

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

December 2024

Submission deadline for the next edition: Wednesday 11 December

To all our readers,
Merry Christmas and wishing you
a happy, healthy 2025
from the Sedgefield News Team



IN2 celebrates



Over October half term, IN2 Interests at Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Academy celebrated being open for 10 years with a fabulous birthday party and a day full of inflatable fun!



Bishop's Fen to bring back nature to the River Skerne

Discover Brightwater and Durham Wildlife Trust recently held an event to mark the official dedication of Bishop's Fen, between Sedgefield and Bishop Middleham. At 218 hectares, it's part of the bigger Great North Fen project, which is bringing nature and biodiversity back to 850 hectares of land alongside the River Skerne, as it weaves its way through this part of County Durham.



Reverend Rick Simpson officially 'opens' Bishop's Fen

The overall aim of the project is to return the landscape to how it was 300 years ago, before the river was made to run straighter and faster, draining the land around it and making it more profitable for agriculture, but taking away wildlife habitats and reducing biodiversity. Reinstating some twists, turns and clogs through the Great North Fen will not only help nature in the area, but it is also hoped that it will play a role in managing the flood risks for the East Coast Main Line and the A1(M), which run through the area. Reverend Rick Simpson, the Archdeacon of Auckland, led the dedication of Bishop's Fen, and cut a willow branch to officially 'open' it. You can find out more about the Great North Fen project at www.durhamwt.com/great-north-fen.

IN2 was established in 2014 to offer much more than childcare, believing that this fun and vibrant facility would offer children a unique diverse learning experience, exploring hidden talents and allowing the children to form new friendships in breakfast club, afterschool and holiday club provision throughout the year.

Since opening our doors, IN2 has gone from strength to strength and, despite the difficult times through the COVID pandemic, we have continued to thrive and look forward to what the next ten years will bring for IN2!

The IN2 team would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support over the past ten years.

Carols on the Green

Friday 20th
December 6.30 pm

with Fishburn Band

Everyone is warmly
welcome

Mulled wine and mince pies in Cedgesfield Hall
after, thanks to SCA - proceeds to charity

Sedgefield Area Churches Together

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SCHOOL NEWS

Remembering with Respect at Winterton

Respect was the theme of the day, as Year 5 pupils represented Sedgefield Primary School at this year's Remembrance Service. Many VIPs attended this local community event, including local veterans, our local vicar, Mayor of Sedgefield and many more, alongside the Lord Lieutenant, who represents the crown.

Year 5 pupils from both local primaries at Sedgefield joined together to open the ceremony with a march alongside local veteran, Richard, who presented the stand. Pupils commented that they were honoured to be part of such an event and they have been interested in learning about the history of Winterton Hospital in the lead up to the service.

Our Year 5 class opened the event with a performance poem called, 'The Inquisitive Mind of a Child'. It reflected that war has no winners and comes at a huge sacrifice to humanity.



We were delighted and proud that an ex-pupil of Sedgefield Primary, Nancy, played 'The Last Post' in the lead up to the two minutes silence. The spirit of our school is community and this important event reflects that ethos to the core.

Andrea Flynn, The Deputy Lieutenant for County Durham informed Year 5 pupils that the Winterton Service is one of her favourite annual community events to attend, due to the community spirit and support from local schools. We are extremely honoured to be part of such a significant community event.

Remembrance Day

Sedgefield's Remembrance Day Service this year was a poignant occasion, bringing together the local community to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by those who served in the armed forces.

The ceremony began with a parade featuring the Sedgefield Village Veterans Standard, which led a procession of residents, veterans, and pupils through the heart of the village. The crowd gathered at the cenotaph, where the atmosphere was filled with solemnity and respect. The service included contributions from Sedgefield Primary School, whose pupils delivered a heartfelt poem about the poppies, symbolising the remembrance of those who lost their lives in battle.

This was followed by a moving rendition of the National Anthem, performed by our children from Sedgefield Hardwick School. A key moment of the ceremony was the laying of the wreath at the cenotaph in Winterton. The Reverend David Lucas, of St Edmund's Church, offered a prayer reading, which set a reflective tone for the gathering.

