

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

May 2022 Edition

Deadline for June - Sunday 15 May

All the fun of the Fayre

Saturday 21 May sees the return of Sedgefield's popular Mediaeval Fayre on the Village Green and Ceddesfeld Hall.



The Fayre is SCA's largest and longest standing community event. As well as being a great family day out, which attracts hundreds of visitors to the town, it is also an important source of income for the SCA, contributing to the day-to-day running of Ceddesfeld Hall, which benefits all residents.



SCA usually run several community stalls (books, toys, bric-a-brac, grocery/tins etc), stocked with donations from residents, collected during the house-to-house visits in

the week running up to the fayre. This year things are different! It was felt and agreed that because of continued high cases of Covid infection in the community, knocking on residents' doors, and asking volunteers to sort through household items was not appropriate this year. Instead, there will be two SCA tombola stalls, one for grown-ups and one for children and we are asking residents to donate a tombola prize (suitable for either child or adult), to be dropped in to Ceddesfeld Hall bar any evening (Monday to Friday from 7.30 pm) or to be collected by contacting one of the numbers below.

Donations need to be made by Wednesday 18 May



A much wider range of unusual craft stalls have been organised to replace the community stalls, so there will still be plenty of lovely things to see and buy. Help on the day is also very much needed; to carry across, set up, take down and carry back gazebos (and weights) and to set up the performance arena in the middle of the green. We're looking for strong, fit people to help between 7:30am to 9am and from 4pm to 5:30 pm. The gazebos are easily erected, best done with 4 people, one on each corner.



SCA is truly delighted to resurrect the annual Mediaeval Fayre following a two-year absence. A very small management committee organise the event, but it is not possible for them to put everything out on the day – hence this very important and necessary plea for help.

If you, your friends, team or colleagues can help, please do get in touch soon.

Contact info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk or telephone one of the team:

Tony and Sarah 01740 622185

John 01740 620042

Maggie 07970 761844

Science Investigators

Science Week has once again been a real triumph in Sedgefield Primary School, and we certainly believe that we have succeeded in imbuing our children with an even greater passion for the subject. Although it looked a little bit different this year, the enthusiasm and buzz around the school has not changed at all.

During the week, pupils carried out a variety of investigations, some linked to the current theme 'Growth'. In Reception, the children planted potatoes, beans, onions, tomatoes, and sunflower seeds. They are now very excited to watch how they change and grow over the next few months. In Year 4, we started with a couple of demonstrations. In one, we used kitchen roll, felt tip pens and water to 'grow a rainbow'. Afterwards, the pupils were presented with the

'Egg Drop Challenge'. Here, each group had to design and construct a structure (with limited budget, materials and timescale) to protect an egg. This was the ideal opportunity for the children to demonstrate inventiveness and use problem-solving strategies to overcome the challenge.

Fittingly, this inspiring week culminated with the task of designing a poster on the theme of 'Growth', with the best five entries being chosen to represent our school in the British Science Week 2022 poster competition. This proved to be a very difficult task for our judge, Dr Gill, as the standard of entries was exceptional. Fantastic work Sedgefield Primary!



Fantastic fundraising

Over the past few weeks, at Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School, a few Year 6 children have taken it upon themselves, to raise an astonishing amount of money for a number of charities, including The Dogs Trust, Cancer Research UK and the Ukrainian Appeal. Through their extraordinary efforts and amazing ideas they have raised over £1,500. The whole school community has supported the endeavours of their inspiring journey to help others in need.



The Year 6 pupils managed to achieve this remarkable goal by selling baked goods and wrist-wear which were gratefully received. Hannah (one of the Year 6 fundraisers) stated, "I have designed these yellow and blue wristbands which are embossed with 'I stand with Ukraine' and I have sold them at many places. Also, a famous celebrity called Sara Davies (from Dragons' Den) got in touch with me through social media and bought four bracelets."

This is only the beginning of their fundraising experience and all the Year 6 fundraisers (Lily, Ben, Ellie, Eva-Grace, Rosie, Alicia, Jasper and Amelia) agreed, "We want to thank all the children and staff for their generous donations, without them we would never have achieved what we set out to do."



Nursery self-care

Sedgefield Primary School's Nursery Class have been learning all about the importance of having a healthy lifestyle. They have been chopping up and tasting a range of fruit and vegetables. To develop their speaking and listening skills we have been talking about what they need to eat and drink to keep their bodies healthy. They have been developing their gross motor skills by moving in a variety of different ways both in the indoor and outdoor classroom. They have discussed why it is important to exercise and how this makes us feel good. To further develop their knowledge and understanding of the world they have been investigating personal hygiene; we have discussed the importance of washing our hands and looking after our teeth.



