

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

January 2025

Submission deadline for the next edition: Tuesday 14 January

Wishing all our readers a very happy New Year



The Christmas light switch on at Sedgefield's Snow Party. Many thanks to Paul Heasman for this image.

Roman brings festive sparkle to County Hall

Roman Williams pressed the button to light up both the Christmas tree at County Hall and a nearby roundabout helping to deliver festive cheer to everyone who passed by.

Roman, who lives in Fishburn and attends Sedgefield Primary School, was born with a rare condition called pulmonary atresia, which is a blockage in the blood flow from his heart to his lungs.

As previously reported in the Sedgefield News, Roman underwent a heart transplant in December 2015, but there were complications with his kidneys which means he needs dialysis every night. Despite these challenges, he is a cheerful little boy with a cheeky sense of humour who loves computer games, Lego and Newcastle United Football Club.



Roman's mother, Zoe Pickering, said: "Roman loves Christmas and he and his brothers and sister are very excited about it. Switching on the Christmas tree lights was a wonderful experience for Roman. We are very proud of him."

A Rhapsody of Christmas

Sedgefield Lyric Singers brought the curtain down on their 50th anniversary year with two wonderful concerts in St. Edmund's Church, joined by Sedgefield's two other choirs, Lirica and Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir (SLYC). It was a very atmospheric setting, made all the more so by the lighting, and the performances by all three choirs, and accompanists, were brilliant, led by Rob and Kristen Guest.



Read about plans for SLYC's upcoming 40th birthday celebrations on Page 6.

SCHOOL NEWS

Sedgefield Rewards Shop

Writing this article as we approach the end of term at Sedgefield Community College, we're looking forward to 'The Sedgefield Rewards Shop' opening and the children having the chance to spend the 'praises' that they have worked hard for in lessons on a wide variety of products and experiences.



Our 'Rewards Shop' is a new initiative this year and opens at the end of each half-term. Last half-term, there was a lot of excitement from our students for many of the items and none more so than a ticket for afternoon tea in our Food Department, organised by Miss Lennox. Tickets for the event sold out quickly and everyone taking part had a wonderful time!

This half-term, there are lots of new items to be purchased with 'praises' and the chance to order festive hot drinks is proving to be particularly popular!



For our students in Y11, many are saving their 'praises' to buy a ticket to the Y11 prom later in the year. Our 'Rewards Shop' is just one element of the rewards approach here at SCC. Each half-term, students enjoy our 'Wheel of Wonder' prize draw and as we approach Christmas, our Christmas rewards assembly on the last day of term is always a highlight of the year. Once again, we're expecting Father Christmas to join us!

Winter Wonderland

On Friday 6 December, Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Academy opened its doors to the community for another magical Winter Wonderland event. The school was transformed into a festive haven, filled with the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas. Children showcased their entrepreneurial skills, selling handmade products they had lovingly crafted in class. Their stalls sat alongside those of professional sellers, creating a marketplace that had something for everyone.



Two pupils from Year 4 also created a stall to raise funds for the WWF – selling a variety of colourful bands and charms.

Parents and visitors alike were impressed by the creativity and effort that went into the pupils' work, with many commenting on how special it was to see the children taking pride in their achievements. Workshops, led by a team of cheerful 'elves', offered a hands-on opportunity for children to create beautiful Christmas decorations, including lanterns and snowflakes. Face painting stations added to the fun, with children delighted to become reindeer, snowmen, or other festive characters for the evening. The festive spirit continued in Mrs Claus' Kitchen, which proved to be a bustling hub of activity. A parent volunteer, who also happens to be a talented chef, generously offered his time to prepare delicious treats, ably supported by the staff team. The kitchen was the perfect spot to relax and enjoy the warmth of the season with a hot drink and a freshly made hotdog.



One of the highlights of the evening was Santa's Grotto, magically nestled in the school's Reception Garden. Children's faces lit up as they visited Santa, who took time out of his busy schedule to listen to their Christmas wishes.

Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Academy would like to thank everyone who attended, volunteered, and contributed to making this Winter Wonderland so memorable.

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*



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

There will be a reduced Market in January since some traders are taking a well-earned break, check out our Facebook and Instagram pages for a list of the traders attending the Market in January.



