of Sedgefield Development Trust and NETPark, the Woodland and Wildlife Project continues to develop a space for nature and the local community.

If you would like to know more or to volunteer with us, please contact Melissa at [woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk) or join our facebook page - Woodland & Wildlife, Sedgefield.



## Exciting chance to become a Beekeeper

The apiary at Hardwick Hall Hotel Gardens began life back in the Autumn of 2015. We are grateful for the support of SDT, the management of the hotel, and the Head Gardener at Hardwick. Over these years, bees and beekeepers have come and gone, having moved away or had a change of circumstances, so The Bees at Hardwick would like a few more beekeepers! Would you like to learn the craft?

A beginners' introductory course is to be offered locally this Summer for people from Sedgefield and the surrounding villages. This will be delivered by experienced beekeepers from Aycliffe Beekeepers Association (ABKA). On completion of the course, you may be offered the opportunity to assist in looking after bees in the apiary in Hardwick Gardens. You will be supervised by experienced beekeepers. Practical sessions are also held at the apiary belonging to ABKA in Newton Aycliffe.

If you would like to know more about the training opportunities, please contact Chris Barker on 07421 471581. To find out more about the Hardwick Gardens apiary, contact Clare Midgley on 07515 644194.

## Sedgefield Farmers Market

COVID-19 forced us to keep the market confined, for safety, but now we can address the huge number of requests we have received from would-be traders.

**At the market on June 6th, prepare to encounter Kombucha!** If you've never heard of it, Malcolm Robertson will explain all about this refreshing and healthy drink.

**Elano's Cakes & Bakes** specialises in apple bakes from local fruit, alongside plenty of other teatime treats.

**Our free Charity/Community stall**, released from lockdown confinement is now available again. The summer months are spoken for but you can book a slot from October. Email Anne Gladwin at [charitystall@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:charitystall@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk)



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## CEDDESFIELD HALL

Home of Sedgefield Community Association (SCA) 

**On the way at last - fingers crossed!**

The Trustees are very pleased that a partial, limited reopening of activities for sections and groups has begun. The rule of 6 (or two households) applies to all indoor spaces and due to safety restrictions at Ceddesfeld, the maximum capacity for the main hall is limited to 24 people and the capacity limit for the smaller upstairs rooms is 12. Distance, ventilation, and hygiene are the key words, and all groups and sections will follow the strict Covid secure guidelines outlined on the SCA risk assessment, as well as their own 'Hirers' risk assessment.

Sedgefield Toddler Group, Art Group, Ceddesfolk, Lirica, Northumbrian Pipers, North Eastern Concertina Players, Ukulele Group, Squash Club and Youth Choir have all planned for a cautious, safe return between May 17<sup>th</sup> & June 21<sup>st</sup>. They are looking forward to resuming their activities.

Hopefully, after step 4 (no earlier than June 21<sup>st</sup>) legal limits on social distancing and contact will be lifted, so larger groups like the Craft Club, Carpet Bowls, Pop-in, Handbell Ringers, Ladies Escape, Local History Society, Lyric Singers etc., will be able to return. Larger events, family celebrations and parties will be allowed too - a lot to catch up on!

**All things being well, SCA hope to have the bar open by the end of June.** A lot of work has already gone into getting the place ready. SCA wish to thank **Cornforth Industrial Cleaning Ltd**, for their deep clean service in the bar and lounge, which was provided, free of charge. This followed the replacing of the beer lines and refurbishment of the beer cellar. The place is looking good, and ready to be back in full use. A card payment system is to be introduced. The bar needs re-stocking, and we also need an extended list of volunteers who can help to man the bar during the week and for weekend events and activities. Being involved with the running of the bar can be great fun, and it is a great way to make new friends and be involved. If you are interested, please do get in touch via the website email address.

An updated risk assessment can be found on the SCA website.

For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 620607, John on 620042, Sarah on 622185 or visit our website at [www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk)



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## SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### Underage drinking

As summer belatedly arrives, it seems that lighter evenings and some sunshine has led to a spate of underage drinking in Sedgefield by groups of young people.

A Town Councillor and others have received complaints about the disgraceful behaviour of teenagers in the "village" centre in the vicinity of Pizza Castle/ King Chef area. Girls urinating on the Church grass, staggering drunk across the road in front of traffic and throwing up on the pavement. Visitors to our Village have stated that they feel unsafe in our village centre. Particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings. If you witness such behaviour, then you are urged you to contact the local police. The increased teenage antisocial behaviour will be highlighted to the Town Council, so that they can also escalate to the police.

This is only a small example, gatherings have also occurred in the Showfield which result in littering, vandalism, urinating in full view, and foul language. After one such occurrence two black bin liners of rubbish were collected by volunteers.

Police have seized quantities of alcohol from youngsters and issued warnings which can lead to a criminal record for antisocial behaviour. Police are asking parents to please be aware of where your children are.