As the ceremony progressed, the "Last Post" was played by a pupil from Sedgefield Community College. This act of remembrance was followed by a two-minute silence, observed by all in attendance, in honour of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Further readings and tributes were shared, offering a tribute to the bravery and dedication of past service people. The ceremony concluded with the Lord's Prayer, bringing the community together in a moment of quiet reflection. This year's Remembrance Day service was a moving and respectful tribute to all those who served and sacrificed for our country. It reminded us of the importance of remembrance and the strength of community spirit in Sedgefield.



Community facilities

When Sedgefield Community College became an academy in 2020, unlike many other schools, our name did not change. It was important for the school that the name remained as the importance of 'community' is crucial to our school values. One of the primary ways in which the school looks to take a key role within our local area is through the availability of the school's sporting facilities that can be booked for community use.



All of these bookings take place through 'The Hub' and there is a wide range of facilities that are extensively used. In addition to grass football pitches, we have 3G and artificial football pitches. External tennis courts can also be hired. Internally, facilities include a large multi-use sports hall, dance studio and fitness suite.



At this time, we have 7 local football teams who play their home fixtures on the school site. As well as this, we have approximately 30 other local clubs and sporting organisations who are regularly based at SCC, including some such as Sedgefield Harriers and The Bulls wheelchair rugby team, who have been part of our wider community for many years.



For anyone who is interested in making a booking or finding out more about the facilities that are available, please use this link:

sedgefield.schoolhire.co.uk



SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*

SEDGEFIELD FARMERS MARKET

On the Green, First Sunday Morning Every Month.



**Sunday 1 December
on the Village Green
8:30am - 12:15pm**

The December Market will be very festive with complimentary non-alcoholic mulled winter punch and mince pies and the Sedgefield Lyric Youth Choir have kindly volunteered to provide the music. This is a great opportunity to buy gifts for your friends and family, including your four legged friends, whilst supporting local traders.

All our regular traders will be there providing a great choice of products including: cheese, meats, pies, vegetables, cakes, bread and Christmas wreaths. A full list of traders attending the Market will be on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

WOODLAND & WILDLIFE

A Project of Sedgefield Development Trust

Trees for Habitats

On Saturday 11 January 2025 from 10am to 12 noon, we will be welcoming people to bring their real Christmas trees to Skerne Wood. We will be extending the dead hedges we have created in previous years. Dead hedges provide habitats for insects and small mammals and act as a barrier to allow areas of the site to regenerate.



Christmas trees can be dropped off with our volunteers on site at TS21 3FD or find us on Google Maps. Families and individuals are welcome to stay to help process the trees and have a look round. If you would like to know more about the project please contact Melissa at woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or join our Facebook page - [Woodland & Wildlife - Sedgefield](#).

Friendly Fixers or the Generation Game?

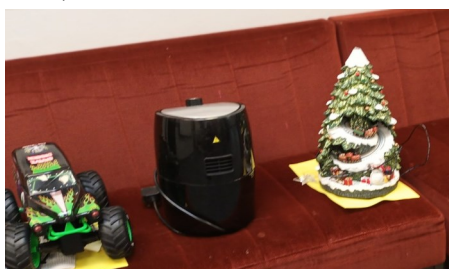


Part of the fun of volunteering at the Repair Café every month, is that we never know what items will be coming in for repair! November's group of Fixers (well, those of a certain vintage), had a mix of objects that reminded us of the prizes that used to be offered on the Generation Game - complete with the cuddly toys!



This month saw several garden and household tools being sharpened. Please check our Facebook page near the date of the next Repair Café, to check whether this service is being offered.

We also offer textile repairs, so if you have any clothes which need some tender loving care, we are happy to patch, replace buttons, darn, or re-sew seams and tears.



Our next session is on Saturday 7 December at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Ferryhill Town Band Christmas Concert

St Edmunds Church,
Sedgefield

Wed 4th December
7:30pm

Tickets £10 or family for £25
(Includes a glass of wine/juice & mince pie)

Tickets available from:
Brian Mutch- b.mutch@btinternet.com or Tel: 01740 622 302 [Loft to Loved \(cash only\)](#)



Pavement Parking

The Bicycle and Active Travel group have had a lot of interest in improving pavement parking in the area, with many people concerned about pavements being blocked by inconsiderately parked cars. There have also been many incidents of illegal parking on double yellow lines and the zebra crossing zig-zags.

