

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

January 2026

Submission deadline for the next edition: Wednesday 14 January

Wishing our readers a Happy New Year



## Christmas Tree Festival success

St Edmund's Christmas Tree Festival Committee is proud to announce that the Festival generated a surplus of just over £6,700 in 2025 up from the figure of £4,310 in 2023.

This means that the nominated charity this year - St Cuthbert's Hospice Durham will receive just over £3,350.

Many thanks to all involved from the start to the end of the Festival:

- Those receiving and assembling the trees, the community and business groups (all 35 of you) who decorated them, the bakers of cakes and scones, tea and coffee makers, the stewards, to Ferryhill Town Band whose sell out concert raised the roof and some substantial funds with their concert and also to everyone who generously donated money throughout the Festival.

- Thanks to Pam Royle, Jack Smith and Julie Robson, our trio that had the unenviable task of determining the Top 3 trees in the Festival.

- Joint Winners of the Community Group Trees Group were U3A and the Darlington & County Durham Diabetic Eye screening team. See the trees on Pages 4 and 12.

- Winner of the Business Trees Group was From Loft to Loved. See their tree on Page 12.

- Thanks for the donations from Sedgefield Town Council Community Chest, The Mayor's Charity Fund, Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group and County Councillors Ian Catchpole and Chris Lines for their Small Grant Award, all these helped to cover some of the costs associated with running the Festival.

If we missed thanking you - apologies, and THANK YOU to you!

Planning starts for the next Festival in 2027.

Sedgefield Christmas Tree Festival Committee



*From Loft to Loved receiving their award*

## Anaerobic Digester

On 2 December, the Planning Inspectorate announced its decision on the appeal for the proposed Anaerobic Digester plant at Sprucely Farm. The appeal was dismissed, protecting the character of our local landscape.

The Inspectorate concluded that the development would cause significant harm to the area's rural character, conflict with the County Durham Plan, and was not in keeping with the agricultural scale of Sprucely Farm. While the proposal offered some renewable energy and waste processing benefits, these were far outweighed by the impact on the countryside's appearance and identity.

This decision helps preserve the beauty and integrity of our local environment – a positive outcome for all our local communities.

The Planning  
Inspector  
said 'NO!'

to the huge  
anaerobic digestion plant  
at Sprucely Farm

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Community College Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 29 November, we were delighted to welcome members of the local community to Sedgefield Community College for our Christmas Fayre. Lots of our current students and their families joined us and a particular highlight was seeing some of our former students, some who left many years ago, returning to their old school.

For everyone who visited the Fayre, there were a huge number of activities to take part in. As well as raffles and our tombola, there were countless craft stalls selling festive gifts and lots of stands where it was possible to purchase festive treats. A particular highlight of the day was a visit from Santa Claus who was very generous with his time and met lots of children in his grotto. As well as this, our café selling festive treats and snacks did a roaring trade on the day!

In order to make the event such a success, lots of staff generously gave their time – both on the day itself and also in the weeks and months in advance making preparations for it. We also had a number of student helpers who did a wonderful job in speaking to members of the public as they ran stalls, helped Santa in his grotto and waited tables in our café.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Fayre such a success. As well as providing a brilliant day for all, we also raised a significant amount of money and this will be used to promote our whole school reading approach, helping to create a lifelong love of reading for our students.

### Winter Wonderland

On Friday 5 December, Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Academy transformed into a magical Winter Wonderland, welcoming families and friends for an evening of festive fun. The event was a true community celebration, filled with Christmas cheer.



The school hall was bustling with stalls run by private sellers and talented pupils, who showcased handmade creations crafted during the week. From beautiful decorations and delicious cakes to sparkling festive light bottles, the children's hard work shone brightly and added a personal touch to the occasion.

Visitors were treated to tasty delights at Mrs Claus' Kitchen, where hot dogs, crisps, and refreshing drinks were served. Meanwhile, Shiba Bean kept everyone warm with hot drinks in the Reception garden, creating a cosy spot for parents and friends to gather.

The PTA played a big role in spreading Christmas cheer, hosting fun-filled games and activities for all ages. Santa's elves were on hand for face painting, adding a splash of festive colour to smiling faces. Other popular attractions included the chocolate and drink tombola, and the raffle drew plenty of excitement with top prizes such as a Go Kart voucher, Hall Hill Farm tickets and Sunderland football tops.