World Class Schools

In 2019, Sedgefield Community College achieved World Class School status, and this year we are reaccrediting. As part of this process, six of our World Class students travelled to Warwickshire to participate in a project at Houlton School, Rugby.

Our students had to liaise with students at other World Class Schools in preparation for the event and worked really hard to design and create tree hangings, a sign and a sculpture to reflect the values of Houlton School. Students organised the project entirely by themselves, including producing a budget, a risk assessment, an environmental report, minutes of meetings and media to promote their work. It was a busy but exciting time for the students involved and we are incredibly proud of them.

We will find out later in the year whether our reaccreditation has been successful!

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECT NEWS

Repair Café update

Over the last few months a group have been meeting monthly at Sedgefield Parish Hall to look at holding a local repair café. We wanted to share an update with the wider community, and answer some basic questions:



What is a repair café?

A repair café serves two main purposes. It reduces the number of items going to landfill, and it is an opportunity for people to come together to develop their practical skills. Individuals with repairing skills offer their services to try to repair broken items brought to the café by members of the public. The items would be repaired there and then if possible. At the moment we are planning to hold a monthly meeting, probably on a Saturday for 3-4 hours.

What can be repaired?

It depends on the specialisms of the repairers! At the moment we have people with a range of skills including sewing, technical, woodworking, ceramic, bikes, lawn mowers and fishing rods. The skills available would be advertised in advance of the monthly meeting so that people would know what was available.

Are there any restrictions?

Yes! Items need to be small enough to be brought to the venue. The repairers assess the item and decide if it can be repaired – which will not always be the case. We want to encourage repairing, so we have spoken to local repair services to make sure we are not taking business away from them. We would not repair white goods – there are many commercial repairers offering that service.

How much will it cost?

The repairs would be carried out on a 'pay as you feel' donation basis. We want to encourage repairing as a culture and recognise that people have different financial circumstances. We don't want cost to be a barrier to coming along.

What about safety?

We don't want to put anyone at risk of injury either repairers or public, so we will do all we can to make sure everyone is safe. Electrical items will need to be PAT tested when they are brought in and before they are taken home to make sure they are safe. People bringing items in for repair will be advised of the risks as part of the first contact.

How can I get involved?

We are building up a bank of volunteers to help run the café. If you have particular repairing skills, or would be willing to help out with the general running of the café get in touch. We are also looking for donations of good quality tools which are surplus to requirements. There will be a stall to take donations of tools and answer questions at the next Sedgefield Farmers Market on 1 May.

When will the Repair Café be open for business?

We are looking at venues and sorting out the paperwork and volunteers, but we aim to hold our first repairing event in June or July. Keep an eye out for more details.

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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Volunteer needed for a key role in delivering the paper each month.

Firstly grateful thanks to everyone who volunteered to deliver Sedgefield News during Covid, and especially to those who have agreed to continue and relieve those of us who are older and in some cases unable to continue. I am now looking for a someone to drive 22 packages of Sedgefield News to the individual deliverers.

Most go to volunteers around Sedgefield itself, but one goes to Foxton. If anyone feels able to help, please get in touch with Judith Edgoose email j.s.edgoose@gmail.com or text on 07899 984464.

P.S. Quick reminder to our delivery volunteers, please do not leave the News sticking out of letterboxes. Thank you.

Sedgefield Development Trust Contact Details. Company Secretary,
3a Front Street, Sedgefield, Co. Durham, TS21 3AT. Telephone no 07572 502904
email: secretary@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk website: www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk



A May Day Market!

Sunday 1 May 8.30 - 12.30

Happy Barista are with us again after their successful start last month, with their own roasted coffee alongside other delicious drinks and somewhere to sit and consider which exciting stall to visit next!



New this month is Pit Wheel Gin, a family run small batch distillery based at Station Town. They are looking forward to introducing anyone (over 18!) to the flavours and expressions they have been developing.

We're also excited to welcome Nikki Reed's Pontop Quails, who will be bringing quail eggs. It's quite some time since we had these fun little eggs on sale at the market so this will be a real treat!

On the Charity Stall this month you'll find Sedgefield Primary School PTFA and as an extra for May we also have the SCA, with us to publicise events such as the Mediaeval Fayre, Jubilee Day and Sedgefield Folk Festival. Isn't it special to have all these events opening up again?

SCA runs on volunteer effort as, of course, does the market, so finally....

All Market Volunteers (and anyone else genuinely interested in helping to keep our market thriving) are invited to a get together in the Oldham Room at Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 12 May. Refreshments provided.

Bees at Hardwick

Dates for your diary:

We will be at Sedgefield Farmers Market on 1 May. Please come and visit us to ask us any questions you might have.

