

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

Produced by volunteers for the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Fishburn

May 2024

Submission deadline for the next edition: Tuesday 14 May

Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre – Saturday 18 May



Visit to Downing Street



On 27 February, Stephen and Sharon Brown had the pleasure of visiting 10 Downing Street as a guest of Sedgefield MP Paul Howell who kindly nominated them for the Community Food and Farming Awards.



Paul had visited their taproom, at Hopper House Brew Farm on Racecourse Road, and wanted to acknowledge their diversification. A brewery was established on the farm 5 years ago in partnership with Ian and Sharon Grieve and with some additional help from Charles Skilbeck they currently produce a regular range of five beers: a golden ale, a blonde ale, a double hopped IPA, a ruby ale and a chocolate infused porter.



The taproom opens the last Friday and Saturday of every month and is a true diversification of the dairy farm. You can watch the cows being milked as you drink your pint (other drinks are also available!)

Hopper Farm will be taking part in Open Farm Sunday on 9 June. More details in the next edition.

As SCA's largest and longest-standing event, Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre is a highlight in the community calendar. Since the pandemic, the fayre has grown, with an array of new craft stalls, bumper crowds, and great community support. Practical help with setting up and taking down, with sponsorship and tombola donations from local organisations, schools, businesses, residents and SCA members, makes all the difference, in the run up and on the day. The Fayre Planning Committee work together to organise a fun filled, varied and growing list of attractions, with something for everyone. All profits from SCA tombola stalls go directly back to the upkeep of Ceddesfeld Hall. We're hoping again to build on the success of recent years, with some real 'Mediaeval Madness'!

## Donate a tombola prize

Please donate a tombola prize, (bottle or gift), which may be dropped in to Ceddesfeld Hall bar any evening (Monday to Friday from 7:30pm) or to the collection box in the foyer, or you can arrange a collection by contacting one of the numbers below. Donations would need to be made by Wednesday 15 May.

## Community help needed

Help on the day remains crucial; to carry across, set up, take down and carry back gazebos (and weights), tables and chairs and to set up the performance arena in the middle of the green as well as the attractions and activities on the lawns at Ceddesfeld. We're looking for strong, fit people to help between 8am and 9am and from 4pm to 5:30pm. The gazebos are easily erected, best done with 4 people, one on each corner.

SCA is delighted that the Mediaeval Fayre continues to be an important and well attended event for the town, its residents as well as the shops and businesses. A very small management committee organises the event, but it is not possible for them to put everything out on the day – hence this very important and necessary plea for help remains.

If you (your friends, team or colleagues) can help, please get in touch soon. Contact [info@sedgefield sca.org.uk](mailto:info@sedgefield sca.org.uk) or telephone Tony and Sarah on 01740 622185, John on 01740 620042 or Maggie on 07970 761844.

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## SCHOOL NEWS

### STEM opportunities

In order to prepare our students effectively for the world of work, we look to create lots of opportunities for our young people to develop their interests in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Amongst the recent activities that have taken place, a group of students in Y9 and Y10 have had the chance to take part in a series of sessions working alongside Professor Neil Downie.



During the first of these, students spent the morning coming up with over 20 different methods to calculate the speed of a projectile from a vacuum bazooka, followed by taking apart various pieces of old technology to look at how the components work together. During the afternoon, the students designed an invention of their own, drawing diagrams and discussing various scientific concepts to create a plan of what they then built in the following two sessions. Thank you to Professor Downie and also to Tom Williams, a member of our governing body who supported with the days, for this brilliant opportunity!

### In the garden

Over the recent Easter holidays, Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Academy has undergone a transformation in its Reception Garden, creating an enriching and innovative outdoor space for its youngest learners. This outdoor space, pivotal for the pupils' learning, has been revitalized with a range of stimulating features aimed at fostering creativity, exploration, and learning.



One of the primary objectives of this makeover is to encourage innovation through play. The redesigned garden provides numerous opportunities for children to explore, experiment, and create using their imagination. Whether constructing in the mud kitchen, planting in the herb garden, or performing on stage, every corner of the space is designed to nurture a sense of wonder and exploration.

The renovations have introduced several exciting elements to the garden. A key addition is the new performance area, designed to inspire young talents and encourage imaginative play. This space will serve as a stage for budding actors, dancers, and storytellers, enhancing communication and confidence among the children.

Furthermore, the inclusion of a herb garden brings nature directly into the learning environment, offering opportunities for hands-on discovery and lessons about plants and their uses. The astro turfed areas provide a safe and comfortable surface for various activities, ensuring year-round usability and minimal maintenance.



