

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

October 2021 Edition

Deadline for November - Friday 15 October

A golden moment for Jack Smith of Sedgefield

The News spoke to Sedgefield's Paralympic gold medal winner Jack Smith about his recent success in Tokyo and his sporting life in Sedgefield.

A Sedgefield lad, born and bred, Jack played a variety of sports when he was younger and was active in both the squash and cricket clubs, as well as playing badminton on a regular basis. He took up wheelchair rugby in September 2008, just eight months after his accident.

Jack explains: "Initially, I had to travel to North Shields to train, but around 2012, the Bulls moved to the Community College. It actually works quite well for everyone as Sedgefield is fairly central for the players. For me, it's very handy, as I can just push up from home and be at training in about five minutes!"



Jack Smith with Lily Best, Archie Ankers and a Paralympic gold medal

Reflecting on being part of the Paralympics GB wheelchair rugby team in Tokyo, Jack says that the scale of what they achieved didn't really hit home while they were still out there. "When we won the gold medal, we were delighted as teammates and friends who had enjoyed such success, but that was very much within the group and we were unaware of the wider impact."

It was when Jack returned to Sedgefield that he really understood the excitement and pride back home. "That was crazy! Driving back, I was really tired and just wanted to get home. When I pulled into our estate and saw the welcome, that really picked me up and suddenly, this was more than simply winning a medal for me and my team. I could sense how my success has the potential to inspire the next generation of sporting stars and the joy and pride of everyone in Sedgefield was very special too."

So, what's next? "Well, I've enjoyed a few weeks' rest and getting slightly out of shape, so I'll be back into training again soon. The European championships will be in Paris next February, so that's the immediate focus."

Talking of Paris, the Paralympic Games of 2024 are definitely on Jack's radar. "I would love to compete in Paris in 2024. I'm still relatively young for a para-athlete, so hopefully there are at least a couple more Paralympic Games ahead for me."

Looking at sport in Sedgefield in general, Jack has noticed how it has developed over the years. "Comparing when I played sport here as a kid to the situation now, it's clear that the grass roots scene is thriving more than ever in Sedgefield. The clubs here have a really professional approach, with more qualified coaches and – in the most part – better facilities. At the clubs with that combination in particular, we're starting to see that reflected in results in competition to a high level, which is great. It goes to show what can be achieved here when all of those different elements are brought together."

There were lots of enthusiastic youngsters among those lining the street to welcome Jack home, excited to meet him, see his gold medal and celebrate his success. It was a moment of community pride and Jack has a message for those young people who have been inspired to get into sport: "First, and above all else, enjoy it. Don't worry about being the best, just be the best that you can and you'll get so much fulfilment, and then you never know what might happen. But always, always make sure that you enjoy your sport."

Sedgefield Veterans

Sedgefield Veterans is a group of ex-armed forces women and men who previously served in the Royal Navy, Army or Royal Air Force. The group was formed in 2006 with the intention of assisting veterans and it has grown into an organisation which has supported various local groups and special events.

We have a wide range of causes. We also have bought union flags that are positioned on the flagpoles adjacent to both St. Edmund's and Winterton churches. We have also recently supported a Royal Marine whose home was subject to an arson attack and have contributed to the St Edmund's Church roof restoration fund.



The Veterans group, pictured above, has been involved with many special events including repatriations as fallen troops were returned home to Blighty, Spitfire on the Green, re-enactment weekends and Armed Forces Day celebrations, held on the Sedgefield Village Green and in Trimdon; also the Princess Royal's visit in 2012 (below), and regular Winterton remembrance services, along with Sedgefield schools.



Continued on Page 3

New Teaching and Leadership Centre

On Tuesday 14 September, our new state-of-the-art Teaching and Leadership Centre was opened by Susanna Kempe, the Chief Executive of the Irvine Laidlaw Foundation. The new building has many purposes, one of which is to host our initial teacher training hub, allowing university students first-hand experience of outstanding teaching. It is through this approach that Sedgefield Community College (SCC) and The Laidlaw Schools Trust intend to ensure there is always a constant resource of exceptional teachers within the Trust's schools and the wider region. In addition to this, our students now have access to 6 additional teaching spaces.

A number of students from different schools in the Trust gave speeches at the opening, including SCC's Head Girl Kristen McDonald, who said: "This is a huge development that will bring many opportunities for students at Sedgefield Community College and within the Laidlaw Schools Trust. Students here at Sedgefield are increasingly aware that we are now part of a community of schools across the North East and we are excited to learn of the broader opportunities this collaboration will afford us."

The new building has already been booked for a number of events over the next term, including hosting faith reps during Inter Faith Week, sessions for trainee teachers from Durham University and workshops for Year 8 linked to Black History Month.