Taster Day Saturday 7 May 10am-1pm. Please contact Lesley on 07856 625007 or via the Facebook group "Bees at Hardwick" to book your place.

Sew Easy

Due to lowering of number restrictions in Parish Hall there are now places in Monday night and Wednesday afternoon sewing groups.

For more information contact Dorothy Anderson on 07773 286743.



STEVE'S NATURE DIARY MAY 2022

As the weather warms up many of us will be spending more time in our gardens and gardeners are being encouraged to install nest boxes and to create habitats that boost insect numbers to help swallows, swifts, and martins as part of a new campaign *Wild About Highflyers*, which is a joint initiative by The Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

This campaign aims to boost numbers of these charismatic migratory birds. I often hear swifts reeling around Sedgefield and have house martins nesting on my house. I didn't realise that swifts and house martins were recently added to the UK Red List, having suffered serious declines in recent decades. It is estimated that almost 60% of UK swifts have disappeared over the last 25 years. Huge declines of insects, habitat loss, and the impacts of climate change – with extreme weather affecting breeding cycles and migration – are the main challenges affecting migratory birds. You can download a new guide that provides gardeners with tips on how they can help swallows, swifts, and martins. Suggestions include:

- Creating a 'bog garden' with plants like marsh-bedstraw and purple loosestrife. Bog gardens provide valuable habitat for frogs, dragonflies, and a wealth of insects, as well as materials that swallows and house martins can use to build nests.
- Adding a swift box to an existing house or including a swift brick in any kind of new build. Ideally, swift boxes face north/north-east to help regulate the internal temperature and are at least five metres above ground.
- Letting a patch of grass grow long, providing vital habitat and food for insects and other wildlife.

Every May I take part in the Plantlife campaign "No Mow May" which basically means the lawnmower stays in the shed for the month of May and I let wildflowers in my lawn bloom, providing a feast of nectar for hungry pollinators. At the end of the month, on the Bank Holiday Weekend, I take part in the "Every Flower Counts" survey, to receive my very own "nectar score" for my lawn. Plantlife are also working with local councils to encourage them to not cut the grass so often, leaving parks and road verges to go wild. They also encourage farmers to consider creating meadows - a three-acre meadow can be home to 9 million flowers producing enough nectar to support ½ million bees every day.

If you are lucky enough to share your homes with nesting swallows, swifts or house martins you will understand how magical these birds are. But also, how vulnerable; with the numbers of those returning each summer dropping year on year. The UK's 30 million gardeners have an important part to play in helping revive their populations - from tailoring planting choices to include insect favourites and embracing bare patches for the benefit of nest building; people can make small scale changes that will reap big rewards. How sad it would be if future generations never know the joy of seeing these wonderful birds in our gardens and green spaces.

You can download your Wild About Highflyers booklet at www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk



SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Spring is here!

As we move into spring and the weather starts to get warmer people are more likely to spend time in their gardens and leave their doors and windows open. Walk-in burglaries do increase during this time, so don't be complacent.

If you are out enjoying your garden, remember to shut and lock all windows and doors on the front of your property. If you cannot see the door or window, then it should be shut and locked.

Always put away gardening equipment, tools, play equipment, bikes, and furniture when you've finished using them.

Prune any bushes or shrubs that block the view of your front garden as this could provide cover for anyone wishing to hide. It is recommended that you keep bushes and shrubs below 1 metre to allow good visibility.

Check that your insurance covers the contents of your shed or outbuildings from theft.

If you are away from home, make your house look occupied, use a timer switch to operate lamps or a TV simulator and leave a radio on.

Keep your shed and gates securely locked by using strong, closed shackle, padlocks to BS EN 12320 standard. Use coach bolts or non-return screws to secure door hinges, hasp and staples.

Install LED dusk to dawn lighting to make sure that your garden, especially doorways, are well lit at night.

Keep your garden fences in good repair and consider adding trellis to discourage anyone climbing over.

Plants such as firethorn, climbing rose or hawthorn can be a powerful deterrent. At the rear and sides, taller fencing with a height of 1.8m – 2m and a lockable gate is recommended to prevent easy access.

Consider gravel driveways and paths, this will make sure you hear anyone approaching your property.

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 and acted on.

Confidential email address:
amy.jorgeson@durham.police.uk

Toddler Tales and Trails, Wednesday 11 May & Saturday 14 May 2022. Taking place in Hardwick Park Outdoor Learning Area followed by the Education Pond. See Hardwick Park Facebook page for booking details.