Pavement Parking is Dangerous Obstruction to Pedestrians: Vehicles parked on pavements obstruct the path for pedestrians, forcing them to walk on the road.

Damage to Pavements: Pavements are not designed to bear the weight of vehicles. Parking on them can cause cracks and other damage, leading to costly repairs.

Restricted Access: Pavement parking can block access for wheelchair users, people with pushchairs, and those using mobility scooters, making it difficult for them to navigate safely.

Safety Hazards: Damaged pavements can become trip hazards, increasing the risk of accidents for all pedestrians.

Legal Aspects of Pavement Parking
In the UK, pavement parking is generally illegal. Local councils have the authority to enforce restrictions. In County Durham, parking on pavements where there are waiting restrictions, such as yellow lines, can result in a parking fine.

How to Report Pavement Parking
If you encounter a vehicle parked on a pavement in County Durham, you can report it to the local council or the police:

Council Reporting: If the vehicle is parked on a pavement with waiting restrictions, you can report it to Durham County Council. They have the authority to issue fines and take action against the offending vehicle.

Police Reporting: If there are no waiting restrictions but the vehicle is causing a significant obstruction or danger, you should report it to the police. They can address the issue under obstruction laws.

To report a vehicle, you can contact Durham County Council's Parking Services via email at parkingservices@durham.gov.uk or by phone at 03000 263 9854. For urgent issues, you can call the police on 101 or 999 if it's an emergency.

U3A UPDATE

u3a

Mark Braithwaite, ex-head of Cleveland Police CID gave a most excellent talk on the criminal case which changed the rules governing Double Jeopardy at trial. Until 2003, a person could not be tried twice for the same offence, even in the face of new positive evidence. Mark explained that William Dunlop originally stood trial for a murder in 1989. The jury could not reach a verdict and, as the prosecution offered no further evidence, a not guilty verdict was given. While in prison for a different offence, Dunlop admitted his guilt of the murder to a cellmate. As he could not be re-tried on that count he was prosecuted with perjury and sentenced to six years in prison. Meanwhile, Ann Ming, the mother of his original victim was fighting a strong and intense battle through court and with the government to have the law changed. In 2003, the High Court in London made the decision. 'Retrials would be permitted in respect of a number of very serious offences where new evidence has come to light'. Dunlop was re-tried for murder, and received a life sentence. Our Science and Industry Group had an extremely interesting outing on the Weardale Railway when we attended a Dark Skies Stargazing event. We were blessed with dry, warmish weather, no moon and a cloudless sky. Dropped off in a dark field mid-way between Frosterley and Wolsingham, we found a battery of telescopes had been set up and manned by members of Bishop Auckland Astronomical Society. They explained the various planets, stars and constellations we could see and how modern telescopes had widened scientific knowledge of the skies. We were able to clearly see Saturn's rings and Jupiter's Great Red Spot, follow the newest comet, plot our direction using the Plough and the North Star and marvelled how busy the skies are with commercial, private and military aircraft as well as the great number of satellites perpetually crossing the skies.

Having been commissioned to write a modern Pantomime by Radio Tyneside, the Creative Writing Group is completing their edit of 'Snow White and the Seven Geordie Dwarves' and are preparing for rehearsals which start shortly. It will be broadcast at 7pm on 18 December. Do listen in. The Lunch Club visited Wynyard Golf Club where we all enjoyed another lovely meal. The weather again added to the day as we were able to watch cross the golf course in bright blue sunshine.

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY DECEMBER 2024

I have just got back from doing an enrichment after-school session with some secondary pupils from Middlesbrough. An after-school club in November starting at 4pm, I hear you think! And yes, it was getting dark when we finished but many of the pupils hadn't been out on a nature reserve at dusk, it was a magical experience.