### Bravery award



**Sedgefield Primary are very proud to celebrate a pupils', unique Bravery Award.** Roman (age 9) is to receive an award at St James' Park in Newcastle from Brave Hearts of the North East. This is in recognition for Roman's outstanding resilience and strength of character. Roman received a heart transplant aged 10 months. He receives daily dialysis, is PEG fed and overcomes the daily difficulties of communicating through a tracheotomy. Roman uses a talking tablet in school to support his communication with his classmates. Roman is an identical twin. However, unlike his twin brother, Roman has previously only been able to attend school for approximately 25% of the timetable, due to weeks and months spent in hospital receiving essential medical care.



*Our mini hero*

This December was the 8th anniversary of Roman's heart transplant. His family have a close link with the family of the donor (Fraser) - who have very much become extended family to them - due to this incredible gift of life. It is unusual for a donor's family to meet the recipients and the two mothers have formed a close bond. Roman maintains a unique positive attitude, whilst facing daily adversity. He has a wicked sense of humour and enjoys school life at Sedgefield Primary. Roman showed real courage and commitment recently auditioning for our school choir, despite extreme speech difficulties singing with a tracheotomy. Emma Patchett supports Roman on a one to one basis in school each day for medical and educational needs. She describes Roman as having "overall charm". Roman is a dedicated Newcastle United Fan alongside his family. He is one of four siblings, who are all pupils at Sedgefield Primary. The planned visit to St James' Park to receive his Brave Hearts of the North East Award, is one of which Roman is very proud of and he hopes to receive a 'Lego rollercoaster' as his chosen gift to mark his extreme bravery.

## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*



**Sunday 5 May**  
**on the Village Green**  
**8:30am - 12:15pm**

The Farmers Market was moved to Ceddesfeld Hall car park in April due to the high winds and the location was appreciated by traders and customers who got some shelter from the weather. Hopefully the weather will be calmer on 5 May!



We would like to welcome Cassidy Lambert to the team, Cassidy responded to our plea for help with managing the social media for the Farmers Market and has some great ideas including setting up an Instagram account. Follow Sedgefield Farmers Market on Facebook for all the latest news.

### Message from Moody Brew

For the past year, we've loved our time as part of the vibrant Sedgefield Farmers Market community. The dedication of the volunteers and the excellence of the local producers have truly made it a warm and wonderful farmers market experience.

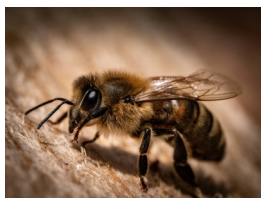


While Moody Brew won't be present at the market any more, we're pleased to extend a special offer to our valued Sedgefield customers: enjoy a 10% discount on a box of 12 by using the code SFM10 at checkout on our website [moodybrew.co.uk/shop/](http://moodybrew.co.uk/shop/). Thank you for your support and we look forward to continuing to serve you with our novel, non-alcoholic drinks.

### Bees at Hardwick

#### What should you do if you get a swarm of bees in your garden?

Well, first of all try and identify if they are honey bees. Honey bees are small and vary in colour from golden brown to almost black. All will form a distinctive cluster when they have settled as a swarm. Honey bees have large hairy eyes, a furry chest or thorax and distinctive bent antennae. If they are honey bees then Bees at Hardwick may be able to help.



Things to note:

- Swarms most often occur on warm sunny days in May to the end of July around 11am – 4pm
- Often there is a peak on a fine day after poor weather when temperatures approach high teens.
- Swarming bees usually don't sting but it is wise to stay away from the swarm and keep children and pets Indoors
- Beekeepers collect swarms on a voluntary basis; they are NOT paid to provide this service
- The beekeeper may not be able to come immediately; they have jobs and commitments of their own
- If, on arrival, we find that they are not honey bees we are unlikely to be able to help
- Honey bee swarming is natural and the bees are just looking for a new home.

Please contact us on 07856 625007 or 07581 285859 or see our Facebook page 'Bees at Hardwick'.

### Friendly Fixers



The Friendly Fixers volunteers have been saving broken items from landfill since October 2022. During that time over 237 items have been brought to our monthly meetings at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre. The majority of these are electrical repairs, but we have also stitched garments, stuck ceramics, sharpened tools and tightened wobbly furniture. Alongside the repairs, we also have volunteers who book items in, do triage, provide tea, coffee and chat, and keep records. All of these roles are needed to keep the sessions running.

We are always looking at ways of doing more, and we are considering the following ideas:

- Workshops to show how to do basic repairs, for example darning a hole in a jumper, or visibly mending a broken pot.
- Opportunity to work alongside our fixers to develop your own skills and confidence.
- Put on an event showcasing recycled or repurposed clothing.
- Upcycle items which would be thrown away into something useful
- Equipment loan

If you are interested in getting involved in any of the above, or have other ideas to share please get in touch [repaircafe@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:repaircafe@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk) or pop in to one of our sessions for a chat. First Saturday in the month 10:30am-12:30pm.