Your LETTERS

80 years of St George

For most people, April 23 passes by just like any other day of the week. No special celebrations or even a passing nod to England's patron saint and dragon slayer, Saint George. Not so for one revered Sedgefield couple, Les and Marjorie Butler, who recently celebrated their 80th St George's Day together. A dance at Hardwick Army Camp, (now site of Hardwick Road estate) hurriedly created at the outbreak of war in 1939, provided the occasion for their first meeting. After dancing to the wartime melodies of Sedgefield's Fernley Mitchell Band, Les, a new young recruit from Birmingham, walked Marjorie to the gate of her family home at The Hunt Kennels, within sight of the army camp - 565 Searchlight Battery.



Appropriately enough, having signed up with the Royal Artillery, the men of Hardwick Camp had to swap their cap badges for those of the Northumberland Fusiliers - George and the Dragon. Married in 1943, the happy couple celebrated Les' 100th birthday in fine style last year. Maybe Saint George has been keeping a watchful eye on them all these years.

Norma Neal

Mothers Day at St Edmunds

Daffodils, which were very kindly donated by Sedgefield Sainsbury's, were handed out by Rory Gandy and Oscar and Charlie Allen to all mums who attended the Mothering Sunday service at St Edmund's Church.

Chris Rowsby



Making Tracks Railway Society

The MTRS (Making Tracks Railway Society) is based in the old Turners Taxi Office above the Hive in Rectory Row. Our website can be viewed at MTRS.org.uk.

The society was formed in October 2021 and hosted our inaugural Model Railway Exhibition in the Parish Hall on 31 October 2021 which was an excellent success getting many plaudits from other societies for the welcome they received.

We were hosts to model railway societies in the north of England bringing along their club layouts to view and also had a number of trade stands onsite to allow visitors to browse their products on sale.

We meet twice a week on Wednesday and Sunday evenings between 18.30 and 22.00 and would like to invite anyone wishing to know more about our society to come along and view what we are doing and hopefully get involved in the practical aspects of model railways.

Nigel Bill



If you like the sound of that then you might also be interested in the Model Railway Exhibition to be held in Bishop Middleham Village Hall, 10:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday 18 June. The event will feature some 10 working layouts including "Humphrey Road Sidings" by the Raven Group which featured recently in "Hornby" magazine.



Entry is £4 for adults, children 50p (accompanied children up to age 15 go free). Wheelchair users go free.

There will be a café serving bacon butties, hot dogs, sandwiches and drinks. Further information from John Burrows jandeburrows@gmail.com 07870 210269



Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre

PROCLAMATION

A FUN DAY FOR THE FAMILY

Things to do...

On the Green...
Parade and Flower Queen (10 am)
Durham Rams
Black Sheep Morris Dancers
Escafield Mediaeval Knights
Tug-of-War
Walworth Falconry Display
Craft Stalls & Charity Stalls
Fun Fair

In Ceddesfeld Grounds...

Birds of Prey
Acle and Escafield Mediaeval Crafts
Living History
Circus Skills Workshops
Face Painting
Bucking Bronco
Toddlers Fairground Ride

In Ceddesfeld Hall...

SCA Tombola
Real Ale and Bar
All Day Cafe/Refreshments

Any support from willing volunteers on the day, to set up and take down stalls, marshal the parade and man SCA tombola stall please contact Sarah & Tony on 01740 622185 or email info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk
Sponsored and Supported by Local Business

Saturday 21st May
10am-4pm

Ceddesfeld Hall, Rectory Row, Sedgefield,
County Durham, TS21 2EA

www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk



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ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

email: sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

The Beautiful North

Celebrated local painter Jane Spink is artist in residence at The Hive on Rectory Row and has also exhibited at The Manor House and The Temple of Minerva at Hardwick Park in recent years. Her beautiful watercolour and acrylic works are often inspired by the landscapes and terrain of this area and of the wider North East.



During May, she will partner with painter Sarah Drought to stage an exhibition of their work at the fantastic Station Gallery, Richmond, occupying the large and prominent Mezzanine Gallery space. Sarah Drought, also primarily a painter of landscapes and rural scenes, is based in North Yorkshire and has been teaching young artists for over 15 years. Their work will be available to view from 13-25 May.



It is a busy month for fine art enthusiasts generally; David Venables' 'Hewing out the Image' is on show at the Mining Art Gallery, Bishop Auckland, until 12 June - aucklandproject.org. Dog lovers will relish Ushaw College's outdoor presentation of 'Barking – A Celebration of Dogs in Art' - ushaw.org/whatson/barking-a-celebration-of-dogs-in-art available to visit until 3 July. As if that were not enough there will also be an array of talent on display at the Python Gallery at Royal Middlehaven House in Middlesbrough as the Cleveland Art Society hosts their 2022 annual exhibition until 24 June.