Amazing Spaces For New Faces!

With the start of a new school year, the children at Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School were blown away by the transformation to the Key Stage 2 corridor and classrooms. The resplendent renovations have already inspired learning with the addition of brand new word walls, which contain multiple words linked to each foundation subject.

The classrooms are all based around a specific subject and each one has been renamed. The Studio will enable the children to release their creative side through Art and Design and Design Technology, the Lab will bring out the children's inquisitive, scientific minds, whilst in the Orb the children will travel across the world and through different time periods and in the Hive the children will explore technological advances in Computing. The streamlined teacher walls and pupil resource areas house a multitude of equipment which pupils can access independently, allowing them to truly innovate.

Other eye-catching additions to the central learning space, now known as the Hub, are the newly created booths for character education sessions as a safe place for pupils to express themselves.

"The classrooms' new, modern looks have encouraged us to work as hard as we possibly can," stated Emily Rigg, a Year 6 pupil. "All the classrooms look spectacular, it makes me want to stay and learn," explained Hannah Davey, a Year 6 pupil.



Welcome back

Sedgefield Primary School (Rectory Row) are very excited to welcome new and returning pupils to a new exciting term. Our smallest nursery pupils are settling in amazingly well to our family feel environment. They are learning about themselves through interactive activities.

Our new Reception pupils are very excited about joining their family groups. All pupils throughout the school are placed in a family group from the Amazon Rainforest Group, alongside "siblings", to explore a range of community and environmental issues. They continue in these groups throughout their time at Sedgefield Primary, gaining team points for their family group team, as they work with pupils from all ages across the school. These groups really enhance our community environment.

We are excited to have an author visiting us this term, who will be running a range of interactive creative workshops throughout the school. Sedgefield Primary look forward to letting you know more about this and other upcoming events.



EYFS pupils learning early first aid!

Your LETTERS

Thank you

St Edmund's Church coffee morning, held on Friday 10th September, was an amazing success. My grateful thanks are extended to everyone involved, be it by baking, helping, attending or spending. The magnificent amount of £667 was raised for the restoration fund.

One raffle prize was not claimed, white with pink surround ticket no.326. If you have this winning ticket please contact Sedgefield News.

Thank you for your generous support.

Sheila McMillan

Mayor's Coffee Morning

Wow! A very big thank you to everyone who supported the event. There was a real buzz in the hall with people chatting and really enjoying meeting each other in person - and no Zoom!

My thanks also to family and friends who supported me and made the event work so well with fun and friendship. You helped to raise £730 for Youngminds and local charities. Thank you all very much.

Ann Carr

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.

A glimpse of the past

Elizabeth Stocks was sorting through her grandparents' photographs and found this stunning image of the Sedgefield Workingman's Club outing from the 1950s and a beautiful image of Front Street. You can see larger versions of the images on our website www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk.



BUSINESS UPDATE

Can you find the Lost Robot?

A school trip to New York provided the inspiration for Gary Forster's new shop in Sedgefield. Gary, one of the teachers supporting the visit, was in the gift shop at the Museum of Modern Art when he spotted the robot. He brought it back home, but his wife was less than impressed with his new artwork. After several unsuccessful attempts to find a space in his house it has eventually found a home in his new shop on Church View.

The Lost Robot sells beers, ciders, gins, and tonics with a section dedicated to local brews and a wide selection from further afield including non-alcoholic beers and ciders. He also provides a delivery service, and a website is under construction. Opening hours are 10am-5.30pm Monday to Saturday.



Sedgefield Veterans

(Continued from front page)

One of our group, Army veteran John Cutting from Bishop Middleham, is a sculptor. Several of his pieces are currently on display until 20 November at an exhibition called "Through Soldiers' Eyes" in Bishop Auckland Town Hall.

Our organisation mainly raises funds by holding a monthly coffee morning and like many others, has had no income for well over a year. We've really missed engaging with the local community at our monthly coffee mornings and can't wait to get everyone together again.

The first coffee morning since the start of the Covid pandemic is to be held in Sedgefield Parish Hall on **Friday 26th November** commencing at 10am, with the usual tea, home-made cakes and raffle. **Everyone is welcome.**

If any ex-service personnel in Sedgefield or surrounding areas wish to join or find out more, please call 07713 778059 or post a message on Sedgefield Village Veterans Facebook page.

NETPark development

NETPark is set to expand significantly following a £50 million investment by Durham County Council, which will create over 1,200 jobs.

Plans to expand the North East Technology Park (NETPark) in Sedgefield, County Durham, have been given the go ahead by the Council's Cabinet, which has agreed to £49.6m to finance the first phase of the expansion providing up to 270,000 sq ft of new laboratory, office, production and storage space.