We were at Portrack Marsh in the heart of Teesside and were very lucky with the weather - it was still relatively mild, we had amazing red skies as the sun was going down and, in the distance, we could see the lights of cars going over the flyover, very atmospheric. We started by having a quick pond dip to see what we could find: sticklebacks, minnows and lesser and greater water boatman caused lots of excitement.

As it got darker, we walked to the river and there was so much to see and hear. A skein of pink footed geese flew over with the recognisable honking sound, lots of black headed gulls silently floating down for the evening, an occasional quack as the ducks landed in the reeds for the night and the explosive song of a cettis warbler gave us all a fright.

We continued our walk - it was quite dark now, but it was light enough to see a short-eared owl quartering over the marsh and the occasional small murmuration of starlings swirling over the reed beds before they too fell into the reeds to sleep safely in large groups safe from predators.

So, I would highly recommend a dusk walk around a nature reserve for a slightly different experience even in winter because you never know what you might find.

Winter is also a good time to visit the coast and there is a number of birds that you might see there. One of my favourites that spends its time feeding along the tide line is the snow bunting. Around 13,000 of these sparrow sized birds spend the winter in the UK. They are large, beautiful, pale buntings, often found in fluttering flocks, flashing varying amounts of white in their wings as they fly. Another flocking bird is Twite. This LBJ (little brown job) is the northern breeding equivalent of the closely related Linnet. It is a similar size, but browner and streakier, with an apricot wash to the face, yellow bill and the males have a pink rump. So, remember there is no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothes, so get out and go for a winter walk.



Short-eared owl



Making the most of the surprisingly dry Autumn weather, the Homes and Gardens Group visited Thorpe Perrow Arboretum where they marvelled at the glorious flamboyance of the acer plantations plus the other marvellous trees which have been able to hold onto their seasonal colour for so long this year. An experience not to be missed.

Our next meeting is on 6 December from 2pm to 4pm in the Parish Hall for our Christmas Party. We will have the shared tables of food, a glass or two of wine, our seasonal quiz and lots of chat and laughter. Come along and see what the u3a can offer to fill your time.

Chris Balfour

Can SDUSG help you?

Do you run a group, meeting, club or organisation in the local area and have a shortage of funds for a particular event or equipment?

Sedgefield District Uniform Services Group raise funds for local causes and would like to invite requests for funding from groups or organisations in the local area. Please use the QR code below to complete a form or get in touch directly with any member of the group. Find us on Facebook [Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group](#).



Farewell recital

Alexander Ord came to England from his home in Kelowna, British Columbia, joining the Music Faculty at East Durham College.

He was appointed organist of St. Giles, Durham City and, since 1999, has held the post of organist at St. Edmund's Sedgefield.

After 25 years' service, Alex will be returning to his home in Canada on 9 December. His final service at St. Edmund's will be on 5 December for the Civic Carol Service.

On Saturday 7 December, he will give a solo Farewell Recital to raise funds for Dementia UK at St Edmund's. Tickets at door £6 (children free). refreshments included. Proceeds towards Dementia UK and church funds.

Valjanord Productions
present

Farewell Recital
ALEXANDER ORD

St. Edmunds Sedgefield
Saturday 7th Dec. 2024
at 7pm.

Tickets at door £6.
Children free
(refreshments incl.)

Proceeds to Dementia UK

Christmas Trees!

What to do with your real Christmas tree once the festivities are over?

Sedgefield in Bloom group are again organising a collection of trees on Wednesday 8 January. It couldn't be easier. Simply get in touch with us on ChairSIB@gmail.com or call 07443 606907 and for a donation of £5 we will collect it from you and recycle (courtesy of AW Treecare). All monies raised will go directly towards planting and projects in Sedgefield, helping us to keep Sedgefield Blooming.



St Edmund's calendar & cards

The Friends of St. Edmund's Church 2024 calendar is now available at From Loft to Loved along with a selection of locally themed Christmas cards.



How many people does it take to get a carpet to the Church Tower?

The challenge: How to get a 57kg roll of carpet (5 x 5.6m) up to the Ringing Room in the tower room when there was no way it could be carried up the spiral stone staircase.

