



# EXTRA

## SEDGEFIELD

PUBLISHED BY SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

No. 99 FEBRUARY 2018

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## Contacting your Town Council

CONCERN	WHO TO CONTACT	WHAT ACTION WE WILL TAKE
Parish Hall enquiry / Cemetery matters / Village Green	Council Office - 01710 621 273 or email julia@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk	Answer your questions and provide assistance.
Wanting an allotment.	Projects & Media Coordinator 01710 621 273 natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk	We will add you to the waiting list and contact you when an allotment becomes available.
Seeking a donation for your group / organisation.	Write or email the town council / Community Chest / Mayor via Council Offices or town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk	The request will be placed before the next appropriate council meeting.
Concerned about a planning application or action the town council is undertaking.	Write or email the town council and / or come along to a council meeting. A schedule of which can be found on the Town Council's website at www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/events. Public participation is a standing agenda item on each committee agenda.	Members will listen to your views and take into account when making their decision.
Wanting regular information regarding planning applications and community matters.	Admin Officer 01710 621 273 jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk	We will add you to the Residents Database email circulation list.

## Contacting Durham County Council

CONCERN	WHO TO CONTACT	CONTACT INFORMATION
General Enquiries	Customer Services	03000 26 0000
Refuse / street lights / pest control / dog fouling / stray dogs / grass cutting / litter / graffiti / roads and footpaths	Highways / Streetscene / Street Lighting	03000 26 1000
Planning Applications	Planning	03000 26 1060 / www.durham.gov.uk/planning
Benefits	Revenues & Benefits	03000 26 2000
Council Tax	Council Tax	03000 26 4000
Apply / Renew Bus passes	Sustainable Transport	03000 26 8667
Apply / Renew Blue Badge	Blue Badge Scheme	03000 26 9425
Council Housing	Livin	0845 50 55 500

Alternatively, Durham County Council concerns can be placed via text on 07786 027 280 starting with the word INFO or the online complaints portal www.doitonline.durham.gov.uk. It is very important that you register your views with Durham County Council – your voice matters and could make a difference for all local residents!

## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Do you know someone of any age who has made an exceptional contribution to Sedgefield?

If so, why not nominate them for the annual Citizen of the Year Award? Award entry forms should be included inside this month's edition of the Sedgefield News. The closing date for nominations is 22nd March 2018 and the award will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2018.



## STC on Twitter

Sedgefield Town Council is now active on Twitter under the username @SedgefieldTC!

Follow us to keep up to date with council news, events and local information.

## Village Green Parking

Please be mindful to not park on or drive across areas of Village Green land.

If you are unsure which areas of grass in Sedgefield are recognised Village Green, feel free to contact us. We will monitor these areas for further evidence of vehicle damage.

## Polite Notice

The town council welcomes all comments / feedback from local residents.

However, it will not tolerate abusive behaviour or attitudes towards town council staff, whether verbal or written. Please be respectful to town council staff when visiting the office or expressing feedback via email or letter.



Thank you to everyone involved in Sedgefield Snow Party 2017 which took place around the town on Saturday 2nd December 2017.

The event kicked off in Sedgefield Methodist Church with Hardwick Primary School's choir entertaining guests at their festive coffee morning. Then Santa and his elves made a stop at the newly-refurbished grotto in the Parish Hall's Fletcher Room, while stall holders gathered in both Ceddesfeld Hall and the Parish Hall to sell ornaments, accessories and sweet treats. Later, residents met in St Edmund's Church for Christmas carols and the event concluded on the village green with the snowman parade, a performance from Sedgefield Community College's band and the Christmas lights raffle. Congratulations to Isabel Williams who won the honour of switching on the town's Christmas lights on the trees around the centre of the green and the Christmas tree itself, which was kindly donated and erected by the Rotary Club of Sedgefield. Isabel also received a goody-bag which included tickets to see

a performance of 'The Pied Piper', kindly donated by Sedgefield Players. We hope that you all enjoyed the festivities!



## MAYOR'S UPDATE/ MAYOR'S BALL 2018

I have been kept very busy during the last few months, which is a reflection of how much goes on in our vibrant community.

Whether making very tough decisions on which was the best Halloween Howler, supporting the launch of the new dementia café at the fire station, or hosting guests at the annual civic carol service, Elizabeth and I have always had something to look forward to.

In November, we also managed to find time to host a fundraising lunch in the Parish Hall. We are very grateful to everyone who attended, helped, sponsored and provided prizes for the event, which raised £2,004 for the Great North Air Ambulance and the Macular Society, as well as other local good causes.

We are now making final arrangements for our big fundraising finale, the annual Mayor's Charity Ball, which will be held at Hardwick Hall Hotel on Friday 23rd February. With entertainment by the fantastic Gastric Band and attractions such as a tombola and auction, the event is shaping up very nicely. Tickets for this black tie ball are available now from the town council offices. Elizabeth and I look forward to welcoming you on the night.

## Carol Service

The annual civic Christmas carol service on Thursday 7th December 2017 saw residents of all ages and civic guests from around the region join together in St Edmund's Church.

The service was led by lay reader Michael King, with excellent contributions from Sedgefield Methodist Church, St John Fisher RC Church and the New Generation Church. The highlight of the evening was a performance by the combined choir of our two primary schools, who sang beautifully. Thank you to everyone who was involved in or attended the service.