The success of NETPark is such that expansion space is needed so that companies can reach their full potential. NETPark Phase Three will be developed on council owned land to accommodate the growing demand, both from businesses already established in the park and from companies looking to relocate or expand their operations.

NETPark is managed by Business Durham, the business support service of Durham County Council, and it will also oversee the new development.



Orbit Open Day

Orbit, Durham University's new business accommodation space at NETPark, is hosting an Open Day on 7 October for interested parties to find out more. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/orbit-open-day-tickets-169819541821> for free tickets.

Demeter achieve further success

Demeter Water Solutions, which is based in Sedgefield, have been shortlisted in the Care Sector Supplier Awards for their continuing successful work in the care industry to save businesses water costs and usage.

The awards aim to seek out the best providers of products and services to the care sector in the UK with the judges looking for evidence of innovation, enterprise and performance.

Demeter, owned by husband and wife team Liz and Andy Smedley, help businesses across the UK to reduce their water usage and costs. Using their Utilities Manager software, they provide water management, logging and monitoring services to constantly record water supply usage.

This shortlist nomination comes hot on the heels of recent success, where they were announced winners in the 2021 Edie Sustainability Leaders Awards in the Water Management category after collaborating with their client Barchester Healthcare, to successfully save the group over £380,000 in water costs.



Jigsaw of St Edmund's

Jigsaw enthusiasts will soon be able to test their skills on a unique charity fund-raising puzzle – but they will need plenty of time and lots of patience to crack it.

The challenge comes in 1000 pieces and features a striking photograph of Sedgefield's centuries-old church and surroundings shot by local drone pilot Jonathan Clegg.

It's being produced by the Friends of St Edmund's as part of the group's tireless campaign to keep the fabric of the church in a decent state of repair.

Membership secretary Brian Mutch said this week: "It's a wonderful picture and we are already being asked how soon it will be available because it would make a superb Christmas gift. Orders have flooded in since we circulated information to members of the Friends."

The limited-edition jigsaw measures 66cm x 52cm and comes with a price tag of £20. Expressions of interest can be sent to Brian by e-mail at b.mutch@btconnect.com or by ringing him on 01740 622302.



SUSTAINSEDFIELD

The 26th UN Climate Change Conference - COP26, will take place in Glasgow, from 1 to 12 November 2021. This is the 26th Conference of the Parties and it will bring together politicians, innovators, businesses and activists from around the world, to tackle climate change. Sedgefield Development Trust wants to support our local community, to 'do our bit', so over the next few editions of Sedgefield News, we will be looking at what you can do in your own home. We will focus on the key areas of home energy, waste and water, consumerism, food and transport, to get an all round view.

A good starting point for thinking about climate change is to find out your carbon footprint. This is a measure of the impact your activities have on the amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) produced through burning of fossil fuels. It is measured as a weight of CO2 in tonnes. Everyone in the world has a carbon footprint, but there are big differences depending on lifestyle. Most people in the UK have a much higher carbon footprint than the global average and we need to reduce it.

Technology can help – using green energy from renewable sources, making production of food and goods more efficient, reducing waste and improving transport.

Governments can introduce regulations, for instance, around the manufacture of diesel vehicles, standards for materials and energy efficiency in new build houses.

Individuals can make informed choices about what they eat, how they travel and what they buy.

Everyone has a part to play.



There are lots of free online carbon footprint calculators. This one from WWF is quick and easy to use at footprint.wwf.org.uk.

Or this one from www.carbonfootprint.com/measure.html needs more information on your current energy use, so get your figures ready in advance.

Once you know what your carbon footprint is, and how it is made up, you can start setting some reduction targets - perhaps beginning with...



STEVE'S NATURE DIARY OCTOBER 2021

Walking in the British countryside you will quite often encounter a number of species of plants and animals which have been introduced from foreign parts, and this has resulted in a number of problems and is one of the reasons that naturalists don't like these "aliens". These include Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed, Grey Squirrels and Canada Geese to name but a few. Some that have found a niche and now have a central part to play in culture as well as our natural history include Hare, Little Owl and the Horse Chestnut.

There are several possibilities for the Horse Chestnuts unusual name including: it comes from a chance observation by the Flemish ambassador to Turkey, who observed that Turkish soldiers fed the trees fruit (conkers) to their horses; another is that the leaf stalks leave a scar on the twig when they fall, which resembles an inverted horseshoe with nail holes. This association with horses could explain why conkers used to be ground up and fed to horses to relieve them of coughs, and could be the origin of the tree's name.