Fact: The ringing room is located at a height equivalent to more than three semi-detached houses stacked on top of each other.

The solution: Get the help of plasterers working in the church, the church congregation, bellringers and Bloomer friends along with ropes and pulleys so that the carpet could be pulled through the two trap doors to the room below the Ringing Room and then manhandled to its final location. A good hour of work was rewarded by Janet Tiplady's delicious lemon cake and coffee.



Janet Tiplady (Tower Captain) advises there are a couple more things to do before the open event to show it all off. If anyone is interested in learning how to ring, contact Janet on 01740 621855. Practices are Thursday evenings 7:30pm to 9pm, ringing for services on the second and fourth Sundays of the month 9:30am to 10am (which we would expect ringers to commit to) and weddings when required.

MAYOR'S CORNER

We have laid a wreath at Remembrance service in St Edmund's and another at St Luke's. We have a sell-out Mayor's Quiz on 23 November, on 7 December we will be judging a Christmas jumper competition at the Butterwick Hospice event at Sedgefield Racecourse. The Mayor's Carol Service is in St Edmund's on 5 December at 7.30pm - all are invited and welcome. We will finish the year with a dance and live band Mamma Said in the Parish Hall on New Year's Eve. There's a Mayor's Coffee Morning on Friday 29 January in the Parish Hall and a Valentine's Dance on 14 February. So it's busy, busy, busy, but it just shows what a vibrant place Sedgefield is.

Save the date

Sedgefield YFC
Christmas Tractor Run

Sunday 15th December 2024

Hardwick Hall Hotel

Tractors arriving from 3pm

Travelling through local villages from 4:30pm

Butterwick
Christmas Market

SANTAS GROTTO
MARKET STORE HOLDERS
FOOD STALLS AND BARS
£3 ENTRY OPENS AT 10AM!

Christmas Jumper RUN OR WALK!

REGISTRATION
RUNNERS START: 10AM
WALKERS START: 10:30AM

£5 PER PARTICIPANT

SEDFIELD RACECOURSE
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

SUPPORTED BY
SEDFIELD RACECOURSE

Advent and Christmas Church Services

There are numerous Advent and Christmas services happening in Sedgefield and surrounding villages throughout December.

Details will be provided on the 'Sedgefield News' Facebook page, in the Sedgefield Roundup email and on sedgefieldweb.co.uk when details are confirmed.

ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Sedgefield's Choirs' Rhapsody

Tickets are selling fast for Sedgefield's Choirs' Christmas Concert: A Rhapsody of Christmas. Sedgefield Lyric Singers, SLYC and Lirica will perform a stunning selection of seasonal delights on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 December in St. Edmund's Church, starting at 7:30pm. Tickets are available from Tickety Boo or from members of the choirs, priced £7 & £5 (U16s.) Buy yours now, to avoid disappointment.



Dick Whittington

The Players and SPYS are well into their rehearsals for this year's Pantomime, Dick Whittington, written by Tom Guest and directed by Sarah Atkinson. With music from movies, this year's panto will give audiences the usual singing, dancing, hissing, booing and slapstick they have come to expect. It is those factors that have seen every performance sell out by November! We cannot thank everyone enough for their continued support. We also want to take this opportunity of thanking Tickety Boo who continue to act as our Box Office. They have been selling our tickets from the shop for many years and their support is invaluable. We would like to remind customers that if purchasing tickets this can only be done with cash. We would also like to ask patrons that if there are any issues with ticket purchases or availability, this needs to be done directly through the Sedgefield Players. Tickety Boo are not able to resolve any disputes and have no say in when tickets are given to them.

We will be announcing our shows for 2025 soon.

Sedgefield Players

Memorable Nights at Hardwick Hall

Hardwick Hall truly has something for everyone this December and into the new year.

Make this party season one to remember with pantomime in the form of *Aladdin*, a swing band, a Bavarian Oompah Band, an evening dedicated to ABBA, another dedicated to the golden age of boy bands (5ive, Take That, Westlife, Backstreet Boys, Blue and more)

There is a bingo night featuring a 3-course meal, karaoke and air guitar competitions, as well as a Soul & Motown night courtesy of the band Storm.