A project of Sedgefield Development Trust

Wishing all students all the very best for your exams - give them your best shot! Keep calm and carry on. [homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk).



### SEDGEFIELD CALENDAR 2025 PHOTO APPEAL

After another very successful calendar run last year, The Friends of St. Edmund's Church invite all local photographers to once again get out with their cameras and submit pictures of scenes from in and around Sedgefield for inclusion in the 2025 calendar.

Entries can be in colour or monochrome, and suitable for use in our traditional slim-line, month-by-month hang-anywhere calendar which has proved extremely popular with people since it was first launched six years ago. Digital entries need to be above 1.5mb in size to print clear and sharp.

Drone photographs are welcome from those holding current CAA approval.

Closing date is Friday 10th July so we can have the calendars on sale at Sedgefield Show.

Please send your entries to Brian via email: [b.mutch@btinternet.com](mailto:b.mutch@btinternet.com) or hard copies to: 6 Hasledon Grove Sedgefield TS21 2JW. He would also be happy to provide further information by telephone 01740 622302

## U3A UPDATE



The very enthusiastic and knowledgeable George Beautyman gave a talk at our monthly meeting on 5 April about the Tees Pumping Station at Broken Scar in Darlington. Built in 1849, the Pumping Station revolutionised the water supply to Darlington by offering cleaner, piped water to homes and businesses which had previously relied on contaminated ground wells, polluted rivers, and rainwater tubs. Although no longer in general use, the buildings, pumps, boilers and ancillary equipment have been refurbished and are maintained in working order as a tribute to our local industrial history and heritage. Open days and events are held regularly. Do get along and visit when you can.

Last month, the Lunch Club visited The Old Mill at Metal Bridge where we had a lovely meal in their small conservatory. Members who hadn't visited before were very impressed by this venue, the menu choices and the delicious food. This month, we'll be sampling the Vane Arms at Thorpe Thewles.

The House and Garden group, supported by our transport grant, made a very enjoyable trip to Mount Grace Priory. This proved a very interesting site to explore, especially given the link to Gertrude Bell, who had been the subject of one of our recent monthly talks. The April visit will be to Kiplin Hall, a Jacobean house built in the 1620's for George Calvert, later Founder of the State of Maryland in the USA.

Also courtesy of our transport grant, members will be visiting Reeth on 1 June to attend an event at the Swaledale Music Festival. Although this talk is now sold out, we still have a small number of seats left on our bus. If you would like to visit Reeth and its plethora of cafes, pubs, craft shops etc for the afternoon, the cost is £5 return plus a visitor-to-u3a fee of £3. Please contact Alison for more information on 01740 629276.

With, hopefully, the advent of warmer and drier weather, you may be thinking of getting out and about for the day, camera in hand. If you would like to learn more about the adaptability and functions of your camera/phone or improve your photography skills, why not join our Photography group? Bernard can tell you more on 01740 469208.

At our meeting on Friday 3 May in the Parish Hall at 2pm, Carole Dean will be returning to deliver her talk on Lasting Impressions. Occasionally, the title of the talk gives us no idea of the subject. This is one of those, so we await in anticipation . . . Please join us if you would like to find out more, too.

Chris Balfour

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY MAY 2024

It's that time of the year again, when I sometimes get woken up in the early morning to the sound of a blackbird singing outside the bedroom window - and what a sound it is. It is one of the first birds to sing in a morning, with a clear and confident voice. The beautiful song is low-pitched and given in short, fluty verses that seem to stop abruptly. Unlike the song thrush, blackbirds don't repeat their verses, but they do sometimes throw in a bit of mimicry.

This reminds me that it will be soon time for International Dawn Chorus Day. Taking place on the first Sunday of May, it is the worldwide celebration of nature's greatest symphony. Across the world, people rise early to revel in the sweet sound of birdsong, from rattling wrens in Rotherham to crooning cowbirds in the Caribbean. Ideally you need to be up early, and, if keen, before dawn, and the first bird you will likely hear is the tawny owl making its final calls before it goes to sleep for the day. As the sun rises, the day shift begins, with blackbirds and robins singing sweetly from their lookout posts, but the clear voice of the song thrush rings loudest with such variety they sound like several birds, bold phrases repeated in threes, fours and even fives, spurred to new heights by the competition of a song thrush in the distance. Other birds join in as time moves on, including the first chiffchaff who finds their voice, tentative at first, but quickly growing in confidence. They proclaim their name from a tall strand of willows, "chiff chaff chaff, chiff chaff chaff, chiff chaff!" this is joined by the blackcap, willow warbler and the dunnock's soft voice is lost amongst the increased variety and volume of the chorus.

