

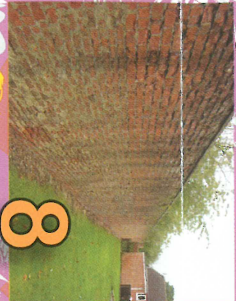
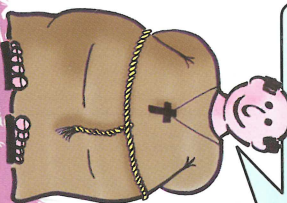
Sedgefield Heritage Trail 4M02

START

The trail begins at the Water Pump on the Green opposite the Black Lion public house

Have you ever heard of anyone called **CEDD**? Probably not but it was a common name in Anglo-Saxon times and it is thought that **CEDDSEFELD**, the original name for Sedgefield, means **LAND BELONGING TO CEDD**.

He was probably one of the first people to own the land around here.



HEATED WALL

This wall was once part of the Rector's garden and is hollow inside. A furnace produced heated air to fill the space, heating the wall and enabling fruits like peaches to grow here. See if you can find any of the hooks which held the fruit trees in place.

Take the narrow path between the bungalows and gardens along Wykes Close (named after a former rector). When you get to Rectory Row, cross the road and proceed along Cross Street

The single storey building on your left, now a pottery studio, was once one of Sedgefield's smithies.

Blacksmiths did not just shoe horses but made all sorts of special tools needed locally. The original furnace is still inside the shop.

Continue along Cross Street and cross the main road

1

Until the early 20th Century, the village obtained its water supply from several public pumps like this one on the Green though many houses had their own pumps or wells in their gardens.

Imagine having to get up on a cold morning to come and get your water here!

Facing in the direction of the Church cross over the road and follow the footpath over the green. Stop in front of the Crosshill Hotel.



CEDDSEFELD HALL

This was formerly the Rectory and is now the community centre. Do you know what language the inscription above the door is in? It tells you about the men who paid for this house to be rebuilt in a grand style for their nephew, the rector, after a disastrous fire. A ghost is said to haunt the old rectory.

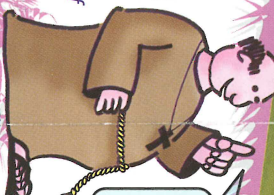
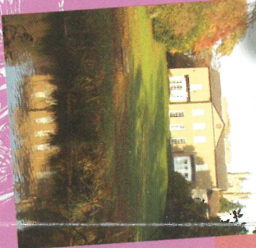
Walk around the side of the building.

These grounds used to be the Rector's private garden. Whenever there is any snow in Winter, this is a good slope for sledging!

Take the path to the right hand side of the grounds and follow the footpath down and around the bottom of the lake. The lake was kept stocked with fish for the rector's household. In the past, church law demanded that everyone eat fish rather than meat on Fridays.

Continue left on the path between the two lakes and past the first two bungalows. Stop at the tall, wide brick wall over on your right.

6



These houses on the Green form a complete square. The inhabitants usually kept animals in the back yard. How do you think they got them to market?

From the front of the Crosshill Hotel follow the arrow in the direction of the Church.

2

If you had stood here 600 years ago you would have seen a village made up of farms and cottages built of timber with gaps between them. The earliest remaining buildings probably date from the 17th century.

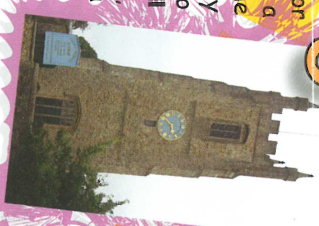
The market was held here on Cross Hill for centuries and there used to be an actual market cross. It was mainly a market for cattle and sheep so you can imagine the noise.



CHURCH TOWER

There has only been a clock here for the last 100 years. They used to ring a half muffled funeral bell after the death of anyone important - they wrapped something round the bell to make the sound quieter. A passing bell was rung twelve hours after a death, 3 times for a child, 6 times for a woman, and 9 for a man. This was how people in the past got to know if anyone had died.