Of course, no Winter Wonderland would be complete without Santa himself! Children were thrilled to visit Santa's Workshop and meet the main man in his grotto, sharing their Christmas wishes and enjoying the magical atmosphere.

The event was a resounding success, bringing together the school community for an evening full of festive spirit. A huge thank you goes to the staff, PTA, volunteers, and local businesses who made this celebration possible.



## SPORTS UPDATE EXTRA

### Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers is preparing for two events early in 2026. First up will be the winter handicap race on Sunday 11 January, starting and finishing at Bishop Middleham Village Hall. The race is approximately 10k on a two-lap multi terrain route along path and trails surrounding Bishop Middleham. It is free to enter for members of clubs who are affiliated to England Athletics. There is a £2 charge for others. All entries take place on the day and handicapping for the event is based on each runner's best 10k time in the previous 12 months.

Then, on Saturday 21 February, for the first time, Sedgefield will host the English National Cross Country Championships in East Park. Organised by the English Cross Country Association in partnership with Sedgefield Harriers and supported by Durham County Council, the championships will include 10 separate races for junior and senior runners, and are sponsored by [SportsShoes.com](https://www.sportshoes.com). The event was last staged in North East England in 2013 and will be returning to County Durham for the first time in 25 years. Thanks to some additional financial support from the office of the North East Mayor at the North East Combined Authority, Sedgefield Harriers will be able to put more resources behind promoting the championships, and staging an event that showcases the area positively to the rest of the country.

The 'Nationals' is the most prestigious event in the winter athletics calendar and has been the proving ground for some of the nation's greatest athletes, including North East stars such as Brendan Foster, Mike McLeod, Charlie Spedding, Steve Cram, Aly Dixon and Laura Weightman. Look out for more information about the event next month, but in the meantime, organisers are recruiting volunteers to help stage the championships. You can join the event delivery group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/xs2026](https://www.facebook.com/groups/xs2026) volunteers, or send me an email ([chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)).





## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECTS



### Friendly Fixers

Friendly Fixers have been saving stuff from landfill for over 2 years. The monthly sessions see a steady stream of regulars and newbies testing the skills of our talented fixers.



But could we make more use of the time and space to support sustainable initiatives? An upcycled fashion event? Seasonal clothing swap with Christmas jumpers/ Halloween/World Book Day costumes? Donate your old tech? Seedling swap? Basic household item repair masterclass?

We would love to hear your ideas – and, of course, get you involved! We will be discussing ideas on Saturday 7 February from 11:30am at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre - all welcome.

We meet on the first Saturday of the month at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre (TS21 4ED) from 10:30am to 12:30pm (our next meetup is in February) or you can get in touch at

[repaircafe@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:repaircafe@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk).

Anyone can pop in, even just for a cuppa and a slice of cake. Repairs are free but donations are encouraged if possible to help with the running costs of Friendly Fixers.



**FARMERS MARKET**  
**Sunday 4 January**  
**8.30am to 12 noon**



**Trees for Habitats**  
**Sunday 4 January 2026**  
**10am – 12 noon**

If you decided to use a real Christmas Tree this year, bring it along to be recycled at Skerne Wood. We will be using the trees to extend the dead hedges we have created in previous years. Dead hedges provide habitats for birds, 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 Skerne Wood@NETPark TS21 3FD, what3words

///meatball.printouts.spearing 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

[woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk)

or our Facebook page -

'[Woodland & Wildlife – Sedgefield](#)'.



**THERMAL IMAGING**  
**CAMERA LOAN SCHEME**

A project by Sedgefield Development Trust

There is good availability for the loan of thermal cameras this year. If you want to seek out your draughts, apply to borrow a camera at [sedgefieldweb.co.uk/thermalimaging.html](http://sedgefieldweb.co.uk/thermalimaging.html).



## SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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### Do You Live on a Local Farm?

Delivering the Sedgefield News to farms can be tricky, with routes involving busy roads like the A689 and A177, plus farm tracks. We'd love your ideas to make this easier! Could there be convenient pick-up points for your copy of the News? Share your thoughts with us at [news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk) – we'd really appreciate your input.