You don't need to recognise the songs, you can just sit and enjoy the sounds - but if you did want to learn birds' song you could try an app like "Merlin" - but be warned it is not 100% accurate so don't believe everything it tells you. You could, of course, just open your curtains, open a window and hear some of the dawn chorus, but nothing beats an early morning stroll in any of our local woodlands such as Hardwick Park, Wynyard Woodland Walkway or Houghall Woods. You can find out more about International Dawn Chorus Day at [wildlifetrusts.org/dawn-chorus-day](http://wildlifetrusts.org/dawn-chorus-day).

## Diamond Wedding

Ashley and Barbara Cummings of Spring Lane, Sedgfield celebrated 60 years of marriage on 4 April.

They married in St Edmunds Church in 1964 and have remained in Sedgfield all of their lives surrounded by their extended family and children, Andrew and Joanne.

They celebrated the occasion with a card from the King, followed by lunch at The Dun Cow with their family. It was an enjoyable occasion for all.

Joanne Cummings Colledge



## The Maypole

**Dancing around the Maypole, standing proud,  
An ancient spectacle, performed for the crowd.**

**Intertwining ribbons of red and white,  
Turning darkness of dawn into light.**

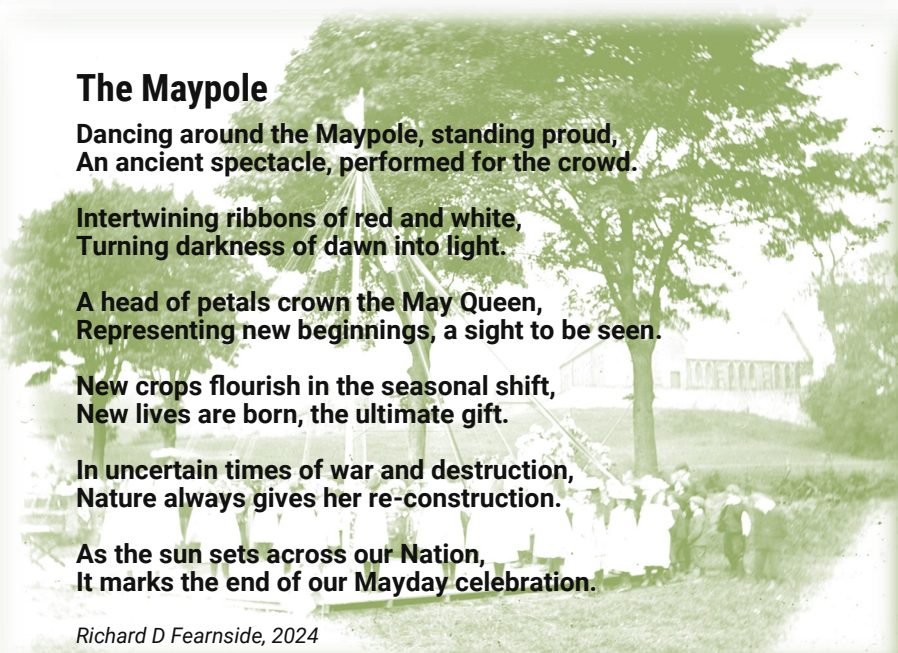
**A head of petals crown the May Queen,  
Representing new beginnings, a sight to be seen.**

**New crops flourish in the seasonal shift,  
New lives are born, the ultimate gift.**

**In uncertain times of war and destruction,  
Nature always gives her re-construction.**

**As the sun sets across our Nation,  
It marks the end of our Mayday celebration.**

Richard D Fearnside, 2024



## TRAVEL UPDATE

### Link2Work bus service

For the first time in a while, I have some positive news about buses. Durham County Council has launched a set of new services called 'Link2Work'.

Link2Work is operated by Hodgson's and is designed to enable travel to and from work at places or at times which are difficult or impossible on the main network, focused on shift work patterns. It will run to and from various locations in the county, including between Deaf Hill, the Trimdons, Fishburn and Sedgefield, and Newton Aycliffe Business Park. As a demand-responsive minibus service, it runs with a fixed time of arrival at Newton Aycliffe Business Park, but the exact time and location of the pick-ups (and drop-offs on the return journey) depend on the bookings made by the passengers.

This style of operation is intended to allow the services to meet the passengers' needs more effectively than would be possible by a conventional, fixed-route service. In time, bookings will mainly be made using a smartphone app but currently there is a dedicated telephone line: 0191 469 6000. The booking line is open 24 hours a day and seven days a week. You can book up to 14 days in advance and up to 5pm on the day before you travel.