Hardwick Festival

Hardwick Festival returns in August 2022 and the line-up features huge names such as Stereophonics, Jake Bugg, The Specials and Seasick Steve alongside many many others.



The event has grown in stature to rank among the biggest highlights of the North East musical calendar and 2022 promises to be another bumper event.

The prestige and calibre of the Hardwick acts continues to go from strength to strength with first headliners The Stereophonics having already headlined Glastonbury and Isle of Wight festivals, and released 8 No.1 albums. The event closes on Sunday with a performance by legendary two-tone pioneers The Specials.

The evergreen and universally beloved Proclaimers will be performing on Sunday 21, as will the talented chart-topping chanteuse Becky Hill, who came to prominence on BBC's The Voice. Tickets are available for the whole weekend, as well as for each day. For details, please visit hardwickfestival.ticketline.co.uk.

Comedy across County Durham

Plenty of laughs to be had this month all across the local area; Durham City welcomes household names Stewart Lee (7 May) and Sarah Millican (25 May) to the Gala Theatre as well as comedy duo Flo & Joan (19 May) and Josh Widdecombe (21 May) - see www.galadurham.co.uk/whats-on.

Comedian Rich Hall showcases his musical side alongside the jokes in his rooting tooting *Hoedown Deluxe* at Stockton Arts Centre on 12 May arconline.co.uk/whats-on/rich-halls-hoedown-deluxe.

Meanwhile, Funny Way to be Comedy at The Witham, Barnard Castle hosts police officer-turned-comic Alfie Moore (7 May) and comedienne Lou Sanders (13 May).

BAMS Concert

On Friday 6 May the second B.A.M.S. concert of the season will see Annemarie Federle (horn) and Dafydd Chapman (Piano) perform beautiful compositions from Beethoven, Debussy and J.S. Bach, among others, at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church.

Both are prodigiously talented young artists and scholars at the Royal Academy of Music, who have between them been variously honoured at a host of competitions including the biennial televised BBC Young Musician 2020, at which Annemarie won the Brass category, and the National Urdd Eisteddfod, which Dafydd has won three times.

Tickets for the event are available at bvemv.orpheusweb.co.uk/BAMSWeb/ticketing.html.

The Bishop Auckland Choral Society will also be performing in May, with their spring concert of light classical favourites "The Gift Of Music" due to be staged at the Town Hall at 7pm on Friday 13 May. Tickets available on the door or from Choir Secretary Sophie Hassall on 01388 834359.

Tim Jasper plays Sunderland Empire

Congratulations to local musician Tim Jasper who recently stepped up to join the band in the *Jersey Boys* tour at Sunderland Empire.



Tim, aged 28, from Rosedale Close in Sedgefield, is currently completing his MA in Musical Direction at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London. Due to the withdrawal of a regular player Tim found himself - at 24 hours notice - learning the Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons' repertoire and deputizing on keys for four successful performances to packed houses. A great achievement for any musician; and a huge well done to Tim on successfully rising to this challenge.

DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

May 2022

- Sunday 1** Sedgefield Farmers Market, Village Green, 8:30am-12:30pm.
- Monday 2** Sedgefield Local History Society, Cragside Upstairs Downstairs by Geoff Hughes. Ceddesfeld Hall 7:45pm. Please contact Suzanne Hopper 01429 882250.
- Wednesday 4** Sedgefield Women's Institute, Annual General Meeting, Parish Hall, 7:15pm.
- Friday 6** U3A, Parish Hall at 2pm. 10th Anniversary Party. All members welcome.
- Monday 9** DIDO, trip to Whitby. Please be outside of the Parish Hall at 9:15am. Returning from Whitby at 3:30pm.
- Wednesday 11** Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch, Sedgefield Social Club at 7pm.
- Thursday 12** Sedgefield Show Planning Committee, Sedgefield Social Club, 7.30pm. New people welcome, email Ian Mason at ian@sedgefieldshow.co.uk.
- Tuesday 17** Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club, invite you to join us for our 35th anniversary celebrations, at the Parish Hall. Celebrations start at 7:30pm. Flower demonstration by Jean McClure titled "Frameworks". All welcome to join this special evening, members free, £5 for non-members.
- Repair Café**, planning meeting, Parish Hall, 7pm-8pm.
- Friday 20** Sedgefield Blues Club, Brave Rival plus support, Sedgefield Parish Hall, doors 7pm
- Saturday 21** Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre, on the Village Green and in Ceddesfeld Hall and Grounds, 10am-4pm.
- Friday 27** Sedgefield Village Veterans, coffee morning, Parish Hall, from 10am.

