



EXTRA SEDFIELD

PUBLISHED BY SEDGFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

No. 127 FEB 2024

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 2024/25

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.

Sedgefield Town Council is all too aware of the pressures of the current economic climate and the cost of living. We have made a commitment for 2024/25 to continue to deliver our existing services and programme of community events while also progressing the expansion of Butterwick Road Cemetery, undertaking a significant programme of tree works around the town and protecting areas of village green. There will be increases to Parish Hall hire, cemetery fees and allotment fees but these will be in-line with 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 6.8% or £13.22 per Band D household per annum.

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

Sedgefield Town Council
MAYOR'S CIVIC BALL 2024
ft. Travelin' Band & Tom Bolton
Friday 1st March 2024
Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield, TS21 2EH
Drinks Reception 7pm | Meal 7:30pm
Carriages Midnight
Dress: Black Tie

TICKETS £40
01740 621273
SEDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

RED SKY FOUNDATION
Raising funds for Red Sky Foundation & local causes

WELCOME TO OUR NEWLY CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR: PETER HINDE

In October 2023, Peter Hinde was co-opted onto the town council. Peter has been involved in local organisations such as the Badminton club and Sedgefield Community Association, as well as assisting with community events including the Medieval Fayre. Many years ago, Peter was part of the team which brought Proms in the Park to Sedgefield and also one of the residents who won £50,000 for the town in The People's Lottery. You may also recognise Peter as the mastermind behind the Monday Night Quiz in the Dun Cow!

Peter moved to Sedgefield in 1984 and enjoys all that our beautiful town has to offer, stating, "We are very fortunate to have so many facilities in our town and I will continue to work hard to support and promote them."



SNOW PARTY SCHOOL CRAFT ACTIVITY 2023

The Mayor and Consort were very busy in the week leading up to the Snow Party, as were a handful of pupils from Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School and Sedgefield Primary School.

Two classes from each school were tasked with creating some festive houses to hang on the Mayor's Tree at St Edmund's Church Christmas Tree Festival. The Mayor then had the near impossible job of picking one winner from each class and awarding a small chocolate treat for their hard work!

Congratulations to the winners below and to all pupils who took part for your amazing crafts.



Aaron Y2

Sedgefield Hardwick Primary



Lorie Y3

Sedgefield Hardwick Primary



Leo Y1

Sedgefield Primary



Amber Y2

Sedgefield Primary

We hope you were able to visit the Mayor's tree in person to view the lovely, hand-made decorations which represented Santa's journey around the world on Christmas Eve. Don't worry if not, you can see lots of photos of the Christmas Tree Festival (and full-sized images of the winning pupils above) on the news page of our website at www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/news. Use the 'events' or 'competitions' categories to navigate easily!

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S FESTIVE RECAP 2023

The Fireworks Display at the end of October went off without a hitch, despite the threat of bad weather. Nearly 1000 spectators found a spot in Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds to watch the striking 15-minute show, keeping warm with hot chocolates & hot dogs sold by 1st Sedgefield Scouts and Halloween-themed baked goods from Sedgefield Youth Club's bake sale.

We received an incredible 40 entries in our Halloween Howler competition and it was a fantastic sight to see so many unique, quirky and spooky pumpkins illuminating the car park. Congratulations to the below competition winners who were picked by the Mayor and each received a Sainsbury's voucher and some Halloween sweets!

1st place: Lewis2nd place: Harry3rd place: Emily

Our Annual Snow Party truly lived up to its name last year. With thick snow on the ground, a festive chill in the air and five events taking place across the town, the countdown to Christmas in Sedgefield officially began.

Santa met with 84 local children to check what they wished for in their stockings, with help from Sedgefield Youth Club's bake sale, a bouncy castle, facepainter and more fun in Sedgefield Parish Hall to keep the children entertained while they waited. St Edmund's Church held their fourth Christmas Tree Festival with 35 participating community groups and businesses. It really felt magical to be surrounded by the decorated trees while singing carols with Sedgefield's Ukulele Band during the Carol Service later on in the day. Ceddesfeld Hall hosted a wonderful Craft Fayre with 6 local businesses showcasing their crafts and the Pop In Club providing their much-loved refreshments and treats.

The day ended with the glow raffle draw and switch on of the town's Christmas lights. Congratulations to Isaac Weightman for winning this year's draw! Isaac had the honour of pressing the magic button and received a Beamish Unlimited Family Voucher plus a selection box. We hope you enjoy!



