

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

June 2025

Submission deadline for the next edition: Saturday 14 June

## Sedgefield Citizen & Young Citizen of the Year



Citizen of the Year 2024, Tony Guest and Young Citizen of the Year 2024, Iona Darnton



**Sedgefield**  
Town Council



**Sedgefield**  
Development Trust Limited



**Rotary**  
Club of  
Sedgefield

Tony Guest and Iona Darnton were both surprised at the Annual Town Meeting where they were announced as Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year. The awards are organised through a partnership between Sedgefield Town Council, Sedgefield Rotary Club and Sedgefield Development Trust. Residents are asked to nominate candidates through an online form publicised in the Sedgefield News and a panel of judges (including the previous holder of the award) selects the winners.

Tony Guest was awarded Citizen of the Year for his outstanding contribution to community life. Tony's has had an interesting and varied career in local government and the NHS before retiring in 2021. From this experience, he brings a wide range of skills to his volunteering work which includes management of Ceddesfeld Hall where he is Chair of the Bar Committee and Facilities Manager. And, of course, Tony is instrumental in organising Sedgefield's Mediaeval Fayre. Always kind, helpful and generous, he has a talent for getting people on board and creating effective, cheerful teams. Congratulations to Tony.

The Young Citizen of the Year award was presented to Iona Darnton who has been active in many parts of our community from a very early age. As a SPYS committee member, she represents the youth group on the main Sedgefield Players' Committee, she volunteers at Sedgefield Primary and also at Sedgefield Youth Club where she was recently invited to apply to be senior youth leader. She has fulfilled her role as Head Student at Sedgefield Community College in her determined, dedicated and cheerful manner. Well done, Iona.

## VE Day at the Pop In

The Pop In group had a week of celebrations for the 80th anniversary of VE Day.



The Pop In takes place in Ceddesfeld Hall. Their opening times are:

Tuesday 9:30am to 12 noon  
Wednesday 10am to 12:30pm  
Thursday 1pm to 3:30pm.

Why not 'pop in' and join them?

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## SCHOOL NEWS

### Careers

We would like to use this month's article to focus on the 'Sedgefield Careers Journey' ...as a lot has been happening with this during the course of the spring and summer terms! We do form close links with further and higher education organisations and training providers. We want our young people to be fully aware of the wide range of opportunities that are available to them for their next steps after leaving our school. Consequently, it was fantastic that every child in Year 9 had the opportunity to visit Durham University last term. Later this term, we look forward to a programme of visits for Year 10 students to a range of Post-16 providers in our area.

Establishing close links with the world of work is also vital. We're very grateful for all of the support from local employers in contributing to our 'Careers Journey'. Recently, we've been joined by guests from employers including Nissan, The Environment Agency and Magnitude Biosciences (based at NETPark) who have delivered careers talks to our students. As well as this, we were delighted to welcome Darren Lyall, Manager of Engineering at Mammoet, into school to deliver a workshop to our students. Many employers also joined us recently for a day of 'mock interviews', giving our Y10 students the experience of being interviewed by a real employer!

We're always keen to establish new employer links, ensuring our students have the broadest possible insight into all of the different career paths that they might take. If anyone does feel that they could contribute to our careers programme, Mrs King is our Careers Leader and would be delighted to hear from you: [a.king@sedgefield.cc](mailto:a.king@sedgefield.cc).

### VE Day 80th anniversary

Sedgefield Primary School were proud to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day with members of the local community. The service was led by Michael King on the Village Green at the war memorial by St Edmund's Church. The whole of Key Stage 2 - 120 pupils from Sedgefield Primary - were delighted to share this moment with their local community.

Pupils and staff dressed in red, white and blue to mark the occasion. Local veterans and dignitaries were very impressed with the exemplary behaviour of our pupils. They understand it is significant we remember the impact of war past and present to gain an understanding of the world we live in today.

Pupils in many classes have spoken to veterans, who have shared their knowledge and discussed the time they served. All pupils as always have showed a high level of respect when sharing others experiences. These extended elements of our curriculum support our community spirit and family ethos within school.