Mayor's Update

10 March was a beautiful morning and I was invited to unveil a new bench at old Stockton Road. The bench, designed by Walter Howell, was dedicated to Sedgefield in Bloom members past, present and future. Approximately 50 people attended, mainly Bloom members, and following the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon, a short speech was given by Chair Alice Hobson. The bench is beautiful and well worth a visit for a chill out or a sandwich stop. This was a very happy occasion followed by coffee and scones in the Dun Cow. Great Aycliffe Ball in Woodham Golf Club was a very enjoyable event also raising money in aid of Children's Blessing.

One of my volunteering roles under normal circumstances is in the prison. They have become very short of 8" knitted teddies. A teddy is given to every child who visits the Visitor Centre. Due to the restrictions with the pandemic people had stopped knitting. I sent out an appeal and had a great response from an army of knitters who have swung into action. I think the children will be receiving teddies very soon.

I attended the Mayor of Ferryhill's Charity Dinner which helped support local charities, including Treasures Autism Society, Youth FC and Care for Casualties.

During the last month I've visited businesses in the town to promote our Council and also make them aware of my role and my appreciation of their support.

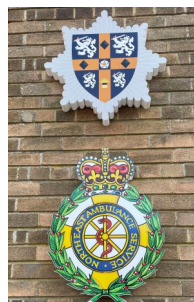
On Saturday 2 April I attended the official opening of Sedgefield Fire Station with its "new look". The official opening was by the Combined Fire Authority Chair, Cllr John Shuttleworth with a demonstration by fire cadets aged 13 to 17 years who are prospective firefighters. They were great. This was followed by a tour of the station, this was very interesting, their facilities are excellent. They also house an ambulance ready for call outs.

This has again been an interesting month, the best part being interaction with the people living here in our town.

Best regards

Ann Carr

Mayor and Town Council Councillor



SEDGEFIELD LIBRARY

Tel: 0300 026 9521

The library is back to normal opening hours:

Wednesday 9:30 to 12:30

Thursday 10:00 to 18:00

Friday 13:00 to 19:00

Saturday 9:30 to 12:30

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

Little Movers, a new preschool group, every Thursday from 10am, places need booking at the library.

Craft Group, 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 1:30pm.

Book Circle, 3rd Friday of the month from 2pm.

Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

Methodist Church every Monday from 9:30am-11am.

Sedgefield Social Club

Singer every Saturday from 9pm.

Quiz on **Friday 13 May** at 8pm.

Karaoke on **Friday 27 May** at 8pm.

Charity Coffee Morning

Methodist Church Hall

Saturday 14th May 10am till 11.30am

To raise money
for the
Teenage Cancer Trust

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Sedgefield in Bloom are holding a music night at Sedgefield Parish Hall on Saturday 4 June 2022 at 7:00pm continuing on from celebrations being held in the village in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Local artiste Lily Ho (Lily from Bettys Boudoir) will be providing a musical medley for the evening, along with the usual raffle, bingo and quiz to entertain you.

The catering will be provided by Robinsons of Wingate who will be able to cater for any dietary requirements; please bring your own drinks.

The theme for the evening is, Surprisingly, *Red, White & Blue* and a spot prize will be given for the most original outfit!!

The evening concludes at 11:15pm with the singing of the National Anthem.

Tickets are available from Sedgefield Town Council offices and are priced at £12.50. Any special dietary requirements should be made known when purchasing the tickets.

Alice Hobson

Chair, Sedgefield in Bloom

Signs and symptoms of ALL

Anne Rickaby is urging us all to take note of changes in our bodies to spot potential symptoms of blood cancers.

Anne's husband, Stephen (aka Rickers) was, after a number of GP telephone appointments and tests, diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL).

Due to the non-specific nature of the symptoms and relative rarity of leukaemia, people are often misdiagnosed by their GP or attend several times before diagnosis and early diagnosis saves lives. The signs are:

- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Fever or night sweats
- Bruising or bleeding
- Bone/joint pain
- Repeated infections

Stephen also had the symptom of thirst.

Anne told Sedgefield News about what happened to Stephen:

Stephen was one of life's angels. He would do anything for anyone; he always saw the best in people and was so incredibly positive. He adored me and our two sons, Seb (15) and Hugo (8), and loved his friends. That's why our story is so incredibly devastating and heart-breaking. He has left a massive hole in all our lives.

Stephen was never ill. He took pride in his appearance and looked after himself. He went to the gym, played football, ate healthily and had just bought himself a bike to get even fitter. Leukaemia does not care about any of this!