 Link2work on demand bus services Trimdon/Sedgefield area to Newton Aycliffe Business Park			
From	To	Depart	Arrive
Trimdon/Sedgefield area (including Deaf Hill, Fishburn, Trimdon, Trimdon Station and Sedgefield)	Newton Aycliffe Business Park	From 6.45am to 7.05am	7.20am
Newton Aycliffe Business Park	Trimdon/Sedgefield area	From 4.40pm	5.15pm

Initially at least, customers are able to travel free of charge. Clearly, this is a limited service and it certainly doesn't replace the lost X21 link between Fishburn and Sedgefield, and Newton Aycliffe and Darlington. However, it is a welcome development and I'm pleased that the county council has managed to introduce this new service.

I will, of course, continue to do what I can to secure more services to improve the currently inadequate network. I'll work on this through the county council, the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority (once established), and any other possible route. Meanwhile, I hope that Link2Work helps some residents to access jobs/apprenticeships. Full details of the service can be found at [durham.gov.uk](http://durham.gov.uk) by searching for link2work.

County Councillor Chris Lines

## Bicycle racks and 'Active Travel' in Sedgefield

It was great to read a letter in Sedgefield News that put the spotlight on the new bicycle racks that have been installed in the centre of our community. This is one of numerous initiatives that are being delivered by the Active Travel Project, an ongoing collaboration between Durham County Council, Sedgefield Town Council, the Sedgefield Bicycle and Active Travel Group (BAT) and Fishburn Parish Council. The project's working group has met regularly since autumn 2021 and has explored a range of potential projects and funding for those. Some of these have already been implemented, some are in the pipeline, and some are (for various reasons) longer term aspirations. The new bike racks and refurbished bus shelter in the centre of Sedgefield constitute one of the completed projects.

At its core, the Active Travel Project seeks to improve cycling and walking infrastructure in the Sedgefield ward, making it easier and safer for residents and visitors to get around and between our communities. This work doesn't exclude motor vehicles, so the group is also focused on issues such as bus services (and bus shelters/stops) and car parking. Our priorities and work are informed by the large community survey that we undertook in late 2022/early 2023, which identified that residents want to see improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure; strongly support the introduction of motor vehicle speed reduction measures; and would like to see more parking options for motor vehicles, and enforcement of any parking restrictions that are in place, or get implemented.



A family making use of the bicycle racks

When we were discussing bike rack provision, representatives from BAT strongly lobbied for racks on the other side of High Street. As a group, we explored that option but – at the time – it wasn't going to be possible. In the absence of that, we all agreed that it is a good thing to have more cycle parking in the centre of Sedgefield, and wrapped that up in a scheme to improve the condition of the bus shelter and the surrounding area. We're delighted with the outcome, which secured support from a combination of time-limited funding sources that were designed for exactly that kind of initiative.

We want to see the new bike racks get more use. However, that is only likely to happen when Sedgefield is perceived to be a cycling-friendly town, and the addition of the racks is only one small part of achieving that. They are in place now, and we will use them as an impetus to do even more in this wider project. We will actively promote the new racks (thanks for highlighting in the April edition that they are there, Alan), and any extra cycle parking that we can get installed, all as part of the Active Travel offer here.

Other initiatives that have already been undertaken or supported through this project are: the completion of the new path from the end of Station Road to Hardwick Park, resurfacing of the footpath from Mordon to Bradbury, and the introduction of the Heritage 100 Walk for Sedgefield. Looking ahead, in the short-term pipeline are: New speed mitigation measures in Sedgefield and Fishburn, including permanent speed matrix signs and advisory 20mph zones around schools; improvements to footpaths in Sedgefield; new bike racks in Fishburn; and improvements between the end of Station Road and the new path, for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair/mobility aid users.

At a recent Active Travel Project meeting, we agreed to revisit the potential for new bike racks on the other side of High Street. BAT representatives offered some good ideas of how that could work, and we'll actively explore whether those can be delivered. In time, we aim to have lots of cycle parking options, much better cycleways and footpaths, and other improvements. The group will also continue to explore better car parking solutions, but our primary focus is to make Sedgefield an attractive, accessible, and safe place for cyclists, walkers and those using mobility aids. There's a lot still to do, but we are starting to make some significant progress and we will continue to work together (and with anyone who is interested in contributing) to make positive changes here.

Active Travel Project

## ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

[sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com](mailto:sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com)

### Sedgefield Players' Update

As usual, it's going to be a busy few months for the Players. Hot off the success of Calendar Girls, the group is taking on an equally wonderful, but diverse play in Chekov's Uncle Vanya. This play is absolutely wonderful and director Sarah Atkinson is enjoying the challenge of such a huge play. Playing Uncle Vanya is Tom Guest who said, 'This is such a different type of play from what we normally do, but we are never shy of taking on something new, and I feel that the audience will appreciate this'. Supported by Peter Hook, Lucy Atkinson, Amy Henery, Christine Walker, Jean Hewling and Paul Walker, it's not to be missed.