### Here be dragons

Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Academy has worked alongside Sedgefield Primary and Sedgefield Community Association to bring a burst of colour to this year's Mediaeval Fayre, held in the heart of the village on Saturday 17 May. With the chosen theme of dragons, pupils from across the school worked tirelessly in the lead-up to the event, producing a spectacular range of creative work that captivated the crowds.

Every class at Sedgefield Hardwick embraced the mythical theme, designing and crafting an array of eye-catching dragon masks, swirling capes, and curling horns. The centrepiece of the school's contribution was a colossal collaborative dragon, proudly displayed at the Fayre. Each pupil created their own dragon scale using oil pastels, focusing on harmonious colour blending and intricate detail. When assembled, these scales formed a huge tapestry, stretching over 3 metres in length!



A pupil in Year 3 commented, "I loved producing the scales as I used blending skills I had been taught last year! I think the rainbow dragon looks amazing – especially with all the different colours on show!" Another pupil in Reception declared, "Making the wings was my favourite part – I felt like a real dragon!"

A huge number of pupils from across the two primaries took part in the annual parade to begin the festivities, with the dragons being the star exhibit!





## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*



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

**Are you a good communicator who can help with Market administration?**

We are looking for a volunteer to help us coordinate the stall holders and our team of volunteers. If you can help then please contact us at [farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk).

## SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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### Can you help deliver the Sedgefield News?

As the holiday season approaches, we need a little help to deliver the News when our regular volunteers are taking their summer breaks.

If you can help over the summer or on a longer term basis then please contact us at [news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk).

#### SEDGEFIELD NEWS



## Choral Concert: An evening to remember

Sedgefield Area Churches Together



The Chapel Choir of University College, Durham. Photo by Robert Cooper

On Friday 9 May, the Chapel Choir of University College, Durham played in St Edmund's Church, Sedgefield. The programme of music by Henry Purcell, Amy Beach, Sir Edward Bairstow and Francis Jackson was based on that of a CD recording the choir had made at the end of April. It will be on sale towards the end of this year.

The choir was expertly directed by Barney Howard and accompanied sensitively on St Ed's, sometimes rather quirky, organ by Alan Erdelyi and another young man whose name did not appear in the programme. With only a short time before the performance for exploring the instrument's idiosyncrasies, they somehow managed to find just the right stops to match the wide range of sounds coming from the choir. Whether accompanied or singing on their own, the sound of the choir was breathtaking and the expressive range and phrasing beautifully controlled. Within the choral music were several lovely solos including a beautiful performance of Bairstow's "Music when soft voices die" sung unaccompanied by tenors and basses.

After the concert refreshments were served, and special thanks must go to all who helped in any way. It was good to have an opportunity to meet members of the choir after the performance, and they told us they'd enjoyed coming and would be very happy to come again. They liked the church and its acoustic, and something they particularly appreciated was the fact that they had an audience, where normally they sing Evensong with just a handful of people in the congregation. Let's hope we'll see and hear this excellent young choir back at St Edmund's on future occasions.

## The 5 Churches Round



2025 sees the 20th anniversary of the Parish of the Upper Skerne, and one of the initiatives that has taken shape to mark the milestone is the development of a new walking and running route that links all five active churches in the parish. The Five Churches Round is a self-guided route of 18.5 miles that follows public rights of way and is almost all on paths, trails and bridleways. There are a couple of very short sections on roads, and a few roads to cross.

To launch the Five Churches Round, and supported by Sedgefield Harriers, people are invited to meet and walk, jog or run the whole route, or one or more sections of it, all starting at 9:30am on Sunday 22 June.

Participants will be sent on their way by the Rev. David Lucas, rector of the parish. Run/walk leaders will accompany groups at different (sociable) paces. All of the churches will be open, and parishioners will be inside to welcome walkers and runners with refreshments.

Everyone will be welcome to tackle as much, or as little, of the round as they want, or complete it in a group in relay.

To find out more about the Five Churches Round, visit [facebook.com/FiveCRound](https://facebook.com/FiveCRound).