The Horse Chestnut is a tall, broad tree that has been widely planted in parks and gardens. Originally native to the mountains of northern Greece and Albania, it was introduced into the UK in 1616 and has since become naturalised. It has hand-shaped, palmate leaves with five to seven toothed leaflets. It displays large, pinky-white flower spikes, and its spiny-shelled fruits contain the seeds, or 'conkers'. These are collected by children everywhere for competitions: attached to strings, two conkers are alternately flicked at each other until one breaks. Taking this a step further, the world conker championships are held at Ashton in Northamptonshire in October every year. The first record of the game is from the Isle of Wight in 1848. There is little British folklore associated with the tree – probably due to it being an introduced species. However, games of conkers have different rules in different parts of the country, and have their own jargon which often requires repeating rhymes or rituals to decide who goes first. Mature Horse Chestnut trees grow to a height of around 40m and can live for up to 300 years. The bark is smooth and pinky-grey when young, and darkens and develops scaly plates with age. The flowers provide a rich source of nectar and pollen for insects, particularly bees. Caterpillars of the triangle moth feed on its leaves, as does the horse chestnut leaf-miner moth whose caterpillars provide food for blue tits. Deer and other mammals also eat the conkers.



Leaves & trunk @ Alvesgaspar

There's hearsay that if you place conkers around your house it will keep spiders away, but there's no scientific proof that this is the case. During lockdown last year I used to pass a Horse Chestnut on one of my walks and it was good to see the seasonal changes from flower to conkers and in the autumn to see children were still collecting conkers!

Home energy

Our homes are at the centre of our lives, and we don't like to be told what to do in them! How we heat our homes, how we use energy and where the energy comes from all make a difference to our carbon footprint. Here are some easy starting points to reduce the energy used in your home:

- Turn off electrical appliances at the wall, rather than leaving them on standby
 - Wash clothes at a lower temperature
 - Only boil the amount of water you need in a kettle
 - Use energy saving lightbulbs
 - Save heat by turning off radiators in rooms which are not being used
 - Close curtains to reduce heat loss
 - Improve insulation in your home
 - Get a smart meter (photo below) installed
 - Switch to a green energy supplier.
- Which of these actions could you do easily? Are any of them hard to do?



Did you know that Sedgefield Development Trust works to help you save money on gas and electricity bills? All the options are green too! Go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk/energy-switch.html to sign up today. See page 8 for dates and information on the current auction.

Sedgefield & District u3a

Founded in 1982, u3a is a UK-wide movement of locally-run interest groups that provide a wide range of opportunities to come together to learn for fun. Members explore new ideas, skills and activities together. Our membership costs just £20 per year and is open to everyone who's no longer in full-time work.

Sedgefield and District held a very successful first meeting of the new season when many members joined a Zoom presentation from Beamish Museum which updated us on the construction of the new 1950s area. We were fascinated to learn about the Quilter's Cottage which has been transported from Northumberland and rebuilt near the Pocklington Hall Georgian area.

Several interest groups have recently restarted their regular meetings and are looking forward to welcoming any new members who wish to join them.

- The Book Club programme offers a really good selection of styles and genres to read and to be discussed monthly over good coffee and nice biscuits.
- If you would like to try your hand at writing – a short story, poetry, any type of text etc – bring your ideas along to one of the bi-monthly meetings of the Scribes group and be encouraged and stimulated by other group members.
- Our Photography Group would be delighted to share their knowledge and experience in all things film.
- The Wine Group held their first meeting in eighteen months when they enjoyed the sampling of six different wines in a member's garden.
- The Lunch Group met in mid-September for an in-person lunch at a local restaurant. Plans are already in place for the next three months, including our Christmas Lunch at the Dun Cow.

Several other groups are rather constrained currently by lack of suitable venues or events but we hope to arrange outside visits to Houses and Gardens as soon as possible. The Theatre Group already has tickets for a Matthew Bourne Ballet production in April next year and will be arranging further visits as soon as practicable.

Do visit our website u3asites.org.uk/sedgefield for lots more information if you are interested in joining us or contact any member of the committee if you have any questions or would like a chat.

Funding opportunity for local sports clubs

Local sports clubs have now been invited by Durham County Council to submit projects and applications for the sports element of the Section 106 funding that has been generated by the housing developments in Sedgefield.

The funding is intended for capital projects only and it is hoped that clubs will take this opportunity to develop projects which provide new or improved facilities. The invitations for applications mark the latest step in a process that dates back several years and resulted in initial allocations in principle that were made and communicated to seven clubs in 2018. Of those, the athletics track project has already made a formal application and has progressed through the process, so is not included in the latest invitations. Any sports club which has not been contacted directly, and feels that it may have a suitable project, should contact East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership for advice via their email eastdurhamruralaap@durham.gov.uk.

Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund to reopen

A sixth round of the popular Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund has been announced, giving groups of farmers and landowners in England time to consider making an application ahead of December 2021 when the application window opens.

The £2.5 million fund encourages collaboration and knowledge-sharing amongst the farming community. To apply, groups must submit plans showing how they will work together and share knowledge to protect and enhance their local environment, in line with their local Countryside Stewardship priorities. This further round of funding is expected to invest in over 30 facilitation groups.

Successful facilitation groups will also offer invaluable training, support and advice to potential applicants for agri-environment schemes.

This year's fund includes support for new environmental priorities such as the improvement of air quality through slurry removal, reduction of ammonia emissions, tree planting and shelters, and managing beaver activity that will offer support and advice for landowners when beavers move onto their land.

Applications will be invited from December, with a closing date of 19 January 2022.



SEDGEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Autumnal advice

Autumn arriving means that the days start to grow shorter, and soon the clocks will be changing. This means longer nights which are attractive to criminals operating under cover of darkness.

As the nights close in, here are a few actions you can take to prevent criminals spoiling your winter:

- Adjust the settings on your light timers so that lights come on as soon as it is dark outside.
- Ensure external lights keep your property well illuminated.
- Ensure light timers keep your property interior well-lit so that if you are still at work when night falls it looks as though the property is occupied.
- Keep blinds tilted however, so that the interior of your house does not become a showcase to prospective burglars.
- Make sure equipment, toys, bikes and other items used during the day are safely and securely stored indoors before it is dark.
- Make sure your car is secure and if possible parked off the street, preferably nose first on a drive, or better still in a garage.
- Always keep entrance doors, garden gates, garages and outhouses securely locked.
- Take garden furniture, barbecues, hose pipes and other summer garden items indoors for the winter.

New police facilities

Plans have been approved for a new custody and investigations suite in Spennymoor providing a safe and modern building to replace the four ageing custody suites currently in use at Bishop Auckland, Darlington, Peterlee and Durham City.

Because several detainees can be booked in at once, the new centre will reduce the average time that arresting officers spend while prisoners are processed and allow officers to get back out on the streets more quickly.

Crime isn't as common as you think... but don't be a victim. Please lock up, stay safe, sleep well.

To report anything suspicious in your area call Durham Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

To report concerns, seek advice or pass on information call 101. Keep notes, ask for an incident number. Information received will be developed & acted on.

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

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

Durham Book Festival

Durham Book Festival has established itself as one of the region's cultural highlights, with contributors such as Phillip Pullman, PD James, and Bill Bryson having appeared during festivals past.

After a 2020 staging that was online only due to restrictions on public gatherings, live events will return this year alongside the online programme.

The mixed format sees online events commence from 9 October, which can then be caught-up online until 31 October. Online events are ticketed at £5 each per household or with an online pass available at £20 for those who wish to attend four or more.

Live talks begin on 14 October with the announcement of the Gordon Burn Prize winner for challenging conventions in writing, and continue until 17 October. Many will also be live-streamed.



This year, there are too many highlights to list, with more than 60 events online or at the Gala theatre. Look out for talks from North East writers like Mick Herron, who will speak about his upbringing and his long and successful career writing thrillers. His latest novel, *Slough House*, is currently being adapted for TV in a major production featuring Gary Oldman, Jonathan Pryce & Kristen Scott-Thomas.

David Almond, also from Newcastle, whose novel *Skellig* won the Carnegie medal in 1998, is showcasing his latest novel *Bone Music* this year.

The ever-popular Richard Osman returns after his first novel debuted last year. The success of *The Thursday Murder Club* exceeded all expectations and he will be promoting his follow up *The Man Who Died Twice*. He will be speaking about his favourite books and the works that inspired him. More details and tickets at durhambookfestival.com.



Fine Art in Co. Durham

From 1 October, the Bob Abley Art Gallery in Spennymoor hosts another exhibition of the work of Chris and Steve Rocks. Following their successful 'Coming Home' exhibition in June the award-winning Spennymoor twins return with 'Autumn Exhibition'. Entry is free and their work will hang alongside work for sale from other contemporary local artists and, this being Spennymoor, it will naturally feature some of Norman Cornish's work as well.



Still more affordable art is on display at The Art Block in Seaham. East Durham Artists Network is staging original affordable art from Tuesday to Saturday until 9 October.

Calendar of Teesdale

Many locals will already know the work of Teesdale photographer Andy Beck. This year he is releasing some of his images of the locality in a 2022 calendar. Some proceeds from each sale will go to the Search and Mountain Rescue Team. andybeckimages.co.uk/teesdale-calendar-2022/.