Trees for Habitats

On Saturday 11 January 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. Find us on

Google Maps at TS21 3FH or on what3words at [///germinate.energetic.shiver](https://www.what3words.com/germinate.energetic.shiver). 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](https://www.facebook.com/Woodland-Wildlife-Sedgefield).

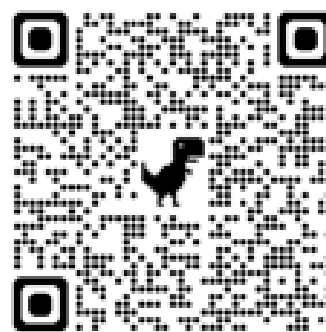
SDUSG update



After an uncertain start to the year where the Sedgefield Village Veterans group was potentially going to fold due to reducing numbers of members, the group is now going from strength to strength. This year we have updated our constitution and renamed the group to Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group (SDUSG) to become more inclusive to all uniformed services and their families. We've continued to support our local area, in 2024 we agreed to donate to the following great causes:

St Edmunds Church new chairs, £100
 Trimdon Grange Armed Forces Day, £350
 Veteran in need, £400
 IN2 Sedgefield Hardwick Out-of-school club, £250
 Salvation Army Christmas toys appeal, £670
 Sedgefield SPYS – Edinburgh Fringe Festival visit, £250
 St Edmunds Church Bell Ringers new bell rope, £162
 Feeding Families, £1,000

We're inviting people to apply for funding in 2025 by completing an online application form at forms.gle/dg11uBuWfsETa4YXA or via the QR code below:



SDUSG has supported the 2024 Royal British Legion (RBL) Poppy Appeal by distributing poppies and collection tins. We also had a stall over several days at Sainsburys in Sedgefield which resulted in a total of £7,608 being raised for the RBL.

Continued on page 8

Neurodiversity Family Support Information drop-ins

Are you a parent or carer of a child who:

Has a diagnosis?

Is waiting for a diagnosis?

Needs extra support?

Come along to our family information drop ins to find out more about the help you can get for your family! There will be people to talk to from Durham County Council and NHS services, charities and support groups

2025 dates:

Thursday 16th January 2025 - 10am-12.30pm - Consett Rugby Club Amethyst Park, Medomsley Road, Consett DH8 6LU

Wednesday 22nd January 2025 - 10am-12.30am - Sedgefield Parish Hall, TS21 3AT

Monday 24th February - 10.30am-1pm - Whitworth Park Academy, Spennymoor, DL16 7LN

Tuesday 25th February - 1pm-3.30pm - Cornerstone, Chester-le-Street Methodist Church, DH3 3TF

Tuesday 18th March - 10am-12.30pm - Sjovoll Centre, Framwellgate Moor, DH1 5BL

The events are FREE and we can help with bus fare costs if needed. No need to book, just come along!
 For more information, contact chloe.dickinson@investinginchildren.net or call 01913077030
 Please get in touch if you need extra help to attend, including a letter for your employer about the event.

Open to everyone. No diagnosis needed to come along!

•Find support
 •Meet other families
 •Share your views
 •Ask any questions

U3A UPDATE

u3a

December is a more relaxed month for our u3a when we generally meet in more social surroundings with food and drink enjoying the opportunity to chat, catch-up and laugh with other members we don't see on a month-to-month basis. Unfortunately, our visit to Bowes Museum was cancelled due to a family medical issue for our nominated driver. We'll re-arrange it for early next year. In the meantime, several members are arranging to independently visit Bowes to see the Lowry/Cornish exhibition which has had some outstanding reviews. A very successful visit to Auckland Palace was enjoyed by a large group of members who were enthralled by the beautifully decorated room and enchanted by the breath-taking Neapolitan Nativity displayed in the Faith Museum. During the following week, several other members followed the dazzling light trail of AGLOW which featured 22 incredible light displays along a 1.5 mile walk through Auckland Castle Grounds. Over 50 members met in the Parish Hall for our annual Christmas Party – always such a success. A delicious range of savoury and salad items plus the spectacular dessert table and cheese choices were demolished in no time! Glasses of wine or seasonal punch helped to stimulate the brain for the puzzling quiz. And our raffle raised £140 for Crisis at Christmas. The Theatre Group travelled to the Glasshouse (formerly The Sage) at Gateshead to enjoy a Celtic Christmas concert. A non-stop explosion of singers, musicians and dancers performed all our festive favourites – with an Irish theme. From a Fairytale of New York, through Step into Christmas, to Driving Home for Christmas, with multiple detours en-route. A St Patrick's Day party – at Christmas!