### Community workshops



Craft and Create North East CIC are thrilled to say that they've received a National Lottery Community Grant! They have received enough money to subsidise a full 2 years' worth of community workshops for adults and children; including needle felting, candle and wax melt making, lampshades, Powertex and art therapy sessions to name but a few, as well as funding a monthly adult's wellbeing group and a brand new monthly kid's craft club which starts at the end of January! For full details of workshops offered see [Craft and Create North East CIC](#) on Facebook.



Needle felt group, first Saturday of the month at Cafe@NETPark starting 3 January.

Adults Wellbeing group, second Saturday of the month at Cafe@NETPark starting 10 January.

Kids Craft Club at Sedgefield Parish Hall, 4th Saturday of the month starting 24 January.



## u3a update



Another packed hall for our Christmas Party when we were able to spend some valuable time getting to know new members and to welcome them to our organisation. We enjoyed a delicious array of foods provided by members and quaffed warming punch and smooth wine. We puzzled our way through a challenging quiz and our raffle raised £120 for Crisis at Christmas.

The Lunch Group visited another new venue – the Castle Eden Inn. This visit clashed with a Town Council bus trip so only a small group enjoyed another lovely meal in a beautiful venue. We hope to visit again in the better weather when we look forward to being able to eat outside on their delightful terrace.

The Wine Group had a really lovely festive evening when they tasted and evaluated a range of mulled, white and red wines complemented by seasonal nibbles, cake and cheese. We're looking forward to our next meeting in February when some more surprises are no doubt due.

The House and Garden Group had an exceptionally busy month with visits to Brancepeth Castle, where they were treated to a private, guided behind-the-scenes tour, to Raby Castle for their annual Christmas Fayre, and to Aglow at Bishop Auckland Deer Park where they were able to meander around and through the spectacular light installations, albeit on a cold and damp evening. The u3a may be an organisation for the older resident but our members certainly do not believe in just sitting at home; they really do make the most of places to see, people to meet.

The Book Club members had prepared their comments on *The Fraud*, by Zadie Smith. A challenging read as is their current book, *A Thousand Ships*, by Natalie Haynes. Each monthly book is chosen by the members from a selection suggested by other members. This results in a wide genre of styles and content, and results in some hard discussion and partisan views. If you would like to widen your usual field of reading, please do come along and join us on the second Thursday of each month in Ceddesfeld Hall at 10am.

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY JANUARY 2025

One of the excitements of a New Year for me is starting a new bird list! Every year many birders look back at the past year and think about the birds they missed (dipped out on) and what their year total could have been! The Wryneck they couldn't find at South Gare or the Black Tern that flew past Hartlepool five minutes before they arrived, but they also consider the rarities they did see like the Bluethroat or the Olive-backed Pipit. Seeing new species and the search for them has been shown to help your mental health and improve your connection to nature. This is not the only benefit - the records help scientists to monitor populations, see which areas are important and hopefully conserve these sites for the future.

Like most things these days there is an app for recording. BirdTrack is a citizen science project run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and partners that allows birdwatchers to record sightings and contribute to conservation research across Britain and Ireland. It's both a personal logbook for birders and a collective database that helps scientists track migration patterns, distributions, and population changes. It is easy to use; you download the app, it knows where you are and gives you a ready-made list of the species you might see in that location and then you just tick the species that you do see. You can also see what other people have recorded in the same area. It keeps a record of everything you see, everywhere, and can tell you at the end of the year your total for that year and then you are able to compare with the previous year. So if you want to contribute to this citizen science project download the app and have a go.

Species	Targets
2025	United Kingdom
229 species	Count Last seen by you
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	176 30/11/2025
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	156 29/11/2025
Carriion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	154 30/11/2025
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	151 30/11/2025
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	146 30/11/2025
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	141 30/11/2025
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	124 30/11/2025
Jackdaw <i>Coloeus monedula</i>	121 30/11/2025
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	119 29/11/2025
Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	116 30/11/2025

The other thing you could consider doing this New Year is getting involved in the New Year Plant Hunt run by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland. Each year, across a set of days around New Year, intrepid botanists of all ages and abilities set out to record which wild plants they can find in bloom. By recording the wild plants in flower in your local patch in the depths of winter, you can help them gather valuable data about how our wild or naturalised plants are responding to a changing climate, and how this might impact the other species that rely upon them. You can get more information about how to get involved at [bsbi.org/take-part/activities/new-year-plant-hunt](https://bsbi.org/take-part/activities/new-year-plant-hunt).