### Parcel Scams

Never pay online to recover a 'lost' or undelivered parcel. Report any strange emails asking for payment for parcels to be re-delivered to [reportphishing@gov.uk](mailto:reportphishing@gov.uk). As of 31st March 2021, they had received more than 5.5 million such reports, allowing them to remove more than 41,000 scams and take down 81,000 malicious websites.

Remember, if you are a witness to any crime or antisocial behaviour you can report it to police on 101 or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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## SPORTS UPDATE

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

The return to full grass roots sports activity in Sedgefield is getting closer. In the last month, both squash and rugby have resumed action after a long, long break. Nationally, one of the biggest grass roots sports participation initiatives that is yet to re-start is parkrun (though some junior events are already back). The national parkrun team has been working towards a full return from Saturday 5 June, but needs permission from the landowners where the events are held. As I type this, that hasn't been confirmed everywhere, including for parkruns on Durham County Council land, such as Sedgefield. Keep an eye on the parkrun Facebook pages ([sedgefieldparkrun](https://www.facebook.com/sedgefieldparkrun) and [sedgefieldjuniorparkrun](https://www.facebook.com/sedgefieldjuniorparkrun)) and @sedgeparkrun on Twitter for the latest news.

Of course, it's worth once again noting that the fact that Sedgefield's sports clubs are active once again is testament to all of the volunteers in those organisations who have worked so hard to make that possible.

### Cricket

The optimism in last month's report over the prospects for Sedgefield CC's senior teams seems to have been well founded. After five rounds of matches, the three teams had suffered only one defeat between them, and all are loftily placed in their divisions, regarded as genuine promotion candidates.

With no less than 10 more Sedgefield teams operating across junior boys and girls, women's and social cricket, the ground is in almost constant use. The club is in great shape - physically, socially and cricket wise - so do go along and see what all the fuss is about. Register for social membership by visiting the website at [www.MyClubhouse.co.uk/SedgefieldCC](http://www.MyClubhouse.co.uk/SedgefieldCC).

### Squash

After 15 months of closure or limited periods of heavily restricted play, Sedgefield Squash Club was finally able to re-open its doors on 17 May for "normal" squash. This was a huge relief for the club!

During lockdown, the club used the time well, with the installation of a glass back wall for Court 1 and a raft of other interior improvements, all of which enhance the squash experience for members. And the patience of the members has been rewarded with a 70% reduction on subscription fees for the 2021-22 season. So from the members to the committee: thank you!

### Rugby Union

Sedgefield District Rugby Club has returned to action in line with the RFU's Return to Rugby roadmap. Lockdown rustiness has been worked out with good numbers turning up for sessions at the new Hardwick Hall Hotel training facilities. That has also been reflected in fixtures played under adapted laws against stronger teams, with some great endeavour and a strong finish through late tries from Ryan Towler and Dom Ryan in a 35-10 defeat at Hartlepool RFC. There was also some good attacking play in an entertaining 56-24 defeat at Stockton, with Sedgefield scores coming from James Allison, Will Johnson, David Galloway and John Pope.

Sedgefield will look to build on this with more fixtures planned against Billingham and Washington, before a return to full contact for the new season in September. Club updates can be found via [www.facebook.com/sedgefield.districtrugby](https://www.facebook.com/sedgefield.districtrugby).



© Iwan Edwards 2021

*Sedgefield District Rugby Club's James Allison races clear on his way to score against Stockton*

## Athletics

Like other sports in Sedgefield, athletics is starting to get back to a degree of normality and that has been reflected in a marked increase in group activities involving Sedgefield Harriers. Some of the club's regular training sessions are proving to be very popular, with seniors gathering outdoors on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and juniors meeting on Wednesday evenings at Sedgefield Community College (with an online pre-booking system). Strength and conditioning will be back for Monday nights in the autumn. The much-loved Sunday morning social runs have also returned, with the likes of Stuart Park and John Haycock leading Harriers on a dazzling variety of routes in the areas surrounding Sedgefield. Those runners have an extra motivation this year, as they are collectively attempting to complete the distance between Sedgefield, County Durham and Sedgefield, South Africa, during their Sunday morning runs. So far, they have completed over 7,000 miles and are on schedule to reach their target very soon.

Talking of long runs, Harriers Jane Spink and Stuart Park will be setting out to both run 100 miles over the bank holiday weekend at the end of May, with various club support runners joining them along the way. Jane and Stuart are both using their run to raise funds for good causes – you can find out more at [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-hive-of-sedgefield](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-hive-of-sedgefield) and [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stuartpark](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stuartpark).

### Football

Although it has been anything but a normal football season, as usual, May did see it draw to an end for senior teams. It has been a hectic four or five weeks for St Edmund's FC - at one stage, the team played five games in 11 days. The main disappointment was being knocked out of the County Cup 6-5 on penalties after drawing 2-2 at full time. With three league games left (at the time of writing) and a quarter final in the Heart Foundation Cup to look forward to, the club hopes to progress in that cup and secure a top four finish in the top division of the Durham District League.

That's all for this month. As usual, please send any sports news to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com).