Members also thoroughly enjoyed our annual Christmas Lunch, this year at the Old Mill at Metal Bridge. Wearing festive jumpers or glitzy jewellery everyone relaxed in the happy, cheerful environment with much laughter and good chat. Another success to add to the list.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Friday 3 January at 2pm in the Parish Hall, when Keith Simpson will be talking about 'Tudhoe Village – Constancy and Change'. If you are retired or semi-retired, you are very welcome to join us then. We look forward to meeting you.

Until then, may we wish all members, visitors, friends, in fact the whole village, a very merry Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and happy 2025!

Chris Balfour

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY JANUARY 2025

As I write this much of the UK is recovering from Storm Darragh. In Sedgefield, we didn't come off too badly but pictures of peoples' homes and businesses flooded is heart breaking. How we manage our countryside can have effects beyond the expected and nature can help to provide a solution to some environmental problems. The Wildlife Trusts are working in partnership with others, aiming to restore natural ecosystems and demonstrate what is possible, so that natural habitats can store and sequester carbon, help prevent flooding, reduce soil erosion, improve soil fertility, provide pollination services, allow nature's recovery at sea, and support improvements to people's physical and mental wellbeing. One of the solutions considered, linked to flooding, may result in the reintroduction of a native species that has been extinct for around 400 years - the beaver. The reason for their extinction was of course man. Beaver fur was highly sought after for making fashionable clothing and accessories and scent gland excretions formed the basis of many perfumes. Changing European fashions at the end of the 19th century made hunting uneconomical but it was too late to save the British beaver. The beaver wetlands and ditches collapsed and the species that relied on them gradually declined.

In Europe, the beaver has made a comeback and there are now over 1.6 million spread around the mainland resulting from reintroductions, natural colonisations and strict protection. Scotland has licensed several beaver releases and now has many sites with active beaver populations. There have been various trials around Britain, results are not problem free, but issues are not unsurmountable helping



Eurasian beaver mother and kit

beavers and humans to live and work alongside each other. Beavers do not flood their territory rather they elevate water levels gently so they can move around more easily. They "beaver" away, constantly adjusting water levels to ensure their lodges are not exposed or flooded. These ecosystem engineers create dams and ponds of various sizes. This allows many invertebrates and fish to lay their eggs in the resulting calmer and sometimes warmer water. In turn, this increases food, shelter and breeding opportunities for an abundance of wildlife. Beavers are herbivores, so offer no significant threat to humans, livestock or pets and can happily live in cities or the countryside. They also give people an opportunity to see big wildlife up close. Moreover, beaver wetlands slow the flow from upstream rain to downstream flood and improve water quality - hydrological engineering at no cost to taxpayers! So, can you imagine walking around the Bishop Middleham or Hardwick wetlands seeing beavers, what an experience it would be? Let's bring beavers back!

See wildlifetrusts.org/news/free-beaver-new-vision-beavers-england-and-wales for more information.



AGLOW at Auckland Palace

Mayor of Sedgfield's

Coffee Morning

Come along to support the Mayor of Sedgfield's fundraising morning

Friday 24th January 2024 | Sedgfield Parish Hall

10am - 12pm

CEDDSFELD HALL

Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!

You will find the SCA Ceddesfeld Hall pamphlet for 2025 included with your newsletter. Outlined are the annual community events and regular activities for the various interest and hobby groups which take place at Ceddesfeld throughout the year. SCA are keen to hear from anyone who may wish to start a new group and/or regular activity. The room hire rates are very competitive, and the rooms are spacious and comfortable, with free Wi-Fi. The SCA website has been updated, in readiness for the new year.

Burns Supper 2024 - 25 January

SCA is delighted to host the annual Burns Supper. The evening starts with a drink's reception at 7pm followed by a traditional meal of scotch broth, haggis, neeps and tatties, or roast beef, (vegetarian option provided on request), then sweets, cheese board, coffee and mints, whisky or port. There will, of course, be a traditional address to the Haggis, and a Toast to Immortal Memory and Verses, with poetry and music too - all for £30! To book your table, please contact any of the numbers below.

