



EXTRA SEDFIELD

PUBLISHED BY SEDGFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

No. 119 FEBRUARY 2022

Disclaimer: All information contained within this Extra regarding events and dates are correct at the time of going to press. Should any Covid restrictions be announced which impact upon events and dates, we will provide updates via our Twitter account (@SedgefieldTC), the News page of our website (www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk) and through our residents' database.



Sedgefield Town Council

Mayor's Civic Ball

Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield

Friday 4th March 2022

Drinks Reception: 7pm - Dinner 7.30pm

Dancing to MOSAIC

Carriages Midnight

Tickets £35

available from

Sedgefield Town Council Offices

Telephone 01740 621273

Raising Funds for Youngminds

Local Groups & Charities



Annual Town Meeting Notice

Sedgefield Town Council's Annual Town Meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 in the Parish Hall. The meeting serves as an ideal opportunity to find out what your Town Council has been doing over the last year, along with plans for the future. All residents are welcome – and encouraged – to attend and ask questions. Further information about it will be posted on our website, displayed on the noticeboards and shared via Twitter nearer the time of this event.

Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year 2021 Awards

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 or Young Citizen of the Year Award? Entry forms will be included in the March 2022 edition of the Sedgefield News. These Awards will be presented following the Town's Annual Meeting in Sedgefield Parish Hall on Tuesday 3rd May 2022.

Council Tax Precept 2022/23

Over recent years there have been significant changes in local government funding which has culminated in the removal of grant funding for this Council, however this is offset to some extent by new housing. It is anticipated that further change will also be seen in the coming years. Every year, each Town and Parish Council sets a precept which is a charge that is determined locally and is added to, and collected along with, Council Tax. This precept money is then used to provide services and amenities within the Parish. For Sedgefield Town Council to continue to deliver its current services as well as extend Butterwick Road Cemetery, undertake significant tree works, protect areas of village green and deal with increasing energy prices relating to Sedgefield Parish Hall it has been necessary to increase the precept for 2022/23. This equates to an increase of 7.4% or £13.13 per Band D household per annum.

Tree Works On Town Council Owned Land

In the summer of 2021 the Town Council commissioned an independent Tree Officer to undertake a review of the condition of all trees on Town Council-owned land. This review has now taken place and whilst the majority of the tree stocks are in very good condition, some works have been identified in a prioritised order for addressing over the coming 12 months. Some initial work has already been undertaken around the central village green areas and Beacon Lane Cemetery which has included the felling of several trees in a decayed state or which were unsuitable for the location in which they had grown, meaning they would soon start to decline. Trees which have been felled will be replaced with tree species which are appropriate for each location. Necessary permissions for all tree works within the Conservation Area are sought before any such work is undertaken. The purpose of this work is to ensure that we look after our tree stocks to ensure they are safe and thrive.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Since the last edition of the Extra I've had a very busy and interesting time. Who knew the role of Mayor was so varied?

I was honoured to attend the Remembrance Day Service at St Luke's War Memorial organised by Sedgefield Village Veterans. I was represented by my consort at the Remembrance Sunday Service at St Edmund's Church and he laid a wreath on my behalf at the "Town's War Memorial".

I held a fund-raising flower demonstration and afternoon tea in the Parish Hall at the end of November 2021. The demonstration was by Mrs Val Guest, a NAFAS demonstrator. Her arrangements were beautiful and she gave a humorous and interesting talk at the same time. Thanks to Wendy Rowley and Sheila MacMillan for providing the afternoon tea which was delicious. My thanks also go to the people of Sedgefield and surrounding area as well as other local Mayors and consorts for their support.

My Mayor's Carol Service in St Edmund's in December was a lovely evening to which Mayors from other areas were invited to view the Christmas Tree Festival prior to the service. The hymns and readings were excellent. Thanks to the Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir for their performance which was wonderful.

I was delighted to accept the Sedgefield Harriers' invitation to start the races and issue prizes at the North Eastern Counties Cross Country Championships held in East Park in December. This was a great event attended by approximately 1000 runners during the course of the day. It was inspiring to see so much enthusiasm and talent on show.

I have represented Sedgefield at an array of events to support other Mayors in our region and their chosen charities. I have attended civic dinners and carol services at Hartlepool, Seaham, Spennymoor, Shildon and Great Aycliffe; all very different and enjoyable.

Due to illness my consort attended in my place a presentation to Howard and Barbara Smith who have retired from the Sedgefield In Bloom Group due to relocating outside the area. This presentation was an appreciation of their continued work helping to make our town such a pleasure to look at and live in. Norma Neal also received recognition for her sterling work as Secretary of the Bloom Group, a role which she has now retired from.