At the beginning of 2021, Stephen started to feel unwell. He was having regular bed sweats, had an uncontrollable thirst and was feeling tired. His telephone appointment with the GP resulted in him being tested for Type 1 diabetes. He spoke to the GP twice more before, on the fourth telephone appointment in April, the GP referred him for an x-ray which revealed a shadow. A CT scan was arranged revealing a tumour on his lung.

In the meantime, Stephen had developed breathing difficulties in early May and was twice rushed to hospital by ambulance. He had his lung drained of fluid. He was incredibly tired during that time and lost his appetite. He was admitted to the Respiratory Ward and he got dramatically worse.

After numerous tests, the hospital originally diagnosed Stephen with non-Hodgkins lymphoma, then a week later with T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL). We were informed that it was a very aggressive and rare type of leukaemia in adults. Stephen's blood tests indicated that he needed to start chemotherapy immediately or he would die within a couple of days.



I don't think either of us had ever been so frightened. However, we were also told that they aimed to cure Stephen and he would have to have a bone marrow transplant. He started chemotherapy that night, but developed tumour lysis, and need dialysis. At that moment, I realised that Stephen might not make it.

Stephen recovered quite quickly after that first initial scare. He responded positively to treatment and came home earlier than expected. He needed full time care due to him being weak, to be taken to hospital appointments and from the amount of medication he was taking, so I had to leave my work as a 1 to 1 English tutor, to care for him. For his second round of chemo, we had to go to James Cook every day for treatment. This coincided with the school holidays, so our children had to come with us. Sometimes, we would be waiting for Stephen for 5 hours if he needed a blood transfusion, or platelets. At times Stephen would have to be rushed into hospital because he had a high temperature. Again, our children in tow. It was a relentless journey. Nevertheless, we had the end goal in sight as we visited the Freeman Hospital to make arrangements for his bone marrow transplant to commence in the November. His third round of chemo started at the end of September, and it involved a hospital stay. During that time, he started to complain that his vision was fuzzy. It transpired that the leukaemia had developed in his right eye. With it then came the unbearable pain and Stephen had to be given morphine. He developed bell's palsy, and had to wear a patch over his eye to be able to see out of his left. It was at this point, we discussed his funeral.



Stephen had his transplant on 29 December, and it was a success; his numbers were great. This was when things started to change for the worse. He got sores in his mouth, chronic hiccups (which he couldn't get rid of), he was constantly dehydrated, and his oxygen levels were low. His mobility also deteriorated; he was incredibly weak and became quite confused. He was eventually put on a ventilator in the ICU, where he actually made good progress to begin with and I was told he would come off after a week. Then, within days, I was told he would die.

On Wednesday 2 February, Stephen died holding Seb's and my hand. He died peacefully, with dignity and grace, and I thank the Freeman for that.



Stephen has a huge group of friends, who he has known for most of his life. When Stephen was first admitted, they all clubbed together to help us with equipment, to do things in the garden, to help with Christmas, and also for Stephen's reception for after his funeral. They have done so much for us, but it's because of how much they thought of Stephen, or 'Rickers' to them! I was overwhelmed when 'The Lads' contacted me about competing in Ride London 2022 in Stephen's honour, to raise money for a charity of our choice.

With a recommendation from the Freeman Haematology department, we are raising money for Bright Red. Bright Red focus support on the northern region, and help patients who are dealing with a wide range of blood cancers. Support includes investment in improving patient care or contributing towards staff development.

Stephen's death was not in vain. If we can raise as much awareness of the signs and symptoms for leukaemia, or any blood cancer, to prevent what we have gone through for another family, then we have turned this horrific, awful thing into something positive. I know Stephen (Rickers) would be so proud. If you would like to support 'The Lads' and Blood Red then go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Rickers-Army-RideLondon22.

The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride



On Sunday 22 May 2022, we are teaming up to ride solo in The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride with fellow men and women across the globe to raise funds and awareness for prostate cancer and men's mental health on behalf of Movember.

Men die on average 6 years earlier than women and for largely preventable reasons. The number of men that are suffering is growing, and we need to do something about that. So, before we press our tweed and polish our boots, we are asking you to join us in raising funds and awareness for these causes by donating what you can for this meaningful cause and to help the men we love, live happier and healthier lives.

Please see www.gentlemansride.com/fundraiser/lanClifford440924 to donate.

Ian Clifford

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May

For many years we have invited the people of Sedgefield to



take part in the annual national Christian Aid Week appeal.

Since the pandemic lockdown we have not been able to arrange the usual annual house to house collection. However, donations can be made by visiting the Christian Aid website at www.christianaid.org.uk.

Christian Aid seeks to help some of the poorest people in our world.

We will display the advance publicity banners and posters outside our Methodist Church.

Thank you for supporting this appeal.