BURNS SUPPER
SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY,
7.00PM, CEDDESFELD HALL
TICKETS £30

Reception Drinks, Soup, Haggis, Neeps & Tatties or Beef (Please choose in advance), Sweet, Cheese & Biscuits, Coffee or Tea, Whisky or Port for toasts

Piper, Address the Haggis, Immortal Toast, Toast to the Lassies & response.

Poetry and Music.

RSVP with menu choices to Pat (01740 620607) or pbuckleyat@hotmail.com

THE MAYOR OF SEDGFIELD INVITES YOU TO HIS

Valentine's Dance

Sedgfield Parish Hall | Doors 7pm
14th February, 2025 | Mamma Said
BYO Food & Drink | Tickets £10
Sedgfield Town Council Office | 01740 621273



Mediaeval Fayre, Saturday 17 May

The 'Mediaeval Mayhem' theme last year was very well received and provided scope for family fun and enjoyment. Preparations for 2025 are well underway, with plans to develop interactive, 'have a go' activities for families and children. SCA will soon be writing to its sections, groups, and members as well as to local businesses and organisations who will be asked to support the event by volunteering to help, provide financial community sponsorship or donate gifts and prizes for the special SCA tombola. We had a super selection of new craft stalls last year and we plan to grow this for 2025. The organising

committee remains quite small, and if you're keen to get involved, contact Sarah, on the number below, or through the SCA email address. Look out for regular posts on Facebook!

Sections and Groups – Subscribe to the SCA!

SCA would like to take this opportunity to thank the various sections, health and hobby groups who continue to plan and organise a very varied timetable of special interest and social activities in service of the community. There really is something for everyone!

In January, SCA will begin to collect the annual subscription fees, which have remained static for several years. The fees are £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, allowing for smooth 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 – just ask at the bar 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.sedgfieldsca.org.uk or Facebook [Ceddesfeld Hall 'Home of SCA'](https://www.facebook.com/CeddesfeldHall) for updates.

Sedgfield Rock and Blues Club
2025 Gigs #KEEP LIVE MUSIC...LIVE

25th January DC Blues Smokin' Gun	8th March Blue Nation Dirty Ruby
5th April Connor Selby + Support	10th May Sean Webster Band Russ Tippins Band

MORE DATES
Sep 6th. Oct 11th. Nov 15th. Dec 13th.

Thank you for supporting live music

www.sedgfieldblues.com
Sedgfield Parish Hall, TS21 3AT

Facebook.com/sedgfieldblues

ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Sedgefield Lyric Youth Choir Turns 40!

Back in 1985, Sandy Clubley and other Sedgefield Lyric Singers had the fantastic idea to set up a youth choir. Our Youth Choir (SLYC) met for the first time on Friday 18 January 1985 and is still going strong today! 2025 is our 40th Anniversary and we would love to celebrate with people who have been involved with SLYC over the years.



Both choirs performing beautifully at December's Farmers' Market, helping to ensure market goers had a merry little time whilst they shopped

Our first celebration is a SLYC singalong. Join us on Friday 17 January 2025, from 6pm in Ceddesfeld Hall.

Please also save the date for our Reunion Weekend planned for Friday 19 and Saturday 20 September. Anyone who has ever sung with SLYC over the last 40 years, is most welcome to join us in our celebrations. We look forward to sharing this special year with you.

For more information, please contact Rob Guest (via WhatsApp, if possible) on 07813 601731.

Happy New Singing Year!

2025 promises to be another fantastic year for your Sedgefield Choirs, with SLYC celebrating its 40th Anniversary, and Lirica marking 20 years of singing together.

Your community choirs resume rehearsals on Friday 10 January, in Ceddesfeld Hall: 6:00pm for SLYC; 7:30pm for The Lyric Singers. This is a great day to join us as a new singer. If you fancy giving the fun of choral singing a try. E-mail us at Sedgefieldlyricsingers@gmail.com for more information.