Continue along footpath in the churchyard. Turn right towards the steps and into Rectory Row. Turn right - continue for 50 yards then cross the road into the car park of Ceddesfield Hall.



THE LYCH GATE

The gateway into the church grounds is called the lych gate because the word lych means "corpse" and it is through here that people are carried to the funeral service when they die.

THE WAR MEMORIAL

Beside the lych gate stands the War Memorial. Look how many Sedgefield people died in the two World Wars.

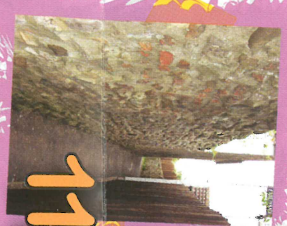
Pass through the Church gates and into the churchyard.

Over on the road side of the graveyard there is a monument to Frederick Hardwicke Bolton who died at the Battle of Balaklava in the Crimean War. This was a very famous battle; perhaps you can find out why?

Cross the main road to the DUN COW INN and turn left into East Parade. Walk a little way up the narrow alley with a high stone wall alongside it. It is marked with a public footpath sign.

This is part of the old town wall and is built of stones which would have been taken from the fields. Look how uneven the stones in the wall are. There are still parts of the old wall elsewhere in the village.

Retrace your steps back to the pavement.



11



12

Just in sight to the left, facing towards you is **EAST WELL HOUSE**, an 18th century farmhouse. This reminds us that in the past a lot of Sedgefield's people were involved in farming.

Next to the farm once stood the original Sedgefield workhouse, which is where the poor people who had no means of making a living or no relatives to look after them had to live. Workhouses were often made really horrid places to live in so that people only came in as a last resort. The trouble is - many had no alternative. This one was so nasty it was eventually closed down and a new one built. Return to the Dun Cow Inn and then turn right into **FRONT STREET**.

13



As you walk up the hill, notice the three-storey, brick Georgian building called **ELM HOUSE**. Can you see what makes the windows different from houses round about?

THE WHITE HOUSE is another of the Sedgefield farmhouses. It was probably built in the 1790's. Can you see anything that makes it similar to Elm House?

18



During the last century a smithy stood on the site where West Park Motors is today. Can you imagine the cart horses all queuing up here waiting to be shod! The gate to Hardwick Hall also stood near here so people waiting their turn may have seen carriages sweeping by. There was also a pond here which was a goal in the annual Shrove Tuesday football match.

Cross the road and turn left back towards the village centre. Continue along the road and walk through the arch of the Hardwick Arms.

HARDWICK ARMS HOTEL

This was Sedgefield's main coaching inn. The arch has stone blocks set on either side to keep coach wheels away from the walls. Can you find them? The stables have survived but have been made into houses. The yard remains partly cobbled.

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Continue past the coaching houses until you face the fields. You can either cross the fields to the site of the Roman excavations and then on to Hardwick Park, returning near Sedgefield Racecourse and Cricket Club, or continue on the Heritage Trail. Information about Hardwick Park is available at the library or the park itself.



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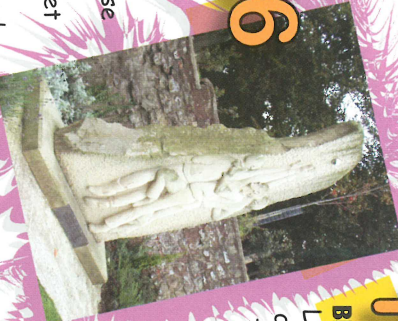
On the bank side opposite, two shops are all that remain of a row of buildings. Uphill, were **Cooper's Almshouses**. These cottages were built in 1703 to house deserving old people. Thomas Cooper was a surgeon who left money in his will for this purpose. The people had strict rules to follow, had to wear a uniform and had to attend church regularly.

Beyond the almshouses, there used to be a school for poor children. A new school built in 1826 had the village gaol beneath it. I bet the children did not dare misbehave!