First up, though, is a chance to get out your dancing shoes and come and join us for a celebration of all that is ABBA and Eurovision – a night of music and fun. Come and sing and dance and see if we get *nul points* for a fabulous evening in the Parish Hall, Sedgefield on 1 June at 7:30pm (£10).



And then, of course, our wonderful SPYS production of Peter Pan on 12 and 13 July. This well known story about a free-spirited and mischievous young boy who can fly. Peter Pan spends his never-ending childhood having adventures on the mythical island of Neverland as the leader of the Lost Boys, interacting with fairies, pirates and mermaids, and occasionally ordinary children from the world outside Neverland.  
Sedgefield Players

### Bishop Auckland Music Society

London-based Romanian pianist George Todica is an award winning chamber musician & solo performer. On Friday 3 May he performs Mozart, Rachmaninov and Chopin, among others, at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church at 7:30pm. Call 01388 606075 or 07415 092040 for ticket enquiries or call in at Brotherton's Music Shop.



**Sedgefield Local History Society**  
First Monday every month  
7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall  
Visitors welcome

Monday 6th May 2024  
From Telegram Boy  
to Bomber Boy  
Lynn Defty

SEDFIELD PLAYERS PRESENT  
**UNCLE VANYA**  
by Anton Chekov and Connor McPherson  
TO BE PERFORMED IN  
THE PARISH HALL, SEDGEFIELD  
20<sup>TH</sup>, 21<sup>ST</sup> AND 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2024  
AT 7.30PM

Tickets: £10  
Available from Tickety-Boo  
[www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk)  
and [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

### More local events

#### Sedgefield Rock & Blues Club, Sedgefield Parish Hall

The Ramblin' Preachers and The Main Line bring yet more blues rock to the renowned Sedgefield institution.

18 May, £15

[sedgefieldblues.com](http://sedgefieldblues.com)

**Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club**

**RAMBLIN' PREACHERS**  
The Main Line

**18.05.24 @ 7PM**

Vintage-Contemporary Blues Rock  
Unforgettable Lyrics.  
Unmissable Solos.  
Unrivaled Rhythm

#### Pitmen Poets Reunion Tour, Various Venues

Billy Mitchell, Jez Lowe, Bob Fox and Benny Graham tour the north east with soul, songcraft and laughs, performing at Barnard Castle and Durham in May.

[thepitmenpoets.co.uk/tour](http://thepitmenpoets.co.uk/tour)

#### Smile Time Kanikapila

Ceddesfield Hall hosts the Ukulele Smile Time Band's next Kanikapila on Saturday 4 May. A truly participatory event, bring ukes, colour, sunshine and a sense of fun to this community sing-along for good vibes and good times.

**Spring Kanikapila**

Ukulele Smile Time Band  
Ceddesfeld Hall  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May  
Doors open 7pm, 7:30 start  
Join in - Bring your Ukes  
£3 Entry - pay on the door

## SPORTS UPDATE with Chris Lines [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)

Along with material from some regular contributors, this month's update includes news from local boccia superstar Lee Maddison, who continues to perform brilliantly at the highest level. Meanwhile, as we hopefully head into more summery weather (how many times have I written 'hopefully' in relation to the weather in these updates?!), I have some useful information about local opportunities to play tennis and bowls.

### Boccia

In March, Sedgefield's own Lee Maddison travelled to Ireland for the four nations 2024 Boccia Challenger event. Athletes from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales attended the two-day competition. After battling through the rounds, showing some fantastic skill and even beating a Boccia UK (Team GB) athlete on his way, Lee made it to the final on the Sunday. He didn't quite secure the title, but winning a silver medal was a great result. As always, Lee's friends and family are very proud of him, and as ever, huge thanks go to Chris Foster, his sports assistant, without whom these great achievements would not be possible.



Lee Maddison with assistant Chris Foster

### Tennis

Chilton and Sedgefield Tennis Club is gearing up for a busy summer. Based at Chilton Miner's Welfare Ground, the club has four courts, including two with floodlights, and has plans to add a fifth in the near future. Chilton and Sedgefield fields four teams in the Cleveland League, a well-established six-division league, playing in summer and autumn competitions. This year's cup draw means that the club's A and B teams will meet competitively for the first time in the last 16.

Chilton and Sedgefield holds social sessions throughout the year and the timings vary, depending on the schedule of competition matches. However, typically, players get together every Sunday morning and rotate Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. There are also more relaxed sessions on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. In short, there are plenty of opportunities to play!



The club welcomes anyone, whatever their level of experience. It also has a coaching programme on Sunday mornings, which is open to all ages, plus internal singles and doubles competitions throughout the summer.