Finally, I want to thank everyone in Sedgefield who supported my recent festive appeals. My first appeal was for a gift for a child of a family in need. This was a huge success and many beautiful presents wrapped with love and thought were donated. These were all given to the Visitor Centre at a prison and when the Christmas family days were to be held, all the children would receive a gift appropriate for their age and gender. The second appeal was for something for a homeless person or person in sheltered accommodation but outside during the day. The variety of gifts was fantastic including hats, scarves, jumpers, sweets and toiletries. Food was also given to help the centres with meal preparations. Hundreds of gifts were given with such amazing thought. All gifts were delivered prior to Christmas.



The Mayor of Sedgefield with Sadie Woodhouse the winner of the Halloween Howler competition, part of the 2021 fireworks display.

FESTIVE RECAP

Thanks to everyone who came along to support our Snow Party event which marked the start of the 2021 festive season. It was extremely unfortunate that this coincided with Storm Arwen and did mean that many of the outdoor elements of our day needed to be cancelled or changed. Unfortunately, the winner of our raffled glowstick competition, Chloe, wasn't able to switch on the Town's festive lights but she did meet up with the Mayor of Sedgefield at St Edmund's Christmas Tree Festival to receive her prize of a family pass to Beamish. Thanks to James for stepping in at short notice to help the Mayor of Sedgefield and Santa switch on the Town's Christmas lights during a real snow-storm!

On behalf of the Town Council and St Edmund's Church, we would like to thank everyone for their understanding about this year's revised arrangements.



James, the Mayor of Sedgefield and Santa switching on the Town's festive lights.



Chloe, the winner of our raffle glowstick competition, collecting her prize from the Mayor of Sedgefield.

Thanks to the pupils of Sedgefield Primary and Hardwick Primary who took part in the Mayor's Christmas Craft activity with all entries being used to decorate the Mayor's Christmas Tree as part of the Christmas Tree Festival held in St Edmund's Church.



Hardwick Primary School: The Mayor of Sedgefield with winners Daniel Mertz-Wright (Nursery), Harriet Leavy (Reception) and Flynn Probart (Year 1).



Sedgefield Primary School: Winners clockwise from top left Leo, Isla, Theodore and Lilly.

SYC SEDGEFIELD YOUTH CLUB

Happy New Year from Sedgefield Youth Club! We hope all our young people (and everybody) have had a lovely festive season and we are back and excited to start a new term.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has supported us in our fundraising events at the Halloween/Fireworks bake sale and our Snow Party fundraiser. We were able to use some of those funds to throw a fantastic Christmas party for our young people in the holidays. We also took our lucky members to see the *FANTASTIC* pantomime by Sedgefield Players; which this year was Jack and the Beanstalk! Both staff and young people thoroughly enjoyed the panto and will definitely be returning next year!

We have also used some of the funds raised to purchase some more equipment for the youth club including disco lights for the regular parties that we throw, craft materials, which were well used in the run up to Christmas and cooking equipment, which will be used this term while we cook our way 'around the world'.

Just a reminder that the Youth Club takes place on a Monday evening during term time: a junior session (school years 3-6) 6pm-7pm and a senior session (school years 7-11) 7-8.30pm.

We also have many other opportunities including trips and extra sessions planned for during the holidays this year. More to come on those later!

We look forward to seeing members old and new at the Youth Club and will keep you informed of our plans as and when they are made!

Thanks for your continued support,

Victoria & Christine!

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Town Council and an array of local community groups including SCA and Churches Together are hoping to hold a community event on Saturday 4th June 2022 as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Please monitor our website and twitter account for further information which we hope to release very soon.

COACH TRIPS

We hope that our coach trips will resume in May 2022. Please watch out for promotional posters displayed in the Town Council Offices, plus website and Twitter.

CHANGES TO COUNCILLOR ROLES

Councillor Allan Nicholson is the Town Council's new Allotment Champion and Councillor John Finlayson the new Parish Hall Champion.

NORTHUMBRIA IN BLOOM UPDATE

The Town will be participating in the Northumbria In Bloom's 2022 competition. We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks and good wishes to Howard Smith, Barbara Smith and Norma Neal who have recently retired from the Sedgefield In Bloom group

HEADSTONE SAFETY TESTING 2021/22 COMPLETE

We have now completed our annual headstone safety testing operations at our cemeteries. All headstones have passed this testing and no remedial work is required as a result. The next testing programme will take place towards the end of 2022.