Cross the road and turn right along the side of the church until you reach the recent balgame statue.

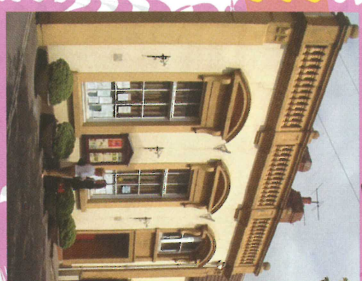
16

SHROVE TUESDAY BALL GAME STATUE
People say that Sedgefield's ball game has been going on for hundreds of years. Some say the game began with warring tribes and that the original ball was the head of the enemy! The game starts at 1 pm on the Green when villagers chase and throw the ball through the streets with everyone battling to get a kick. If you are in Sedgefield on Shrove Tuesday don't be disappointed if no one is around because the ball is often "kidnapped" to neighbouring villages. The ball reappears before four-o'clock so that the game can be finished. There are no boundaries, no teams and few rules.



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The **PARISH HALL** was built in 1849 for the use of the people of Sedgefield. It is still well used.



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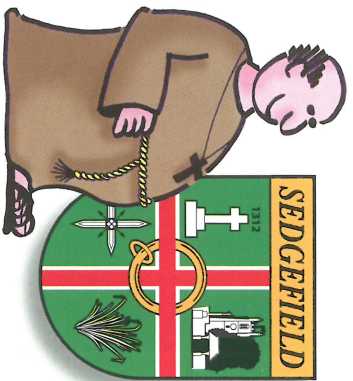
BLACK LION sun dial Look at the walls of this old pub and see if you can find something to do with "Time"? Turn right at the Black Lion and continue along North End until you reach the White House.