Craft Club members were delighted to be awarded joint first prize in the Community section of the Christmas Tree Festival. We really appreciate the lovely comments that our pink and white Nutcracker-inspired tree has drawn from so many people.

Our January meeting will be a week later than usual on the 9th featuring Mike Thornton, the son-in-law of Norman Cornish, the Pitman Painter from Spennymoor. If you are retired/semi-retired, do come along and listen with us as we hear stories, facts and anecdotes about the depth and breadth of Cornish's career. Friday 9 January at 2pm in the Parish Hall.

Chris Balfour



Joint community winner - U3A



## CEDDESFIELD HALL



You will find the SCA Ceddesfeld Hall pamphlet for 2026 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 2026 – 24 January

SCA is delighted to host the annual and very traditional Burns Supper. The evening starts at 7pm with a sparkling wine reception 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 & 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 £35! To book your table, please contact any of the numbers below.



### Sections, Groups and Friends – Subscribe to the SCA - Update

The most supportive thing you can do for SCA is to become a member! In January, SCA will begin to renew and collect the annual subscription fees from all sections and groups. If you use Ceddesfeld Hall regularly or come along to support and/or volunteer at community events you can become a 'Friend of SCA' member. You do not need to be a member to visit our CAMRA listed bar and lounge, however, membership helps support the hall and ensures the bar remains a facility for the village. You can join by using a brown envelope kept behind the bar at Ceddesfeld Hall or by using the new online system at [membermojo.co.uk/sedgefieldscsca](http://membermojo.co.uk/sedgefieldscsca), which is very straightforward. All members are entitled to reduced room hire rates. The membership fees are £9 for adults, £8 for over 60s, and £4.50 for young people and students. Some sections may make additional charges. If you need help or information, please contact the membership secretary Jean Easson on 01740 620656. For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 01740 620607, Sarah on 01740 622185, visit our website [sedgefieldscsca.org.uk](http://sedgefieldscsca.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook.

## A message from Skerne Medical Group



The easiest way to contact the practice for a GP appointment, administration request or prescription is via an online request. These are monitored by our team of doctors from 08:00-18:30. Please use your NHS App, or the website [www.skernemedical.nhs.uk](http://www.skernemedical.nhs.uk) and select "contact the surgery online using econsult".

If you are not able to submit an online request, please contact the surgery in the usual way to speak to our reception team. They will ask you some essential questions for the doctor.

We hope this change will improve access for, and reduce phone queues. For nursing appointments, these can be made online, or by calling the surgery.

## Christmas tree collection

Sedgefield in Bloom Group are again organising a collection of trees on Tuesday 6 January 2026. It couldn't be easier - simply get in touch with Phil Hogg [treasurersib25@gmail.com](mailto:treasurersib25@gmail.com) or on 07940504486 and for a donation of £5 we will collect it from you and recycle (courtesy of AW Treecare) All monies raised will go directly in funds for planting and projects in Sedgefield helping us to help keep Sedgefield blooming.



## Animal Kindness Award

# RSPCA.

At a recent ceremony at the Grand Hotel in Sunderland, Sedgefield resident Kevin Clark was delighted to receive an award for his voluntary services with the RSPCA. A lover of animals from early childhood with a farming background, Kevin began volunteering with the RSPCA in March 2018. He holds various roles with the charity, including transporting animals up and down the country, wildlife rescue and running the Durham pet food bank. He also helps out at a local centre for homeless dogs and cats, as well as attending the annual Great North Run, cheering on the participants while collecting much needed donations to swell the funding pot.



In view of all these selfless activities, it should come as no surprise that Kevin was presented with the RSPCA Animal Kindness Award, acknowledging his devotion to the charity and the animals it protects. Although a fairly recent newcomer to Sedgefield, Kevin has fitted in well to community life in the village, becoming a very active member of Sedgefield Local History Society and a great supporter of Sedgefield News. Hearty congratulations on your achievement, Kevin.

*Norma Neal*

## ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

Contact Geoff at [sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com](mailto:sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com)

### Sedgefield Players Update

Happy New Year from all of us at Sedgefield Players. We hope you enjoyed "The Trials of Goldilocks" as much as we did.