Margaret and David Glass

Charity tattoos

On Friday 13 May, Obi Studios are offering small floral tattoos for charity on a walk-in basis. All the profits will be divided equally between Sedgefield in Bloom and the Great North Air Ambulance.

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SPORTS UPDATE

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In sporting terms at least, summer has arrived in Sedgefield. We know this for sure, because the cricket has started. Meanwhile, football (senior), rugby union and squash seasons are drawing to a close. I'll report on the key outcomes for Sedgefield teams and individuals over the next couple of months, starting with squash.

Squash

The past few weeks has seen a flurry of activity at Sedgefield Squash Club, both on and off the court. The club is delighted to announce that it will be sporting the Great North Air Ambulance logo on team shirts next season. This has been made possible by the generosity of a local business offering sponsorship and the club is very grateful for that. The new kit is currently being designed by 305 Squash and will be available to members in the next few weeks.

Back on court, the club championships for both juniors and seniors concluded on a fantastic Friday finals night. This year saw the club bring in a professional England squash referee, Peter Fielding, to officiate on several matches. The balcony was packed with spectators cheering on the finalists and, for the first time, additional viewing behind the glass back was available on one court. The crowd was treated to some fabulous matches throughout the evening, with the winners and runners-up listed below. The night proved to be a great success, backed up by some positive feedback from Peter on how professional the club had been in running and delivering the event.

The key junior results were:

Under 11s - Magnus McKay won the final vs Huey Lamb

Under 15s - Luke Oliver won the final vs Harry Siddall

Girls Under 19s - Lauren Prynn won the final vs Jenny Walker

Junior Plate - Richard Flanagan won the final vs Alex Ashby

Junior Closed - Jess Weatherspoon won the final vs Joseph Billany.

The key senior results were:

Club Closed - Oliver Walls won the final vs Rob Pearce

Plate - Lee Jones won the final vs Phil Best

Ladies Closed - Jess Weatherspoon won the final vs Karen Naunton

Over 40s - Nick Hill won the final vs Patrick Billany

Over 50s - Simon Hill won the final vs Ian Williams

Over 60s - Rob Emery won the final vs Colin Pearce

Racketball - Simon Hill won the final vs Lee Jones.

The club presentation night will take place on Friday 6 May in the Parish Hall, starting at 7pm.

Looking ahead, Squash Stars is the club's new junior programme for 5-11 year olds. It will start in June and build fundamental skills and confidence, encouraging kids to reach for the stars on and off court. This six-week junior beginner's programme focuses on guiding children to develop skills in areas such as hand-eye coordination, racket work, movement, balance and match play.

Sedgefield sessions will be on six consecutive Saturday mornings, starting on 11 June from 9am to 10am. The plan is for these to run every three months for more new children, but on this occasion spaces are limited to six, so it's very much a case of signing up quickly to ensure that your youngster gets a place. Find more information at englandsquash.com/squash-stars/about.

Anyone interested in getting involved or joining Sedgefield Squash Club can get in touch via info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.



Oliver Walls and Jess Weatherspoon - winners of the closed competitions at Sedgefield Squash Club

Cricket

The first weekend of the senior season saw a clean sweep of wins for Sedgefield Cricket Club's three teams. Starting their campaign at home on Saturday 16 April, the first XI bowled out Whitby for 121 in 44 overs and then chased down their target in just 33 overs. Connor Whitelock starred with ball and bat, taking three wickets and top scoring for Sedgefield with 48. Grant Sowerby also claimed three wickets, with two for Ned Hampson and one each for David Budd and Ben Wright. Elsewhere, the second XI won away at Newton Aycliffe, while the following day saw the third XI win their home fixture against Barnard Castle, after bowling out the opposition for only 34 in under 13 overs. Sedgefield only used two bowlers, with Matteo Rutherford (six wickets) and Darren Bill (four wickets) dominating the batters. In all of the games, it was great to see young players making their debuts for the club, continuing the tradition of developing local talent.



Sedgefield Cricket Club's junior teams are also preparing for a busy season ahead. After a winter of indoor training, the youngsters are back outside again on Friday evenings.

Alongside standard cricket, the club will host softball cricket sessions from Friday 20 May, from 5:10-6:00pm. The training is for those aged 8-10. The cost is £30 for eight weeks. To book, contact Mike Ridley on 07773 081278.

Look out for more news from the junior ranks in future updates.

Bowls

Fishburn Bowls Club welcomes membership from all ages and abilities. You are invited to try the sport without any commitment. Informal free tuition is available. New members have free use of club bowls and unlimited use of the bowling green throughout the season subject to Greenkeeper's works. For further details contact Carol on 07446 032450 or Ian on 01740 621952.



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