Let's make this another fabulous year for singing in Sedgefield. Happy New Singing Year, everyone!
Sedgefield Lyric Singers

L.S. Lowry & Norman Cornish Exhibition at Barnard Castle

Two of the great visual chroniclers of the north have been presented side by side at the Bowes Museum, in a beautifully-staged event that features a previously-unseen Cornish self-portrait.



The exhibition, entitled Kith & Kinship features loan works from over a dozen other galleries and institutions, allowing for the display of several of both artists' best-known work. We still have until 19 January to visit in person and there is an online preview at thebowesmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/kith-and-kinship-cornish-and-lowry/ allowing us a 'virtual tour' which gives an indication of the scale and breadth of work on display. Visit thebowesmuseum.org.uk/admission for details.

Sedgefield Rock & Blues Club

There is no let up in quality for 2025 as the prestigious club continues to host some of the most exciting acts in Blues. January sees the return of ebullient and effervescent 5-piece DC Blues as well as Co. Durham's own Smokin' Gun.

Don't delay - tickets always sell out fast. Visit sedgefieldblues.com/tickets.html

Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club
25th January 2025

DC BLUES
"This is what live music is all about. Magic moments that you can't get in any other musical medium"

SMOKIN' GUN
"Nothing better than a great local band playing a range of rock classics you all know and love."

Thank you for supporting live music

www.sedgefieldblues.com
Sedgefield Parish Hall, TS21 3AT

Facebook.com/sedgefieldblues

More local events:

Mix Wave Fest at The Forum, Darlington

2-day mini-festival for local up-and-coming bands.

29 and 30 January 6:30pm, £6 per evening.

theforumonline.co.uk/events/mix-wave-fest-wednesday/.

THE FORUM
MIX WAVE FEST
TWO NIGHT MINI FESTIVAL FEATURING UPCOMING NORTH EAST BANDS

WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY

LOGO GENERATION **PRECINCT**

THE WEDNESDAY FLOWERS THE HYPERBOLICS

SAM MITCHELL MEMORIA

TICKETS £6 / £10 BOTH NIGHTS
WWW.THEFORUMONLINE.CO.UK

Animal Farm, Darlington Hippodrome

Olivier-award winner Guy Masterson returns with a much-lauded one-man restaging of Orwell's prescient masterpiece.

Friday 31 January, 7:30pm £20
darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk/whats-on/Animal-Farm.

Boundless Books, Ushaw House

Kick-start the new year with a new habit at a welcoming book club. Free lending copies are available. Friday 10 January (and first Friday of the month ongoing) 11am.
ushaw.org/whatson/boundless-books/.

An Evening with Sara Davies, The Biscuit Factory, Newcastle

The local Dragons Den entrepreneur introduces her new book—*The 6 Minute Entrepreneur*
Friday 10 January Doors open at 6:20pm, starts at 7pm, £25
ticketsource.co.uk/forumbooks/t-noxzndq.

Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club
8th March 2025

BLUE NATION
"Get ready to be blown away by the electrifying force that is Blue Nation! This powerhouse 3-piece band unleashes a seismic fusion of Riff based Melodic Blues Rock, crafted from a reservoir of iconic influences"

DURHAM BLUES
"Eclectic, sharp edged, modern blues, with a 70s vibe with trombone guitar and 'Doorsy' similarities..."

Thank you for supporting live music

www.sedgefieldblues.com
Sedgefield Parish Hall, TS21 3AT

Facebook.com/sedgefieldblues

SPORTS UPDATE with Chris Lines chrisjlines@aol.com

Another year draws to an end, and there's been a huge amount of sport to enjoy over the last 12 months, here in Sedgefield and around the country and world. An Olympic and Paralympic year is always special, and 2024 has been no different. There was a lot to savour in Paris during the summer (including wheelchair rugby featuring our own Paralympic star Jack Smith) and as usual, we were able to watch great coverage of sports that we probably won't watch again for another four years! Unsurprisingly, the action in Paris featured prominently in the shortlist of nominees for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award.

By the time you read this, the winner will have been announced and it's a tough one to call. Of the performers in Paris, triathlete Alex Yee and cyclist Sarah Storey both delivered very exciting finishes to their races. To be fair, so did Keely Hodgkinson, though in her case, that was by dint of dominating her 800m final on the track. The other award nominees also had amazing years: Luke Littler is a phenomenally talented young darts prodigy; Jude Bellingham should be a global football star for many years; and in cricket, Joe Root is now England's highest ever test match run scorer, inexorably moving closer to the top of the world list.