Here are the Wicked Witches who, with waving arms, cast their spells on Goldilocks and her prince of charms. But which witch was which? And which Player played which witch?



There's Queen Witch, Water Witch (Aqua), Air Witch (Ventus), Earth Witch (Terra) and Fire Witch (Ignis). Played in this snapshot by Sarah Legender, Tammy Smith, Millie Malloy, Emily Legender and Rosemary Jones. Their spells have been disrupted so the names are all jumbled up. Can you work out who's who?

But GoldiLocks (Kelsey Nikita White) passed all the trials and found her happy ever after with Prince Filius (Ben Gibbon). Proving that good always triumphs over evil in the end!



So that's panto over for another year. Oh no it isn't? Oh yes it is! We are so proud to be part of this wonderful community theatre and thankful for the support you have given us throughout our shows in 2025. If you enjoyed Panto why not come to see the productions we have planned for 2026? There will be "Cranford" in March, a costume soap drama by Laura Turner based on Elizabeth Gaskell's novels. The SPYS follow in May with an exciting version of "Alice in Wonderland", what could be more fun for a youth group? And in June we have the gloriously funny "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde. Here's looking forward to a fantastic New Year!

Have you worked out which witch was which yet?

Sedgefield Players

### Sedgefield Rock & Blues

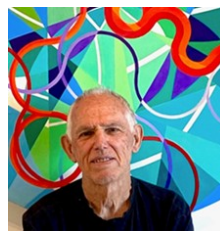
Big Wolf Band bring their high-energy blues sound to Sedgefield Blues Club on 17 January, with a night of powerful guitar work and driving rhythms.

Known for their electrifying live performances and modern blues style, the band are sure to deliver a crowd-pleasing show for local blues fans.



### Tom Hume Retrospective

A major exhibition celebrating the life and work of Durham artist Tom Hume is on show at Ushaw Historic House until 18 January. It is the first full retrospective of Hume's career, and traces his artistic journey from early figurative and portrait work to the carefully balanced abstract paintings that defined his later years.



Born in Stockton-on-Tees and based in Durham, Tom Hume was both a highly skilled painter and a dedicated art teacher, remembered for his generosity and huge influence within the North East arts community. This show provides a rare opportunity to appreciate the breadth and depth of an artist whose work deserves wider recognition.

[www.ushaw.org/exhibitions-at-ushaw](http://www.ushaw.org/exhibitions-at-ushaw)

### More local events

#### Pippa Hale: Pet Project - The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle

Pippa Hale's pet project at Bowes Museum is inspiring and energetic, a perfect fusion of flamboyance and fun for spirited young creatives. Until 1 March.

[thebowesmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/pippa-hale-pet-project/](http://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/pippa-hale-pet-project/)



#### Hearth Outdoors at Auckland Palace Deer Park, Bishop Auckland

A series of free, family friendly outdoor nature-based seasonal activities from exploration to bushcraft delivered by Durham Wildlife Trust. Booking is required but there's no cost to attend.

2nd Sunday of the month, 10:30am to 12:30pm.

[www.facebook.com/HearthBishopAuckland](http://www.facebook.com/HearthBishopAuckland)

#### National Theatre Live Screening: Hamlet at The Witham, Barnard Castle

National Theatre Live: Hamlet comes from stage to screen at The Witham in a special cinema presentation. Shakespeare's classic tragedy is delivered with a powerful, acclaimed stage performance, starring Olivier Award winner Hiran Abeysekera.

22 January, £12-£14

[thewitham.org.uk/event/national-theatre-live-screening-hamlet-12/](http://thewitham.org.uk/event/national-theatre-live-screening-hamlet-12/)



#### Susan Hill's The Woman in Black, Darlington Hippodrome

The atmospheric masterpiece became a phenomenally successful West End theatre show and comes to Darlington in the new year.