To find out more or get involved, use the following contact details:

Club website - [clubspark.lta.org.uk/SedgefieldTennisClub](http://clubspark.lta.org.uk/SedgefieldTennisClub)

Facebook - [facebook.com/Chiltontc](https://www.facebook.com/Chiltontc)

Instagram - [instagram.com/chilton\\_sedgefield\\_tennis\\_club](https://www.instagram.com/chilton_sedgefield_tennis_club).

### Squash

The Durham & Cleveland Squash Leagues have concluded for the 2023/24 season. The ladies' team have once again led the way, securing the championship by just four points ahead of Leyburn in a thrilling season finale.

The first team finished a very creditable fourth in the Premier Division, especially notable as the top five seeded players are home grown talent. A special mention and congratulations go to Rob Pearce, the club's number one, who has been awarded the Premier League Player of the Year.

After a slow start, the second team finished mid table in Division 1. The third team had a tough season and were relegated from Division 2. They are already preparing for next year after a team bonding session around Sedgefield's excellent pubs and restaurants. The fourth team boasts a mix of experience, youth and 'new to team squash' players. Competing in Division 3 is a huge challenge, and the team has performed well over the season, finishing in ninth position.

Finally, as reported in last month's update, the club made it to the shortlist of four for England Squash Club of the Year. Unfortunately, Sedgefield did not win, but it was a great achievement to make it so far and everyone at the club is rightly proud of that. Congratulations go to Abbeydale Club from Yorkshire which won the award.

### Bowls

Bowls is a sport that can be enjoyed by players of all ages, and Fishburn Bowls Club is very handy for residents in our area. A minimum level of fitness is required, together with an enjoyment of gentle exercise, fresh air and friendly company.

Fishburn Bowls Club welcomes all comers, male or female, who have an interest in outdoor bowling. Young children have to be accompanied by a responsible adult. Membership is not restricted to Fishburn residents, so everyone will be welcome, and informal coaching is readily available for those who want it, at no cost and without commitment.

There is no dress code beyond the wearing of shoes with flat soles, though that does change if a member wishes to play in the club competitions, when players are generally expected to wear grey trousers/skirt and white shirt/blouse. Annual membership is currently just £1 and provides access to the bowling green and the clubhouse by way of a key. The green is generally available for play between the end of April and the beginning of September, subject to the agreement of the greenkeeper. Between these dates, members can use the green as frequently as they choose without further charge. There is a number of sets of bowls at the club, which can be used by potential members to help them decide if the sport is to their liking before they incur any expense.

Fishburn Bowls Club is located between the football pitches and the Fishburn Youth and Community Centre off Butterwick Road in the village. Park at the gate near the football pavilion - the bowls club is through the gate and to the left.

To find out more about the sport of bowls and Fishburn Bowls club, use the following contact details:

Carol Mason - 07446 032450

Terry Graham - 01740 621627.

### Cricket

Sadly, the local cricket season's opening weekend had to be postponed, because the weather had prevented clubs from being able to prepare pitches. So, hopefully(!) next month, I will include a round up of the first fixtures featuring teams fielded by Sedgefield Cricket Club.



**That's all for this month.**  
As always, please send any sports news to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com).

## POLICE UPDATE

Festival and concert goers looking to get last minute tickets to this summer's top events are urged to be on their guard against fraudulent sellers, as new data reveals £6.7 million was lost to ticket fraud last year.



Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a ticket fraud awareness campaign, warning people to be alert to fraudsters trying to catch out people planning for popular and sold-out events.

Last year more than 8,700 people reported they had been a victim ticket fraud, with a total of £6.7 million lost.

The warning comes ahead of the Glastonbury Festival ticket resales and before top summer events, such as Taylor Swift's sell out Eras tour. Pauline Smith, Head of Action Fraud, said: "We all want to enjoy ticketed events this summer, but that doesn't stop fraudsters from taking the fun out of things we look forward to doing. Too many people are losing out to fraudulent activity or genuine-looking phishing messages."

### How to protect yourself from ticket fraud

- Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, the promoter, an official agent, or a well-known and reputable ticket exchange site.
- Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering the money if you become a victim of fraud.
- Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets.
- Is the vendor a member of Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (STAR)? If they are, the company has signed up to strict governing standards. STAR also offers an approved Alternative Dispute Resolution service to help customers with outstanding complaints. For more information visit [star.org.uk/buy\\_safe](http://star.org.uk/buy_safe).

If you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

## LETTERS

### Sedgefield Sycamore

Brent Morfoot kindly shared these beautiful images of this magnificent local tree, beautiful in all seasons.