Yes, it's been a great year, and locally, the sport keeps coming. Thanks to everyone who keeps me updated on what they or their club is doing. Please keep up the great work!

Athletics

One of the set-piece events in the winter athletics calendar is the North Eastern Counties Cross Country Championships (NEXC). Sedgefield Harriers has hosted the event twice in the last decade, which always takes place in December. This year, the championships were held in Temple Park in South Shields, on a course that is used regularly for cross country events. On a chilly but bright day, several junior and senior Harriers made the journey up the A19 to take part.

In the U13 girls' race, Jessica Davies ran brilliantly to finish tenth and in the boys' event Matthew Graham also ran well to finish 28th. In the U15 category, Daisy Woodward was 27th girl, and in the U17 men's category, Sonny Russell was 36th. In the senior women's race, Sadie Abel once again excelled, claiming 20th overall in a really competitive field. Sue Dobson and Christine Hearmon completed strong runs on a course that presented the traditional cross country challenges of mud and hills. In the men's race, Justin Cox was the first Harrier home, followed by Chris Lines.



Sadie Abel claimed 20th place in the 2024 North Eastern Counties Cross Country Championships

On Sunday 12 January, Sedgefield Harriers will host the club's winter handicap race for the Gerry Kearsley Memorial Trophy. Starting and finishing outside the village hall in Bishop Middleham, the race is about six miles long, on two laps of a multi-terrain route along trails and old railway lines. The handicapping system is based on each runner's best 10K time from the last 12 months, with the slowest participants setting off first, and then the rest at one-minute intervals. The format means that most runners finish within a few minutes of each other, creating some exciting racing. There will be prizes in various categories. The event is open to – and suitable for – all runners. It's free to enter for members of affiliated clubs, and £2 for unaffiliated participants. You can find out more about Harriers' events on the club website (sedgefieldharriers.co.uk) and Facebook page at facebook.com/sedgefieldharriers.

Squash

The Durham & Cleveland County Closed Championships were recently held at Nunthorpe Squash Club. Sedgefield Squash Club had several players competing in many of the categories. In the 'A' event, Oliver Walls reached the semi-final stage, and Rob Pearce the final, both being beaten by the eventual winner. In the A plate, Colin Langley reached the final and was beaten 3-1 in a closely fought match. Four players entered the B event and Sedgefield was guaranteed a finalist as Nick Hill and Ben Storey met in the semi-final. Ben was ultimately beaten in the final. Craig Muller made the semi-final of the B plate, narrowly losing out 3-2. Four players entered the C event, with Jack Bonner reaching the final, losing 3-2.

Sedgefield Squash Club Captain Stephen Rowsby has recently completed 100 consecutive matches for the first team. Well done to Stephen for an incredible achievement, and he's still going strong! Roll on the celebrations for 150 matches.

Over the festive period, club members will be involved in the internal leagues, and the individual handicap competition that runs through to February.

Merry Christmas from Sedgefield Squash Club to all readers of Sedgefield News. If you would like to enquire about joining the club or to find out more about squash and racketball, please email info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.

Cycling

On Saturday 14 December, Sedgefield Velo Cycling Club hosted the fifth round of the North East Cyclocross League in Hardwick East Park. Cyclocross is a fast paced off road bicycle race over various terrains.



There were two races at the event. 15 riders competed in a junior race in the U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 categories, and then 29 riders competed in a race of U18s, seniors, veterans, and ladies, which lasted about one hour, with riders completing as many laps of the course as they could in that time. 16 cycling clubs from around the North East were represented in the races.

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

SDUSG update

(Continued from Page 3)

We also had a very successful Christmas coffee morning on 29 November. Thank you to all those who were able to attend and a special thank you to Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Academy who brought their wonderful choir along to sing for us and to the Dun Cow, Sedgefield Co-op and The Hardwick Arms Bar & Bistro for donating raffle prizes.

