



EXTRA SEDGEFIELD

PUBLISHED BY SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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Disclaimer: All information contained within this edition regarding events and dates are correct at the time of going to press. Any changes will be shared via our Twitter account (@SedgefieldTC), the news page of our website at www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk and through the residents' database, our email group.

COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2023/24

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 with, Council Tax. This precept money is then used to provide services and amenities within the Parish. The Town Council is all too aware of the pressures of the current economic climate and the impact of the rising costs of inflation upon living standards. The Town Council has made a commitment for 2023/24 to continue to deliver its existing services and programme of community events while also progressing the expansion of Butterwick Road Cemetery, undertaking a significant programme of tree works and protecting areas of village green. The Council will continue to provide its not-for-profit dog bags service and has agreed for 2023/24 to subsidise these slightly so that users do not have any price increase. There will be increases to Parish Hall hire and allotment fees but these will be well below the current rate of inflation. The pricing structure for hiring the Parish Hall continues to support usage by local groups. The rise in Sedgefield Town Council's precept equates to an increase of 6.7% or £12.22 per Band D household per annum.



Sedgefield
Town Council

MAYOR'S CIVIC BALL

with entertainment from
THE MOONDOGS



Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield
Friday 3rd March 2023

Drinks Reception: 7.00pm
3 course meal: 7.30pm
Carriages Midnight



Tickets £35 available from
Sedgefield Town Council Offices 01740 621273

*Raising Funds towards Cancer
Research and local causes*



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

Financial support schemes operated by Durham County Council for those in financial hardship or eligible for a reduction in Council Tax, can be found at: www.durham.gov.uk/article/26603/Household-Support-Fund-HSF-, www.durham.gov.uk/counciltaxreduction and www.durham.gov.uk/helpwithyourmoney.

HONORARY FREEMEN AWARDS 2022

The Town Council was delighted to present Honorary Freeman Awards to two exceptional recipients at the end of 2022. Flip to page 3 for highlights or read the full write up with more pictures on the news page of our website.

HEADSTONE SAFETY TESTING COMPLETE

Our annual headstone safety testing for 2022/23 has been completed. Unfortunately, we have identified a small number of headstones that require urgent attention. These headstones have been marked with red/white warning tape and an advisory notice placed in the cemetery noticeboard. The council has contacted next of kin, where details are known, detailing the next steps. If you are visiting the cemetery and find a headstone marked with warning tape, please contact us so that we can provide you with the necessary advice on what to do next. If repair work is not undertaken by 31st March 2023, the council will oversee a programme of work to lay down these headstones.

REMEMBERING KEITH WELLS



Keith Wells was a true pillar of our community, becoming a well-known name around the town since his move to Sedgefield in 1953. Along with his wife, the late Nancy Wells, Keith shaped our very town in myriad ways. Working as Town Clerk between 1969-79 was only one stamp Keith left here at the Town Council, others including being a Councillor for 20 years, representing the town as Mayor in 1986/87 and becoming Honorary Burgess in 1995.

Keith is remembered fondly by councillors past and present and was honoured with a minute's silence at the start of our November committee meetings. We share our deepest condolences with Keith's family, friends and all who have been touched by Keith's passing.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Sedgefield Town Council's Annual Town Meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 9th May 2023 in the Parish Hall. The meeting serves as an ideal opportunity to find out what we have been doing over the last year, along with plans for the future. Our Annual Report 2022/23 will be available to read at the meeting. All residents are welcome – and encouraged – to attend and ask questions.

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S FESTIVE RECAP



Sainsbury's vouchers and chocolates for their amazing effort.

The annual Snow Party event, held on Saturday 26th November, proved to be as popular as ever with Santa's Grotto tickets selling out very quickly. The grotto looked stunning and Santa was thrilled to meet all his special guests. With Sedgefield Youth Club selling refreshments and treats from the main kitchen and lots of fun activities like bouncy castle and face painter in the main hall, the Parish Hall was alive with Christmas joy all afternoon. The range of stall holders in Ceddesfeld Hall brought in a large crowd looking to do a spot of Christmas shopping. Thanks to the SCA for continuing to support this event every year and to the Pop In's Wendy Rowley and volunteers for the delicious spread of drinks and nibbles. After a lovely, short carol service in St Edmund's led by Lay Minister Michael King and musical accompaniment by Ukulele Smile Time, Santa and his friends gathered on the Turning Circle to switch on the town's Christmas lights. Congratulations to this year's lucky glow raffle winner, Ava Kitchen, aged 5 (pictured right with the Mayor of Sedgefield, moments before pressing the magic button), who had the pleasure of lighting up the village green and won an annual family pass to Beamish.



Every year we issue a craft activity to Sedgefield Primary School and Hardwick Primary School in the lead up to the Snow Party. This year the pupils were tasked with making a Christmas lantern with a template and LED tea light provided, which they could hang on their Christmas tree or bring along to our lights switch on event. The Mayor of Sedgefield, Cllr Dave Jasper, was tasked with the impossible job of visiting the schools and picking a winner from each participating class! Congratulations to the winners below for their wonderful designs!

Hardwick Primary - Sophia Y5



Sedgefield Primary - Scarlett Y1



Sedgefield Primary - Joseph Y2



To see the full gallery of images from our range of festive events in 2022, visit the news page of our website or head on over to our Twitter account @SedgefieldTC.