6 January – 10 January, 7:30pm.

[www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk/w-hats-on/The-Woman-In-Black](http://www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk/w-hats-on/The-Woman-In-Black)



## SPORTS UPDATE with Chris Lines

As we hurtle into 2026, I reflect on another brilliant 12 months of sport in Sedgefield. It's been a year of significant anniversaries for some of our clubs, with another to celebrate in this report (see below). Once again, I've had the privilege of reporting on many brilliant achievements by many brilliant people – this update is no exception! And I've been able to put a spotlight on the amazing work that goes on behind the scenes to make all of this possible, giving opportunities to people of all generations to participate, volunteer or spectate. There's much more to look forward to in 2026!

### Golf

Back in 1995, Dave Goad took over the Nag's Head pub. Dave was a keen golfer and set up Sedgefield's very first golf society – initially calling it the Nag's Head Golf Society. The idea was to get together once a month from April to October, visiting different golf courses up and down the country for a round of golf in the Stableford format. Interest soon grew and before long, over 20 members signed up – including John Adcock, Mick Thompson, John Forster, Ian Thompson, Dave Garood (original captain), Richard Grey, Billy Teesdale, Phil Fellows, Grayden Makepeace, Neil Hocking, Wayne Henderson, George Alderson, Dereck Jepson, Tony Cullen, Jimmy Seymour, Ray Hodgson, Craig Yetman, John Stokell, and others.

Dave Goad ran the society for about five years before Neil Hetherington took over as landlord, and started hosting the society in 2000. By this time, the group had grown in size to over 30 members, including Kevin 'Keg' Jones, Paul Archer and Micky Price, who was (and still is) in charge of keeping track of each member's handicap to keep everything fair and allow players of all abilities to compete with each other.



*Golf Society - the early days*

For several years, the society was successfully run from the Nag's Head before being taken on by John Hannan. It was at this time that the members decided to rename it simply Sedgefield Golf Society and host it in Sedgefield Social Club. This carried on until eventually John Adcock took the reins alongside Micky Price (handicaps) and Kevin 'Keg' Jones (admin/fees).

The society runs a variety of competitions for its members through the year, with trophies and prizes. The final outing of the year is always played at Hartlepool Golf Course, and is a 'Yellow Ball Team Game' format, where members are split into teams of four with a total handicap of roughly the same in each team. Each player must take turns using the yellow ball which allows the user to double the amount of points earned on that particular hole. The best two scores from each team are added together and the team with the most points after 18 holes wins the competition. This competition was always Keg's favourite and following his untimely passing last year, the society decided to dedicate it to him, with Steven Defty kindly donating the Kevin Jones Shield in his memory.

During 2025, in honour of Keg, the society decided to use the longest drive competition to try and raise some money for Cancer Research UK which has affected many of the members, most recently Ian Thompson who sadly passed away last month and was a much loved member of the society. Every single member took part in the competition, which raised £170 - 50% was due to go to the eventual winner Mark West, but he kindly re-gifted the winnings to cancer research.

Kevin Jones and Ian Thompson were both much loved members of the society and will be sadly missed by all. Members are aiming to raise more funds for Cancer Research UK in their honour during the upcoming season and appreciate any support from those who would like to get involved. Contact Lewis Archer on 07875 755690 if you'd like any further information about Sedgefield Golf Society.



### Golf (continued)

This year's presentation night took place at the Dun Cow Inn in Sedgefield where the following winners were presented with their trophies:

**New Season Shield** - Daniel Archer

**Henderson Shield** – Shaun Evans

**Ian Thompson Shield** – Lewis Archer

**Craig Yetman Trophy** – Don MacLennan

**Dave Goad Cup** – Harold Jones

**John Foster Shield** - Mark West

**Kevin Jones Shield** – S Brown, M Thompson, S Evans, S Gerry (team).

### Football



Fishburn Community Football Club U9s is looking for a couple of players to add to the squad. The club and coaches' main aim and ethos is to give kids the opportunity and environment to enjoy their grassroots football and make new friends with a focus on player development and teamwork.

Key information:

- The team plays on Saturdays in Division 7 in the Russell Foster Youth League
- Current winter training is on Tuesdays from 7pm-8pm, at Sedgefield Community College
- UEFA C qualified coaching with a structured training programme.

If you are interested in finding out more, contact the club on its Facebook page "[Fishburn Community FC U9s](#)".