Live Music in October

Festival season continues apace in County Durham. Following Hardwick Live, The Gathering Sounds and Northern Kin festivals in recent weeks; the Kubix Festival is coming to Sunderland's Herrington Park early in October. Again, some big names will be appearing, especially for those of us old enough to fondly remember the 80s and 90s. Fans of The Farm, Sleeper, Cast, New Order and The Levellers should clear their diaries for 2 October.

At the same venue, 8 October sees the resurrection of acts including N-Trance, Vengaboys, and 2 Unlimited. Tickets for both events are available at eventim.co.uk/artist/kubix-festival.



On a rather smaller scale, but an equally good development: live music returns to The Old Cinema Launderette in Gilesgate Moor. Certainly one of the quirkiest venues at which you will ever catch a band, the Old Cinema Launderette is exactly what it says on the tin. Once a 320 seat cinema, 'The Crescent', it closed in 1958 and currently operates as launderette and coffee shop by day and a musical venue by night. For it's small setting, it also attracts a very high calibre of artist, including nationally and internationally lauded performers including, in October, Bridie Jackson and Mark Morriss (those old enough to remember Sleeper and The Levellers will certainly remember The Bluetones' great success during the 90s). The intimate surrounding offers a great opportunity to enjoy some of Mark Morriss' many hit singles in a truly unique setting. Visit www.wegotickets.com/oldcinemalaunderette for dates & times.

DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

101 returns

2 October Sedgefield based rock band 101 are playing at Sedgefield Cricket Club. Music from The Killers, Oasis, The Jam and many more. 8pm start.

Mordon & Bradbury Village Hall Association

3 October in Mordon Village Hall TS21 2EY, Afternoon tea and Art Exhibition from 2.30-4pm. All proceeds to Mordon Village Hall. All Welcome.

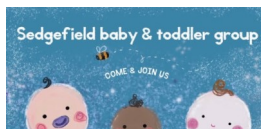
Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

Now based in the Methodist Church Hall sessions are held on alternating Mondays and Tuesdays. All sessions run from 9:30am - 11am.

Mondays - 4 Oct, 18 Oct, 1 Nov, 15 Nov, 29 Nov

Tuesdays - 12 Oct, 26 Oct, 9 Nov, 23 Nov

Reservations are no longer required to attend. If you are able to RSVP on our Facebook page "Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group" then that will help us to plan. The cost will continue to be £3 per family.



Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

19 October in the Parish Hall, Sedgefield at 7.30pm, flower demonstration titled "Tales of the Unexpected" by Julia Loudon. All welcome. Entry fee £5.
16 November 2021 in the Parish Hall, Sedgefield at 7.30pm, flower demonstration, titled "Christmas time" by Jan Faulkner. All welcome.
 Entry fee is £8. Please come along and join us as we relaunch the Flower Club.

Mayor's Quiz

22 October at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Councillor Ann Carr, the Mayor, is raising money for YoungMinds a mental health charity supporting children, young people and their parents as well as local groups and organisations. Tickets cost £6 each and include a pie and peas supper and are available from the council offices.



Sedgefield Veterans Coffee Morning

26 November at 10am in Sedgefield Parish Hall with the usual tea, home-made cakes and raffle. Everyone is welcome.

Sedgefield Tea Dance

We are sorry to announce that dancing will not restart until January 2022 at the earliest.
 Best wishes to all the group.

October

M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
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					3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEDGEFIELD LIBRARY

Tel: 0300 026 9521

The library is open again with temporary opening hours:

Wednesday 9.30 to 12.30

Thursday 9.30 to 16.30 (Closed for lunch from 12.30 to 13.30)

Friday 13.30 to 17.30

Saturday 9.30 to 12.30

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



Halloween "Mas(k)erade" Dance

in Sedgefield Parish Hall
Saturday 30th October 2021
 from 7.30 - 11pm

Line-dancing, Country & Rock'n'Roll dancing to



Pies & Peas or Vegetarian option
Bring your own Drinks!
£10.00

All profits to a local Charity
Special Prize for Best Mask!

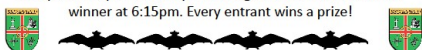
Tickets limited to ensure a COVID safe environment, so please let us know in good time.
Ring Gloria on 01740 622447

HALLOWEEN HOWLER PUMPKIN COMPETITION

Bring your carved pumpkin along to
 Sedgefield Town Council's Annual
Fireworks Display
 on Friday 29th October 2021



Entries should be brought to Ceddesfeld Hall car park between 5:45pm and 6pm. The Mayor of Sedgefield will announce the winner at 6:15pm. Every entrant wins a prize!



SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

FRIDAY 29th OCTOBER 2021
CEDDESFELD HALL GROUNDS

DISPLAY 6:30PM

OPEN FROM 5.45PM

LAST ADMISSION 6.20PM

TICKET PRICES	TICKETS FROM
£2.50 per adult	Sedgefield Town
£1.50 per child	Council Offices,
(age 16 years and under)	Ceddesfeld Hall,
	Tickety-Boo

ADMISSION IS BY TICKET ONLY.
 PLEASE BUY TICKETS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.
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To register online, go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk, click on ENERGY SWITCH, then 'REGISTER NOW' and follow the links to fill out your details.

If you prefer to register and receive information through the post, or need any help, please call the above telephone number and we will be happy to assist, or complete your registration for you.

Bat Walk

This month two volunteers from our project have entertained Sedgefield Allsorts WI with a Bat Walk around Sedgefield.



Although this was a step away from our usual weeding and scything tasks on site, it was really great to be able to share our knowledge and passion for wildlife with others. Thank you to the lovely ladies of Sedgefield Allsorts WI for inviting us along.

If you would like to know more or would like to volunteer with us please contact Melissa at woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or join our Facebook page - Woodland & Wildlife - Sedgefield.

Homework Help is here!

As ever, if you need some help, get in touch - and if you can offer help, please do likewise.

We are currently using video calls where agreed between helpers, students and parents/carers and all helpers are DBS checked. Most of us are not teachers, but we're happy to share our experience and knowledge to help students' understanding and confidence. Find us on Facebook or contact homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.



Sunday 3rd October - 8.30am to 12.30pm

Join us on the green for a great choice of produce and a happy atmosphere!

This month we welcome back Hopper House Farm Brewery, who have improved their brewing operation and return to the market with a selection of 'enhanced ales'. Sounds good! So, fingers crossed for a bright autumn day to ensure happy shoppers, happy traders and musicians with fingers that work!

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



To contact Sedgefield Community Association please call Wendy: 01740 620206, Pat: 01740 620607, John: 01740 620042 or Sarah: 01740 622185 or visit www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk.

CEDDESFIELD HALL

Home of Sedgefield Community Ass'n

September was increasingly busy here, with most groups and sections getting back to 'normal'. The bar is up and running - quiet early in the week, but busier on Thursdays and Fridays. The new cask beers, lagers and reasonably priced spirits and soft drinks are going down well, and it's great that people can socialise, though of course we must remain Covid aware - careful, considerate, with good distancing and doors and windows open for ventilation.

Residents are welcome to pop in for a drink, Monday to Thursday, 7.30pm - 10.30pm (11pm on Fridays). Get in touch if you fancy volunteering to work on the bar on weekdays or weekends. It's straight-forward, sociable, and good fun.

October looks busy too, with private bookings - wedding, birthday party and christening, plus the Mayor's quiz (22nd Oct) in the main hall.

Then there's the STC fireworks display on 29th October (tickets from behind the bar at Ceddesfeld, STC offices or Tickety Boo). Last entry is at 6.20pm and the fireworks begin at 6.30pm.

Halloween Howler entries can be seen earlier in the car park, with pumpkins on show from 5.45 - 6pm and the winner revealed by the Mayor at 6.15pm.

It is so good to have community events again and as photos from 2019 show, it's always a great night! However without more volunteers, the way we manage Ceddesfeld Hall will be unsustainable. Too few volunteers may mean not opening on weekends for family parties, celebrations etc., so the use of the main hall will be limited and long-standing events like Mediaeval Fayre, Easter Picnic, Burns Supper, Beer Festival, plus Open Mic, Sedgefield Day, Family Fun Day, may not run. Once gone, they will be very difficult to get back and Sedgefield will be the poorer for it. Please do consider giving some time to help. Our contact details are below left.

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers made special use of lockdown. Working with Artist in Residence, Ed Carter, they create a piece of music & spoken word inspired by an 1803 poem called Hardwick Plantation. A walk round the Park with musical accompaniment won a competition for creative use of technology and the recording was played from the Gothic Tower on two September weekends. Fantastic work!



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SPORTS UPDATE

Email chrisjlines@aol.com

Wasn't it brilliant to see local lad Jack Smith claim a gold medal in Tokyo as part of Paralympics GB's wheelchair rugby team? It's a fast-paced, brutal sport, and Jack has had to work very hard to reach its pinnacle, but reach it he has, supported all the way by his family. I've reported about Jack in these sports updates before, as well as Bulls Wheelchair Rugby Club, which trains at Sedgefield Community College. His story is a great example of how grass roots sports people can achieve the highest honours with the right combination of talent, drive, coaching, and access to local facilities. I spoke to Jack after his wonderful welcome home and he shares a few of his thoughts in the front page feature. Meanwhile, there's other success and plans for success to report on...