# Butterwick Road Cemetery Permitted Memorials

In accordance with the Butterwick Road Cemetery Rules and Regulations we would like to remind everyone that the following are not permitted on or near graves:

- Flat stones, kerbstones, fencing or any other form of enclosure or border
- Small fences, trenches or any other types of boundary marking
- Potted or planted trees or shrubs
- Windmills/toys
- Any form of lighting

Glass/breakable containers are not permitted on actual graves. The full Butterwick Road Cemetery Rules and Regulations can be viewed at either the council offices or on our website at [www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/sedgefield-cemetery](http://www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/sedgefield-cemetery).

# Headstone Safety Testing: COMPLETE

We have now completed our annual headstone safety testing operations at our cemeteries.

Unfortunately, a small number of headstones have been found to require urgent attention and have been marked with red/white warning tape. Where next of kin details are known, the council has written letters detailing the work that needs to be undertaken to make the headstones safe.

An advisory notice has also been displayed in the cemetery noticeboard. If you are visiting the cemetery and find a headstone marked with warning tape please contact the council offices so that we can provide you with the necessary advice on what to do next.

If repair work is not undertaken by 19th March 2018, the council will oversee a programme of work to lay down these unstable headstones.

# SNOW PARTY CRAFT COMPETITION



Every year as part of Sedgefield Snow Party, Hardwick Primary School and Sedgefield Primary School take part in a Christmas craft challenge set by the town council.

This time, pupils were asked to make a Christmas tree in any shape or form they could imagine and the amount of creativity and hard work put in to each entry was overwhelming!



Well done to everyone who took part. The following winners, picked by the council's chairman Cllr Mel Carr, each received a selection box for their incredible efforts:

- HARDWICK PRIMARY**
- Nursery - Ellis Faulkner
  - Reception - Sophia Alderson
  - Y1 - Gideon Welsh
  - Y2 - Ella McRitchie
  - Y3 - Rose Seymour
  - Y4 - Matilda Cudbertson
  - Y5 - Isabel Williams
  - Y6 - Reece Hewick

- SEDFIELD PRIMARY**
- Nursery - Mason Skidmore
  - Reception - Hope Allen
  - Y1 - Kasey-Jade Thatcher
  - Y2 - Lara Salt
  - Y3 - Sophie Scott
  - Y4 - Tyler Swinburn, Grace Stanley & Lucy Ainscough

# Halloween Howler Winner



Congratulations to Halloween Howler competition winner Matilda Wood.

The competition, judged by Mayor of Sedgefield David Brown before the annual fireworks display, saw a whopping 28 pumpkin entries (and one turnip!) that had all been expertly carved. To see all of the entries, check out the post on our website: [www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk).



# Youth Provision UPDATE

The town council's Youth Working Group continues to work hard behind the scenes to enhance youth provision in Sedgefield.



As we have outlined in previous issues of the Extra, a crucial element of this work has been directly involving young people in making decisions about the direction we take. During the autumn, we took this to another level by agreeing a formal constitution for Sedgefield Youth Club (SYC), which will now be managed by a committee that includes young people, who will agree the priorities for the club and be able to raise funds for equipment and activities. The town council will continue to support SYC, but importantly, the residents for whom it exists will set its agenda as we go forward.

As a reminder, Sedgefield Youth Club meets every Monday in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall, with a session for under 11s from 6:00-7:00pm and then for those aged 11 and over from 7:00-8:00pm. Activities and equipment available on site include a Playstation 4, table tennis, tuck shop, board games and organised activities such as baking.

The great news is that we are adding to that equipment on a regular basis. We are grateful to Durham county councillors David Brown and John Robinson, who have each awarded £750 to SYC from their neighbourhood fund (£1,500 in total), which will be used to further enhance what the club can offer. The SYC committee still has vacancies, so if any young people would like to get involved in that, they will be very welcome. Please contact [natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk) or call 01740 621273 to find out more.

The town council supported another youth related project just before Christmas. Members of the community college's brass band and other students made their way to the Eden Drive area after school one Friday to perform Christmas carols and hand out festive treats to residents in the vicinity. The initiative was coordinated by Sedgefield Neighbourhood Policing Team.

# The Sedgefield Plan Update

At the time of printing, a public meeting will have taken place on Friday 19th January 2018 in the Parish Hall.

Look out on our website, Twitter and in the next edition of the Sedgefield Extra for the outcomes of this meeting and further updates on The Sedgefield Plan.

# Newly Co-opted Councillor - FIONA WARRAND

I have lived and worked in Sedgefield for the last 37 years.



I have also been a Guide leader for the last 18 years, and have two daughters currently attending the Guide unit in the town. I have a great interest in the youth of our town as they are our town's future, and the decisions made now affect them as well.

# Council Tax Precept 2018/2019

Over recent years there have been significant changes in local government funding and it is anticipated that further change will also be seen in coming years.

Every year, each Town and Parish Council sets a precept which is a charge that is determined locally as is added to, and collected along with, Council Tax. This precept money is then used to deliver services and amenities within that Town or Parish. In addition to this precept, many principal local authorities also provide Town and Parish Councils with further funding. Over recent years the level of funding from central government distributed via Durham County Council has reduced and this reduction is forecasted to continue over the coming years. For Sedgefield Town Council to not only continue to deliver its current services but also to continue refurbishment work in the Parish Hall, extend Sedgefield Cemetery, comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations and introduce the new National Living Wage and increased pension costs, it has been necessary to increase the precept for 2018/2019 by 5.53%. This equates to an increase of £7.58 per Band D household per annum.