### Pilates



Core Reformer Pilates

Sedgefield is a new enterprise that will be of interest to sports people. It is based in the old telephone exchange building, next to the Methodist Church and close to the centre of Sedgefield. More class information, prices and booking are all through [www.classfit.com](http://www.classfit.com) or the Classfit app. Just search for Core Reformer Sedgefield online, or find it on Facebook or Instagram for more updates. I'll have more about this next month.

There are more Sports Updates on pages 2 and 8!

As always, please send any sports news to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com).

## Boccia

Sedgefield has a new national champion! Our boccia star Lee Maddison, along with ramp assistant Kalab Yohans, has been crowned BC3 UK Boccia champion, winning the title in Antrim, Northern Ireland recently.



Lee wants to thank Kalab, England coach Lauren Kianchehr and Chris Foster for all their help and support throughout the year, with a special thanks to Chris for holding the fort and running the North East Boccia Hub while Lee was away competing for the title. If anyone is interested in playing boccia or volunteering with Tees Valley Tigers Boccia Club, please contact the 'North East Boccia Hub', which you can find on Facebook. Congratulations to Lee – what brilliant news to end the year!

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## DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to [diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com](mailto:diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com)

### January 2026

- Sunday 4** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am-12 noon.
- Tuesday 6** **Sedgefield in Bloom Christmas Tree Collection**, see page 5.
- Wednesday 7** **Sedgefield WI**, Methodist Church Hall, 7:15pm.  
An evening of games, chat, mince pies and ginger wine.  
The members competition is "the silliest cracker gift".  
Visitors always welcome, £4 (includes refreshments).
- Friday 9** **U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. A talk by Mike Thornton about Norman Cornish of the Pitman Painters. See Page 4.
- Friday 16** **St. Edmund's Church Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-11:30am. Raffle and homemade cakes, everyone welcome.
- Saturday 17** **Sedgefield Rock & Blues Club** welcome the BIG WOLF band and Ratio, tickets available at [www.sedgefieldblues.com](http://www.sedgefieldblues.com).
- Tuesday 20** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers. Clients must be accompanied.
- Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Fletcher Room, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Annual General Meeting.
- Friday 30** **Sedgefield District Uniformed Service Group Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.



Local Business winner - From Loft to Loved



Joint community winner - Darlington & County Durham Diabetic Eye Screening team

### Save the date

The Mayor, Councillor Peter Hinde, already has two events organised for the new year:

- A band night featuring Pitlington Brass Band will be on Saturday 7 February
- A coffee morning will take place on Friday 20 February. Both events will be held at the Sedgefield Parish Hall.

A World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 6 March at 2pm at St. John Fisher Church in Sedgefield.

**HARDWICK HALL HOTEL**  
\*\*\*\*\*

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For more details about these events, go to [sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://sedgefieldweb.co.uk).

### Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

Methodist Church on Mondays from 9:30am to 11am.

### Little Movers

Fletcher Room, Sedgefield Parish Hall every Thursday from 10am.

### Railway Society

Every Wednesday evening from 7:30pm to 10pm at Ceddesfeld Hall.

### Sedgefield Social Club

Singer fortnightly, see "[Sedgefield Social Club Official](#)" on Facebook.

### Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm, Ceddesfeld Hall.

### Pop-in Club at Ceddesfeld Hall

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

### Speed Quiz at Hardwick Arms

Every Thursday at 8pm in the Hardwick Lounge Bar.

### Quiz at The Dun Cow

Every Monday at 8:30pm, hosted by the Sedgefield Mayor, Peter Hinde.

### 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.

### Move County Durham

Every Friday you can join a free, 3 mile guided walk, meeting at St. Edmund's Church gates at 10am and Coxhoe Village Hall at 1pm.

### Sedgefield Library

Events at the library include a craft group, book circles, a Lego drop in and a digital support drop in – see [durham.gov.uk/sedgefieldlibrary](http://durham.gov.uk/sedgefieldlibrary).

### One Step Forward

A bereavement support group on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays between 2pm and 4pm at St. Edmund's Church. Everyone is welcome - of all faiths or none. For details contact Sue on 07779 093386.

### parkrun & junior parkrun

Every Saturday at 9am there is a free, 5k timed run (or walk!) at Hardwick Park. All welcome.

Every Sunday at 9am, there is a free 2k run for 4-14 year olds at Hardwick Park. We welcome volunteers.

For either, or both, events register at [parkrun.org.uk](http://parkrun.org.uk).