This year for the first time we supported the Snow Party. Members of the group and non-members from our local community voluntarily made range of sweet and savoury snacks and gave up their time to help on the day. One of our local businesses, The Cake Studio also supported by baking some fabulous sweets treats, you can visit their Facebook page to see a range of cakes and further contact details. The majority of the money we raise comes from the generosity of the

people in our community attending and donating to our monthly coffee mornings, which take place on the last Friday of every month (except December). Local businesses such as Sedgefield Co-op, Kier Group and Berry's Kitchen also play a huge part in our coffee mornings by making donations for our refreshments, tombola and raffle prizes.

Without your support and the support of local businesses, we would not be able to make any of these contributions or support other charities such as RBL and The Salvation Army. We would like to say a huge thank you to you all and look forward to seeing you again at our coffee mornings in 2025.



SDUSG deliver toys to the Salvation Army at Sherburn Hill for their Christmas Appeal

If you would like to join the group, please visit our Facebook page [SVVeterans](#) and send us a message or email us at sdusgexec810147@groups.outlook.com and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

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90% OF PARTS IN STOCK
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Door Repair Specialist

Slimming World
feel real good

Sedgefield Methodist Church
Tuesdays 4.30 pm & 6 pm
Group times may change over the festive period – please contact Sam for details:
07970 451284

slimmingworld.co.uk

touching hearts, changing lives

LS DECORATORS
For Quality and Service
All Internal and External
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For a free estimate,
call Liam on
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Your New Local Taxi Company
with **Wheelchair Accessible Taxis**
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Reliable and friendly
door-to-door transport service
Individuals or groups
01642 917581
contact@wheelicabs.co.uk
www.wheelicabs.co.uk

The Manor House
Exclusive event venue in Sedgefield
**Celebrations, receptions,
conferences and meetings**

Our Old Court Room is available for larger events while the unique Pineapple Bar in our cellars is an intimate and timeless location for a private event

The Manor House is also available for conferences and meetings

For information and availability or to view, e-mail
enquiries@manorhousesedgefield.co.uk

17 07

The Manor House, West End, Sedgefield

**Any questions or queries about
advertising in Sedgefield News –
please e-mail
adverts@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk**

THE CAFE @ NETPARK

Mon - Fri 8am - 4pm
Serving breakfast until 11.30 am,
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DIARY & EVENTS

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January 2025

- Friday 3** **Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. A talk by Keith Simpson on Tudhoe Village, "Constancy and Change". 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-12:15pm.
- Wednesday 8** **Sedgefield WI**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm. "D.I.Y." followed by mince pies and mulled/ginger wine. Members' competition is a decorated plant pot. Visitors are welcome (£4).
Christmas Tree Recycling, get your real Christmas tree recycled. We will collect your tree at a cost of £5 per tree. Contact chairsib@gmail.com/07443 606907.
- Monday 13** **DIDO**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 1pm to 3:30pm. With singer Marshall Crawford. £5 annual membership is due. New members welcome, registration £3. Telephone Brenda 07597 116847.
- Friday 17** **Sedgefield Lyric Singers**, open singalong rehearsal.
- Saturday 18** **Sedgefield Games Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, from 6pm. Come along and play a variety of board games. £2.50.
- Tuesday 21** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers.
Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club, Sedgefield Parish Hall, Fletcher Room, 2pm. Annual General Meeting.
- Wednesday 22** **Neurodiversity Family Support Information Drop-in**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am to 12:30pm. See poster on Page 3.

Sedgefield Lyric Youth Choir

Sedgefield Lyric Youth Choir (SLYC) met for the first time on Friday 18 January 1985. Anyone who has been in SLYC at any point over the last 40 years and would like to come and join in the anniversary celebrations is welcome to join us for a sing. For more information, please contact Rob Guest (preferably on WhatsApp) on 07813 601731.

Sedgefield Area Churches Together

We hope that everyone has enjoyed Christmas celebrations, and wish everyone a peaceful and happy New Year. An ecumenical Taizé-style service will be held in St. Edmund's Church on 2 February 2025 at 6pm - everyone is invited to join in a reflective, peaceful service.

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.



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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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Wednesday 9:30 to 12:30

Thursday 10:00 to 18:00

Friday 13:00 to 19:00

Saturday 9:30 to 12:30

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

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

Speed Quiz at Hardwick Arms

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Quiz at The Dun Cow

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