HONORARY FREEMEN AWARDS 2022 CONTINUED

Councillor David Brown is a true Sedgefield-ite having lived in the Parish his whole life. Always proud of his roots, David boasts a 60+ ball game attendance record, a feat which earned him the honour of starting off the game in 2009! An avid supporter of Sedgefield's Agricultural Show, David volunteered as Ring Steward for many years, a role from which he has just recently retired. David first joined the Town Council in 2003 and was Mayor of Sedgefield in 2017/18. David continues to serve the town as both Town Councillor and County Councillor, supporting community groups and acting as the voice of rural residents. Congratulations once again!



Also presented with this prestigious award a few weeks prior was gold medal Paralympian **Jack Smith MBE**, who was surprised with his award while delivering a talk at his former school, Sedgefield Primary School. Jack loved playing rugby from a young age and took up wheelchair rugby following an injury to his neck in 2008, which left him

paralysed at age 16. His determination to follow his passion and overcome any obstacle made him a local hero and an inspiration to all.

SEDGEFIELD FIBRE BROADBAND AVAILABILITY ISSUE

UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR JENNY HAWORTH

Late last year, I identified a problem with lack of fibre availability in some areas of Sedgefield. After 41 helpful comments from fellow residents, I took these issues back to Digital Durham and our local East Durham Rural Community AAP who were both incredibly helpful. Digital Durham confirmed there seemed to be an issue with ordering fibre for those on cabinets 1 and 3 in Sedgefield.

I am pleased to report this should now be resolved meaning residents on cabinets 1 and 3 (the green boxes on streets) should now be able to place an order for fibre service. These cabinets provide fibre to properties in West End, Queens Drive, Winterton Avenue, Station Road, and St Luke's Crescent.

You can check which cabinet you are connected to at www.telecom-tariffs.co.uk/codelook.htm. If your current actual speeds aren't as expected on the Openreach website, you should contact your broadband provider to discuss.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: POPPY WREATH HOLDER THANKS

On Remembrance Sunday the town came together to pay its respects and commemorate the fallen. The church service and laying of wreaths at the War Memorial was the first to be held since Covid without any form of restrictions in place and it was wonderful to see so many people in attendance.

We would like to express our thanks to local resident Mr Ray Carmichael who has made and gifted to the town a custom-made poppy shaped wreath holder which now has pride of place next to the War Memorial and allows us to fittingly display the town's poppy wreaths so that they are visible and secure.

NORTHUMBRIA IN BLOOM

At the end of last year, the decision was made by Sedgefield Town Council not to enter into the Northumbria in Bloom 2023 competition. This decision was made with the full support of Sedgefield in Bloom. Please be assured the town's floral displays will still be maintained to the same high standard throughout the year and our much-loved Tub Planting event will still take place in June. We all love to see Sedgefield blooming through the different seasons and hope that the damage to our winter bedding in late Autumn 2022 is not repeated in spring when our next bedding plants go in. It has been so disappointing to see flower tubs on the village green standing empty as a result of this antisocial behaviour.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR & YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 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 2023 edition of the Sedgefield News. These Awards will be presented following the Town's Annual Meeting in Sedgefield Parish Hall on Tuesday 9th May 2023.



FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK BEN GRAY

On 11th November, we said goodbye to our gardener, Ben Gray, as he starts a new chapter working at the wonderful South Park in Darlington. Ben has been with us since 2016 and has become a much-loved face round the town, seen daily on the blue tractor (earning the nicknames 'Tractor Ben' and 'Plant Man' by local children) and tending to our beautiful floral displays. Ben has also been an intrinsic part of Sedgefield's Northumbria in Bloom entries and a valued member of our staffing team. We held a small leaving presentation which was attended by the Mayor of Sedgefield, Town Councillors, council staff, members of Sedgefield in Bloom and a few familiar faces. Special thanks to Cllr Ann Carr for baking an amazing chocolate cake for the occasion (which you can see on the full write up on our website!) Do make sure to say hello if you see him in his new role. Best of luck Ben. Sedgefield will miss you.



CONTACTING SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL COUNCILLORS:

	<i>Addresses (all Sedgefield)</i>	<i>Tel. no.</i>
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	629070 / 07530 315331
Cllr Kelly Dickerson	30 Beaumont Court TS21 3AH	07720 080497
Cllr John Finlayson	5 Pine Ridge Avenue TS21 3EF	01740 622313
Cllr Catherine Hart	Contact via Town Council Offices	01740 621273
Cllr Jenny Haworth	27 Station Rd TS21 2BY	07946 569178
Cllr Dave Jasper	The Mews, 1 Rosedale Close TS21 3EQ	07791 030886
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 david.brown2@durham.gov.uk	01740 622894
Cllr Chris Lines	41 Whitehouse Drive, TS21 3BX chris.lines@durham.gov.uk	07971868329

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Paul Howell MP	paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk	01325 790580
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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 via www.doitonline.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!

SAVE THE DATE

Mayor's Charity Dance ft. Cardiac Dodgers

Saturday 4th Feb 2023

Sedgefield Parish Hall

**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW
FROM THE COUNCIL OFFICE**

Mayor's Civic Ball

Friday 3rd March 2023

Hardwick Hall Hotel

**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW
FROM THE COUNCIL OFFICE**

Mayor's Cracking Cabaret

Saturday 15th April 2023

Sedgefield Parish Hall

Mayor's Murder Mystery Night

Saturday 29th April 2023

Sedgefield Parish Hall

Tub Planting

TBC June 2023

Village Green

Fireworks Display

Friday 27th Oct 2023

Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds

Snow Party

Saturday 2nd Dec 2023

Various locations