There is a Murder Mystery night on Saturday 2 December, and where better to welcome the New Year than at one of the two parties both hosted at Hardwick on 31 December (a 3 course meal New Year's Eve party and a New Year's Eve Gala Ball).

In short, with literally dozens of events in December alone there is far too much to summarise here. Visit hardwickhallhotel.co.uk/upcoming-events and find the night out for you. Some of these events are selling out already, so don't delay and book your special night out now.

Pantomimes in the area

Don't be too down-in-the-dumps if you missed out on a ticket to see Sedgefield Players' sold-out run of Dick Whittington this year—there are more pantos around the region with all the traditional thrills and spills, songs and silliness.

Bishop Auckland Town Hall is staging *Cinderella* from 4 to 11 December bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk/bishoppost/cinderella/.

Billingham Forum's show - also *Cinderella* - runs from 4 December to 5 January forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk/pantomime.

There is also Gala Durham's production of *Beauty and the Beast* in a reimagined Mediaeval France with a distinct local flavour.

Runs until 31 December. galadurham.co.uk/galapost/beauty-and-the-beast/.



So don't sit at home in a huff, don your posh frock & head out for traditional festive fun & frolics.

More local events:

Winter Market at The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle

Festive spirit in abundance and unique gift opportunities in the grounds of the Bowes Museum. Price includes museum admission, workshops, and festive activities.

13 to 15 December, £6.50
thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/winter-market/.



ROH Live: Cinderella at the Friarage Theatre, Yarm School

This is a live-streamed performance of the Royal Opera House's spellbinding ballet on Wednesday 11 and Sunday 15 December.

www.thepaaonline.org/whats-on/roh-live-cinderella-2/.



Carols for All - Durham Cathedral

Traditional carols and readings in a magnificent setting.

Saturday 7 (11am & 1:30pm),
Sunday 8 December (2pm)

www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/events/carols-for-all-2024.



SPORTS UPDATE with Chris Lines chrisjlines@aol.com

There's plenty of sports news to share this month, so I'll dive right in....

Athletics

Last month, I promised an update on recent performances by Sedgefield Harriers in road and trail races. The following isn't exhaustive, but covers some notable runs.



Several club members travelled to the North West for the Chester Marathon on Sunday 6 October, where Jane Spink wore the England vest that she had previously earned and finished in another impressive time of three hours, 22 minutes and 36 seconds. In the same event, Harriet Morris made her debut at the marathon distance, and Steve and Tracy Foreman completed the course together. That same day, Declan Munnely, John Haycock and Helen Shaw took on the tough, undulating challenge of 'Britain's most beautiful' marathon up at Kielder. On the same day, Christine Hearmon and Chris Lines took part in the Kielder Half Marathon, while on the previous day, Susan Milburn and Sue Dobson ran the Kielder 10K.

A couple of weeks later, seven Harriers tackled the Yorkshire Marathon in really tough weather conditions. Leading them home in a fantastic time of 2:53:01 was Justin Cox, followed by Lisa Darby in 3:20:30. Justin and Lisa qualified to represent England in the V50 Masters category as a result of their times. Well done to both! In the same race, Harriers Alistair Brown, Mark Chapman and Beth Raine all finished in personal bests, of 3:42:36, 4:09:49 and 4:20:06 respectively. Gary Forster and Mark Raine also put in strong runs, helping clubmates to achieve their targets in the process. On the same day, Ben Potter made his debut in a Harriers vest in the Yorkshire 10 Mile race, finishing in an excellent time of 1:02:22, and Graham Darby also ran well at the event.

Meanwhile, back up in Northumberland, Sadie Abel was second lady in the Northumberland Castles Half Marathon in a time of 1:36:19, and Ian Spencer also completed the scenic route that starts and finishes in the shadow of Bamburgh Castle. In County Durham, Rosie Warnett, Claire Lee and Emma Featherstone took on the Wild Deer Ultra (a little over 30 miles), starting and finishing in Shotley Bridge and taking in trails and tracks on a clockwise route around the surrounding countryside. All three finished in just over six hours. Like the runners in Yorkshire, the Harriers in action in Northumberland and County Durham that day had to contend with extremely challenging weather conditions.