Squash

After a busy summer of 'Bounce Back' activities to encourage players back on court, two summer competitions at Sedgefield Squash Club reached their conclusions recently.

The individual Summer Ladder was won by Mal Woodhouse, with an impressive 24 wins out of 26 matches played. Lee Jones and Richard Flanagan shared the title of most matches played, 40 each - a great effort.

The summer team event was won by 'Off the Frame' captained by Shaun Bottomley, in a closely fought contest against 'The No Lets'. The full balcony of supporters helped make it a great concluding night to the competition. Well done to all of the players who took part, more than 50 in total, and special thanks go to Craig Muller for organising the event.

World Squash Day is fast approaching. The event is on Saturday 9 October and the club has both junior and senior events planned to celebrate the day, supporting the PSA foundation charity that helps squash communities across the globe.

Athletics

A number of enthusiastic supporters of the East Durham Community Athletics Track (EDCAT) have stepped forward to help the project by running the Virtual Virgin London Marathon (VVLN) on Sunday 3 October. Another, David Bentley, a member of 'home club' Sedgefield Harriers has a place supporting EDCAT in the London Marathon itself. Mike Wood, chair of EDCAT, booked 10 charity fundraising places in the VVLN and one in the Virgin London Marathon, confident that runners would be keen and he wasn't disappointed, though he hadn't anticipated that the support would cross continents.

Among the runners will be two relay teams and eight individuals, including Jo James, who was secretary of the Harriers at the time the track project was launched, and who has since emigrated to Australia. Jo jumped at the chance to support the track project: "I am thrilled to be asked to be a part of this and honoured to take a place." Michael Pyle, who was born in Sedgefield and went to Sedgefield Community College before moving to Prague in the Czech Republic is also pleased to lend his support: "My passion for running came from joining my local club Sedgefield Harriers, and this provided me with the chance to pitch myself against others. Just imagine what a running track on the doorstep would do in

terms of providing the next generation with the opportunity to emulate and experience the athletics they see on TV!"

A team from Coxhoe Active Life Leisure Centre, which will have a part to play when the track becomes a reality, will run the distance as a relay, as will a team from Sedgefield Harriers led by Enya Killen. Other runners supporting EDCAT on 3 October include Judith Porter, Diane Baines and Doreen Huxley, long-term supporters of the track project; Clair Walker, a Harrier who will be taking part in her first marathon; Jonathan Wallace, a long-time member of the Harriers and a member of the EDCAT steering group; and Ean Parsons, chair of the EDCAT steering group and a founding member of the Harriers. Ean will visit a number of other North East tracks as he covers the 26.2 miles. The track, to be located on a site at Sedgefield NETPark, has strong support from the North East athletics community. The planning application is currently being considered and the team are well on the way to raising the funds needed. More information can be found at www.edcatrack.com.

The world's biggest half marathon returned on Sunday 12th September. The route was a bit different this year, starting and finishing in Newcastle to avoid the huge crowds gathering in South Shields like usual, and runners were also set off in waves during the day. However, that

Cricket

Sedgefield Cricket Club's U17 boys team continue to win plaudits and silverware. In early September, they won the Pallister Cup, their fourth trophy in 2021. Congratulations!

Meanwhile, slightly towards the other end of the age scale, Sedgefield Cricket Club's 'social' team, the Winkers, have won the North East social cricket league, going unbeaten, winning every game during the regular season, and then qualifying for finals day at Darlington CC. On the day, they beat Godfrey Boycotts from Stockton in their semi-final, and then Darlington Spin Doctors in the final. Congratulations to the Winkers too!



didn't deter plenty of people from Sedgefield from taking part, including 20 members of Sedgefield Harriers.

The first Harrier over the line was Paul Weir in an impressive time of 1:26:10 and first lady Harrier was Paula Bayles in a similarly excellent time of 1:49:05. The day before the half marathon, three young Harriers ran well in the Junior Great North Run too – Gregory Killingley, Lillie Graham and Matthew Graham. It's worth noting that former Sedgefield Harrier Kieran Walker finished 20th overall in a fantastic time of 67:16. Kieran was a junior Harrier for several years and was coached by the club's volunteers. His pathway into high performance running was through Sedgefield, but to progress to the next level he had to travel further afield to find the right standard of facilities.

Sedgefield Harriers hosted the ever popular Sedgefield Serpentine on Sunday 19 September – look out for a rundown of the results next month.

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