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY



Notice is hereby given that by reason of Councillor resignation one vacancy has occurred among the members of the Town Council. Any persons willing to fill this vacancy should request from the Clerk an application form and return this on or before Friday 25th February 2022. The applicant's name must appear on the current register of the Voters List or the applicant should during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date resided in or within three miles of the parish or the applicant's only place of work during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date is in the parish. The applicant must not be debarred from standing as a Councillor.

PUBLIC elections cannot be held until the year 2025 but for the interim period election to the aforesaid Council will be voted for by the present sitting number of Councillors.

T. J. Ayre.

Dr Jane Ayre
Town Clerk
Sedgefield Town Council Offices
Sedgefield
TS21 3AT
14th December 2021

SEDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S TWITTER ACCOUNT

The Town Council shares lots of information about its activities and useful local updates via its Twitter account [@SedgefieldTC](https://twitter.com/SedgefieldTC). Please have a look and consider following us as a way to keep up to date with local issues.

COMMUNITY CHEST FUND

As we continue to recover from the impact of the pandemic, do you know of any local groups who may require additional funding to support their work? If so, Sedgefield Town Council's Community Chest Fund may be able to help and we would love to hear from you. The fund awards small donations of up to £100. Full eligibility criteria and details of how to apply to the fund can be found at the Community Chest page on our website www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk. Over recent months donations have been made to many groups including Sedgefield Players, Sedgefield Primary School, The Hive of Sedgefield, Sedgefield Youth Football Club, Sedgefield Cricket Club's Junior Section, Sedgefield In Bloom, 1st Sedgefield Rangers and Sedgefield Out Of School Fun Club.

SAVE THE DATE

Murder Mystery Night – Saturday 19th February 2022,
Sedgefield Parish Hall

Mayor's Civic Ball – Friday 4th March 2022,
Hardwick Hall Hotel

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee
community event** – 4th June 2022

Mayor's Quiz – Friday 21st October 2022,
Ceddesfeld Hall

Fireworks Display – Friday 28th October 2022,
grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall

Sedgefield Parish Hall

Are you looking to hold a party, social event or meeting in Sedgefield? The Parish Hall located beside the doctors' surgery has three rooms, two kitchens and a bar area plus wifi ready for hire!

Get in touch with us or visit our website

www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/facilities

to find out more.

CONTACTING SEDGFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

SEDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL COUNCILLORS:

Addresses (all Sedgefield)

Tel. no.

Cllr Allan Blakemore	32 Beacon Avenue TS21 3AB	01740 621820
Cllr David Brown	Town Farm House, 3 West End TS21 3BW	01740 622894
Cllr Mark Cant	Mordon Moor Farm TS21 2HN	07818 243774
Cllr Ann Carr	3 The Square TS21 2AB	01740 629070
Cllr Melvyn Carr	3 The Square TS21 2AB	01740 629070 / 07530 315331
Cllr John Finlayson	5 Pine Ridge Avenue, Sedgefield TS21 3EF	01740 622313
Cllr Catherine Hart	Foxtan Farm, Foxtan, Sedgefield TS21 2HX	07837126472
Cllr Paul Heasman	Contact via Town Council Offices	01740 621273
Cllr Dave Jasper	The Mews, 1 Rosedale Close, Sedgefield TS21 3EQ	07791 030886
Cllr Allan Nicholson	3 Eden Drive, Sedgefield TS21 2DX	07903 393861
Cllr Jim Seymour	9 Homebryth House, Sedgefield TS21 3BW	07950 600729
Cllr Julie Towler	6 Mitford Court TS21 2JE	07979 376997
Cllr Mavis Wayman	32 White House Drive TS21 3BX	01740 620337
Cllr Stephen Winter	3 Milliner Court TS21 2JF	01740 629408

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr David Brown	Town Farm House, 3 West End TS21 3BW	01740 622894
Cllr Chris Lines	41 White House Drive, Sedgefield TS21 3BX chris.lines@durham.gov.uk	07971 868329

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Paul Howell MP	paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk	01325 790580
-----------------------	--	--------------

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 3AT, 01740 621273

Town Clerk:	Dr. Jane Ayre	town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Admin. Officer:	Jane Tate	jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Financial Asst. / Receptionist:	Julia Rowsby	julia@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Projects & Media Coordinator:	Natalie Chowns-Traynor	natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk

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	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 Pass	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 027280 starting with the word INFO or the online complaints portal www.doitonline.gov.uk. It is very important that you register your views with Durham County Council. All Durham County Council meetings and public hearings are listed on their website at <https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?bcr=1>. Your voice matters and could make a difference for all local residents!