While they were all drying out, Harrier Cat Miller was reflecting on her trip to the USA to take part in one of the world's six marathon majors, the Chicago Marathon. Cat picked up a hip injury in the first 10 miles, but battled on to complete the race in 4:46:45 – I think that's the third of the six majors that she's now ticked off. She's now resumed her relentless pursuit of long distance running events.

Talking of long distance, Gary Thwaites has been up to his usual tricks, this time claiming 16th place in the 13 Valleys Ultra, a 180km race in the Lake District, with lots and lots of climbing. Gary completed the race in 35:17:58 – another hugely impressive performance.



Cat Miller celebrates completing the 2024 Chicago Marathon

The Sedgefield Harriers AGM took place in October. During the meeting, the club committee provided updates on a range of issues, including reports on the encouraging growth in senior and junior membership. Sue Dobson was elected as the new chair of Sedgefield Harriers and those attending agreed to support Cancer Research UK as the club's nominated charity for the next year, in memory of member Ali Horton.

Squash

As December arrives, the first third of the squash season has been completed in County Durham. All six Sedgefield Squash Club teams have been involved in some epic matches during the last few weeks. The league tables are looking good for the club, with the 2nd, 3rd and 4th teams all sitting at the top of their divisions. Sedgefield 1st team are currently fourth in Division 1 with two games in hand, which means that two wins will take them to the top. By their high standards, the ladies' team have had a mixed start with one win from three matches, but it is still all to play for in their division.

In a recent Professional Squash Association event held in Norton, Sedgefield's Rob Pearce won the A event, beating fellow teammate Colin Langley on the way to the title. In the upcoming County Championships to be held at Nunthorpe, Sedgefield will have several players competing across several grades. I will include an update on their results in the next edition of Sedgefield News.

On a national level, Huey Lamb finished a very creditable 28th in the under 13s British Championships. Huey had some very close 3-2 defeats against older opponents - he has just stepped up to this age group. Well done to Huey for flying the Sedgefield flag at the national championships. As always, the courts at the club are proving very popular and the latest Squash Stars programme is underway, paving the way for young people to get active and enjoy sport. If you would like to get involved in squash or racket ball, you can contact the club at info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.

Cricket

Sedgefield Cricket Club is mourning the very sad loss of John Walker who died on 31 October after a short illness. John's involvement with the club went back decades, from his sponsorship of a junior cup competition which went on to be adopted by the league as its main cup, to his many years on the committee, and long-standing support of the inter-pub 'Captain's Cup' for non-regular cricketers.

John will be fondly remembered by everyone at the club. He was a true gentleman and stalwart of grassroots sport in Sedgefield, and his legacy will live long in the memory. A minute's silence for John was impeccably observed at the cricket club's AGM on 4 November. RIP John.

That's all for this month.
As always, please send any sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com.



CEDDESFELD HALL

Following **Churches Together 'Carols on the Green'** on **Friday 20 December**, the bar and lounge will be open from 7pm. Mulled wine will also be served, at £4 a glass. A donation from mulled wine sales will be made to Butterwick Hospice. A Christmas Kanika Pila with Sedgfield Smile Time Ukulele Band begins at 7pm, in the main hall. This is a free event. There will be a range of well known, popular tunes and Christmas songs to enjoy, performed by this very popular group.

Christmas Eve Quiz, 24 December, 7.30 pm for 8 pm

Come along to enjoy a great, social evening with quiz master Peter Hinde. This is also a free event and, of course, the bar will be open. Feel free to bring Christmas nibbles and treats.

Burns Supper, Saturday 25 January starting at 7.15 pm

Tickets are £30, to include a drinks reception, followed by a 5-course meal (choice of haggis or roast beef + vegetarian option) with a cheese board and coffee. There will be 'pipes, toasts, talks and quotes' too! Tickets can be purchased by contacting Pat, on the number below.