You can read full write-ups on the Fireworks Display and Snow Party with lots more photos by visiting the news page of our website and navigating using the categories on the right-hand side www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/news.



SEDGEFIELD YOUTH CLUB: UPDATE BY GEORGE NOTT

Sedgefield Youth Club had a wonderful Halloween and Christmas. In October we ran a spooky treats stall at the Fireworks Display, which raised £170. A few weeks later at the Council's annual Snow Party event, we ran our usual festive bake sale and raised another whopping £220.



Our fundraising efforts helped us put on our second ever Breakfast with Santa event which was so magical. There was a great turnout with 33 people enjoying



a choice of reindeer-shaped pancakes or a full English, plus fun activities and special time with Santa and of course some amazing gifts. To finish off the Christmas period we hosted our Christmas disco with a DJ and a range of classic party games to celebrate another year of fun.

With 2023 in the past, we now have a brilliant 2024 to look forward to. Our popular Valentine's disco is just round the corner and we are already looking into activities for the Easter holidays, including ice skating! We are hoping to obtain some funding to help provide an Easter programme, so keep an eye on our site www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/youth-club/ for updates!

Don't forget, our normal sessions are every Monday evening, with juniors (school yrs 3-5) from 6-7:15pm and seniors (school yr 6+) from 7:15-8:30pm. Sessions are 50p entry but your first time is free. We can't wait to meet you!



THE QUEEN'S TREE: COMMEMORATIVE TREE UPDATE

Towards the end of 2023, the Town Council planted a commemorative tree in the grounds of Old Beacon Lane Cemetery. This black walnut tree is to be known as The Queen's Tree.

A commemorative plaque has also been installed in front of the tree, reflecting that this tree is planted on behalf of all residents in Sedgefield Parish in commemoration of the late HM Queen Elizabeth II. The species of tree and its location were chosen with the hope that it can grow into a veteran tree and be enjoyed by many future generations.



HEADSTONE SAFETY TESTING 2023: COMPLETE

Our annual headstone safety testing for 2023/24 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 28th March 2024, the council will oversee a programme of work to lay down these headstones.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Sedgefield Town Council's Annual Town Meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 7th May 2024 in Sedgefield 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 2023/24 will be available to read at the meeting. All residents are welcome to attend and ask questions.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR & YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2023 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 of the Year or Young Citizen of the Year Award?

Look out for information on how you can submit a nomination for either award in the upcoming editions of Sedgefield News.

MEMORIAL BENCH OPPORTUNITY

There is now the opportunity for a memorial bench to be located at West End. If you would be interested in having a bench here to commemorate a loved one or event, or want further details on the memorial bench process, please contact town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk.

NEW WEBSITE FEEDBACK

We are very grateful for all the feedback received on our new website. It has proven much easier to use and navigate than our previous site. We've further improved upon accessibility since the launch and hope that it continues to be useful for residents and visitors alike.

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 Elizabeth Flanagan	33 Hamminkeln Place TS21 3FN	07760 640059
Cllr Catherine Hart	Foxton Farm, Foxton TS21 2HX	07837 126472
Cllr Jenny Haworth	27 Station Rd TS21 2BY	07946 569178
Cllr Peter Hinde	44 West End TS21 2BT	01740 621709
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	07916 228929

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
-----------------------	--	--------------

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 Assistant:	Julia Rowsby	julia@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Projects & Media Coordinator:	Natalie Chowns-Traynor	natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Receptionist & Parish Hall Support Assistant:	Adam Heath	adam@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 Coffee Morning

26th January 2024
Sedgefield Parish Hall

Mayor's Race Night

3rd February 2024
Sedgefield Parish Hall
Tickets £12.50

Mayor's Evening Dance

w/ The Gastric Band
9th February 2024
Sedgefield Parish Hall
Tickets £10

Mayor's Civic Ball

1st March 2024
Hardwick Hall Hotel
Tickets £40

Mayor's Charity Stall

@ Farmers Market
3rd March 2024
Village Green

Mayor's 60s Music Night

ft. The Moondogs
22nd March 2024
Sedgefield Parish Hall
Tickets £12

Mayor's Fashion Show

with Betty's Boudoir
11th April 2024
Sedgefield Parish Hall

Mayor's Quiz

25th October 2024
Ceddesfeld Hall

Fireworks Display

1st November 2024
Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds

Snow Party

30th November 2024
Various Locations