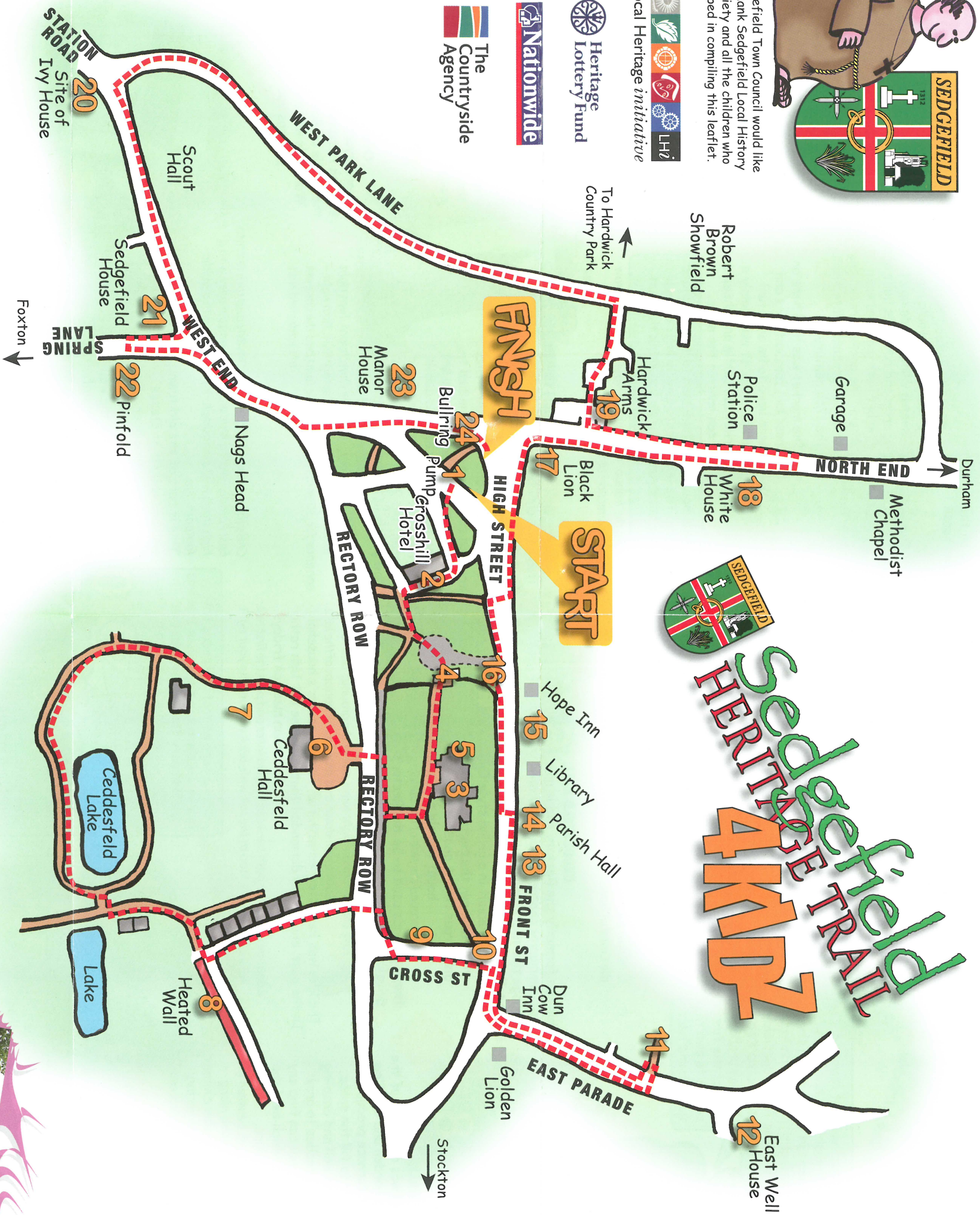
The Trail continues on the other side

To continue on the Heritage Trail, turn left along West Park Lane keeping the fields to your right until you meet the main road again. Opposite at this point is the site of the nineteenth century Sedgefield Workhouse.





Sedgefield Town Council would like to thank Sedgefield Local History Society and all the children who helped in compiling this leaflet.



IVY HOUSE

This was the later name for the workhouse built in 1861 to replace the one in East End. It served the poor of the local area and admitted tramps only if they had travelled a certain distance and obtained a card from the police station; they were then given a night's free lodging but records show that the master of the Sedgefield Workhouse did his best to discourage tramps from coming and had been known to order buckets of cold water thrown over the new arrivals at the door!

*Cross the road and continue towards the town centre.
Stop at the junction with Spring Lane.*



The house on the corner of the lane, **Sedgefield House**, is another very old building. Can you find the date? It is thought, however, that the house is even older than this.

Walk fifty yards down Spring Lane.

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On the opposite side of the road a little further on stands the three-storey **MANOR HOUSE** occupying a prominent position at the head of the Green. It is one of Sedgefield's biggest buildings. Look for the sundial on the wall to tell you the exact date that the house was built. Over the years, as well as being a private house, it has been used as a boarding school and the local magistrate's court.

Go to the corner of the Green opposite the Black Lion Pub



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This Heritage Trail takes you on a tour of the historic town. The Trail is 1.75 miles long (2.8 km) and takes approximately an hour and a half to complete.

A story sheet/quiz sheet to accompany this trail is available at many local shops and the library.

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On the left are the remains of **THE PINFOLD**, a high-walled compound where stray cattle were kept until their owners claimed them. They had to pay a fine before they could get their animal back! The house beyond was formerly a coach house.

Further down Spring Lane is a pond which traditionally was one of the **alleys** (goals) in the ball-game. The mill-stream is now used as the alley.

Retrace your steps up Spring Lane, turn right and head towards the green.

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BULL RING
This is a fitting place to end the trail as this is the spot where the ball-game begins and ends when the ball is passed through the ring three times. This is also, presumably, where the farmers tethered their bulls on market day.



Look around you as you finish and perhaps you will understand why the centre of Sedgefield has been made a conservation area with rules to help protect its appearance for future generations.

FNESH



Sedgefield TRAIL 4KM

Find out about the fantastic history of Sedgefield...