## MAYOR'S CORNER

On 13 May, I relinquish the chain of office as your Mayor and First Citizen, after two of the busiest years of my life. Before that, on 7 May, I will be delighted to distribute a bundle of cheques to headline charity The Red Sky Foundation and a significant number of local community groups, in response to the many letters requesting financial help with their ongoing projects. None of this would be possible without the great generosity of Sedgefield people attending my many fundraising events, dropping cash in my renowned collecting bucket, baking for my coffee mornings or donating prizes, bottles and toys for my raffles, tombolas and toy stalls.



Mayor Dave Jasper & Consort Annette Lawson

I would like to place on record my grateful thanks to all who have supported me: to Annette Lawson for being my indefatigable and proactive Consort, to Paul Howell MP for being a great ally and to my close family, who have had to put up with my lengthy absences from home on around 165 occasions. I have met and got to know many lovely people in the village during this second year, which has been an absolute delight for me. Finally, I would like to wish my successor as your Mayor all the very best for his/her year in office. What an incredible journey the new Mayor will face!

Dave Jasper

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## DIARY & EVENTS

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### May 2024

- Wednesday 1** **Sedgefield WI Annual General Meeting**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm. Members' competition is "a pretty mug". Visitors are always welcome (fee £4).
- Friday 3** **Sedgefield Memory Café coffee morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am to 12pm. All welcome.
- Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. A talk by Carol Dean on Lasting Impressions. Visitors welcome, £3.
- Saturday 4** **Friendly Fixers**, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Repair café.
- Sunday 5** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am to 12:30pm. See page 3 for more information.
- Monday 6** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. "From Telegram Boy to Bomber Boy" by Lynn Defty.
- Tuesday 7** **Sedgefield Town Council Annual Meeting**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7pm. The Mayor's charity cheques will be distributed to local community groups and the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards will be announced.
- Saturday 11** **Christian Aid coffee morning**, Sedgefield Methodist Church, 10am to 11:30am.
- Sedgefield Games Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, from 6pm. Come along and play a variety of board games. £2.50.
- Sunday 12** **Christian prayer walk with Sedgefield Area Churches Together**, meet 3:30pm at Sedgefield Methodist Church. The walk will be followed by a picnic starting around 4:15pm at the Methodist Church (tea and coffee provided). Bring your own picnic (indoors if wet). All welcome to either or both!
- Friday 17** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club coffee morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am to 11:30am. £2 for tea/coffee plus scone/cake. All welcome.
- Saturday 18** **Mediaeval Fayre**, see front page for details.
- Rock and Blues Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 6:45pm, Ramblin' Preachers and The Main Line.
- Tuesday 21** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Flower demonstration by Sue O'Brien – "Inspired By". Members free, guests £5.
- Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers.
- Friday 24** **Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield charity coffee morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am to 12pm. Cake stall and more.
- Saturday 25** **101**, Sedgefield Cricket Club, 8:30pm. Playing songs from Oasis, The Jam, The Killers, The Cure, and many more.

### Memory Loss and Dementia



Sedgefield u3a will be hosting a visit from the regional Alzheimer's Society on Wednesday 15 May at 6pm to 8pm in Ceddesfeld Hall when they will be sharing information, advice and support strategies to help us all to deal with this pernicious disease. This meeting is free and is open to everyone from Sedgefield and District or further afield. Please tell your friends, family, neighbours and colleagues about it too. We look forward to meeting you all then.

### Speed Quiz at Hardwick Arms

Every Thursday at 8pm in the Hardwick Lounge Bar.

### St Edmunds Tower Trips

At Mediaeval Fayre. Call in early on the day and book.



### SEDFIELD LIBRARY

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Thursday 10:00 to 18:00

Friday 13:00 to 19:00

Saturday 9:30 to 12:30

**Little Movers** every Thursday from 10am, places need to be booked.

**Craft Group**, 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 1:30pm, places need to be booked at the library.

**Book Circle**, 3rd Friday of the month from 2pm.

**Electricals and Battery Recycling**  
If you have an electrical item that no longer works and is no bigger than a microwave, we are collecting.

### Lego Club

Every Friday from 4:30pm to 6pm. Places need to be booked.

### Digital Drop-In

Every Thursday 2pm-3:30pm.

### Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

Methodist Church on Mondays from 9:30am to 11am (except Bank Holidays). Suitable for babies, toddlers and preschool children. Please follow us on Facebook for regular updates.

### Making Tracks

Railway Society Club Night every Wednesday evening from 7:30pm to 10pm in the Kell Room at Ceddesfeld Hall. New members welcome, under 13s to be accompanied by an adult.

### Sedgefield Social Club

Singer every fortnight, see "Sedgefield Social Club Official" Facebook page for details.

### Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. The first three afternoons are a free trial and then you have the option to become a member.

### Pop-in Club at Ceddesfeld Hall

Tuesdays 9:30am-12pm  
Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm  
Thursdays 1pm-3:30pm