SCA Membership 2025

In January, SCA will begin to collect the annual subscription fees, which have been raised to £8 for over 60s, £9 for adults and £4.50 for young people and students. SCA is a wholly volunteer-led organisation and member subscription is crucial to the legal governance and running of the association - without it, SCA could not run as it does. Membership fees also provide part of the essential income, with all proceeds going towards the running and maintenance of the hall. Members can benefit from reduced cost for room hire as well as insurance liability protection for any group activities and events. Because the SCA is a registered charity, any SCA sections may also use this charitable status, when applying for grant funding. Anyone can become a member, as an individual or as part of a group. Contact Jean Easson (membership secretary) on 01740 620656 or contact any of the numbers below.

For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 01740 620607, John on 01740 620042, Sarah on 01740 622185 or visit our website www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk or Facebook [Ceddesfeld Hall 'Home of SCA'](https://www.facebook.com/CeddesfeldHallHomeofSCA/) for updates.



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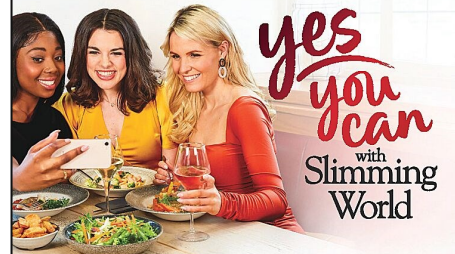
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DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

December 2024

- Sunday 1** Sedgefield Farmers Market, Village Green, 8:30am-12:30pm.
- Monday 2** Sedgefield Local History Society, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. Wynard Hall Teacher Training College—Haydn and Norma Neal.
- Wednesday 4** Ferryhill Town Band Christmas Concert, St. Edmund's Church, 7:30pm. Tickets £10 or family from £25, available from Brian Mutch (b.mutch@btinternet.com) or from Loft To Loved (cash only).
- Friday 6** Sedgefield and District U3A, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Christmas party with seasonal quiz.
- Saturday 7** Farewell Organ Recital with Alexander Ord, St. Edmund's Church, 7pm. Tickets £6 on the door, children are free and refreshments are included. Proceeds go to Dementia UK.
Friendly Fixers, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Repair café.
- Sunday 8** Christmas Carols, Mordon Village Hall, 5:30pm.
- Thursday 12** Whist Drive and Christmas Raffle, Mordon Village Hall, 7pm.
- Friday 13** Sedgefield's Choirs' Christmas Concert, St. Edmund's Church, 7:30pm. Tickets £7 and £5 (under 16s) from members of the choirs and at Tickety Boo.
Sedgefield In Bloom coffee morning, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am. Come and enjoy our homemade delicious treats. Wear your Christmas jumpers or twinkle if you would like.
Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club, an evening with Aynsley Lister.
- Saturday 14** Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Workshop—details to be provided.
Sedgefield's Choirs' Christmas Concert, St. Edmund's Church, 7:30pm. See above for ticket details.
- Tuesday 17** Sedgefield Memory Café, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers.
- Friday 20** Carols on the Green with Fishburn Band, 6:30pm. Mince pies and mulled wine available in Ceddesfeld Hall afterwards. Everyone welcome.
- Tuesday 31** Mayor's New Year's Eve Party, music from Mamma Said, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Tickets £12.50 from Sedgefield Town Council Office, 01740 621273.



From Loft to Loved Craft Groups

Every Wednesday (10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm, 5pm-7pm, 7pm-9pm). Sewing groups every Thursday (10am-12pm, 12:30pm-2:30pm). Places need to be pre-booked - visit us or call on 07833 226676.



The Mayor's Valentine Dance will be held on the 14 February 2025. Mamma Said will provide the music. Please bring your own nibbles and drinks. Tickets are £7.50 and available from Sedgefield Town Council Offices.

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Friday 13:00 to 19:00

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

Book Circle, 1st and 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 pre-school children. Please follow us on Facebook for regular updates.

Little Movers

Fletcher Room at the Sedgefield Parish Hall every Thursday from 10am, places need to be booked on the Little Movers' (Stockton) website. A second class for babies follows the session.

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 Thursday 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

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Speed Quiz at Hardwick Arms

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Quiz at The Dun Cow

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