## BUSINESS UPDATE Flappy dogs

My name is Tim Lowe and I have lived in Sedgefield all of my life. Some of you will know me from playing in my bands 101 and Oasisjam or maybe you've seen me walking my Weimaraners.



I recently completed my full service as a Police Officer and am ready for a new challenge.

Allow me to introduce to you "Flappy Dogs Sedgefield" professional dog walking service! I will be the trusted dog walker, taking dogs out in groups of 4 or solo walks, if required. I have recently completed the British College Of Canine Studies dog walking and dog sitting certificate which includes canine first aid. I am fully insured and DBS checked. The van is ventilated with a professional cage system installed with fans for hot days. Fresh water is provided and treats where allowed!

I offer competitive rates and cover Sedgefield, Fishburn, Trimdons, Bishop Middleham and Wynyard. Contact me on 07986 388819 to arrange a friendly chat. I look forward to meeting you and your 4 legged friend!



## U3A UPDATE

u3a

Our speaker-finders always manage to engage someone to come along each month to educate, surprise and entertain us. May's speaker was no exception.

David Williams enthralled us with the Tribulations, Trials and Triumphs of the early life of George Stephenson, the pioneer of railways and steam engines.

Whilst growing up, George and his family lived in one room of a small cottage in Wylam. We were disappointed to learn that although owned and maintained by the National Trust the building is only open on very rare occasions. George's family were very poor and unable to afford schooling so he remained illiterate until he was eighteen when he paid his own way to study at night school. His first job was as a brakesman at the local pit and after several hard years he was given responsibility for maintaining all the engines and pumps at Killingworth Mine. Whilst there, he developed a safety lamp to enable miners to see more clearly and work more safely underground. During this time, Stephenson also designed his first locomotive, used to haul coal on the Killingworth wagonway. He also improved on the brittle cast-iron train tracks by using malleable rails made of wrought-iron. Stephenson and his son, Robert, were engaged by Edward Pease to survey, design and construct a passenger railway from Bishop Auckland via Darlington and on to Stockton-on-Tees. Stephenson and Pease founded a company to build the locomotive for this journey. On 25 September 1825, Stephenson drove the train, carrying coal and flour, the first 9 miles; taking two hours and reaching a speed of 24mph! Then passenger carriages were attached for the remainder of the journey to Stockton. We are delighted that David will be returning next year to continue this fascinating and evocative history.

Our Photography Group reviewed some analogous and complementary colour photographs previously taken by the members and also looked at bracketing of images and in camera motion. Do come along on June 13 at 10:30am to Ceddesfeld Hall if you would like some advice or to find out more about the group.

The Glasshouse (formerly The Sage) was the venue for this month's visit of the Science, Technology and Industry Group. A most interesting and informative look behind the scenes of what is our largest local centre for musical education, practice and performance. And finishing off with excellent coffee and cake!

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY JUNE 2025

As the weather warms up, I have taken the opportunity to visit some of our local nature reserves as well as some further afield. Highlights so far have been a Common Lizard at Hedleyhope Fell, Early Purple Orchids at Bishop Middleham Quarry (both Durham Wildlife Trust Nature reserves), and a Cuckoo and lots of Duke of Burgundy butterflies at Hawnby. These are just some of the places you might want to visit in June as part of 30 Days Wild.

Yes, it's that time of year again when The Wildlife Trusts' 30 Days Wild challenge calls on people to soak up the joy of the natural world throughout the month of June, through a weekly series of fun, themed activities. In the last ten years, 30 Days Wild has attracted more than three million participants across the country and helped people to get outside to enjoy and connect with nature as part of their everyday lives. A new poll carried out for The Wildlife Trusts has revealed that more than half of those responding said connecting to nature by listening to bird song, hearing bees buzz, and seeing and smelling wildflowers was beneficial to their health and wellbeing.

Feedback from participants in the 2024 30 Days Wild challenge also reinforced the findings of the new poll, showing that three-quarters of those taking part noted improvements in mental health and wellbeing, with activities like spending time outdoors, observing wildlife, and engaging in mindful practices being particularly beneficial.

In this year's challenge people can take part in fun, distinctive, themed activities each week:

Help nature where you live - try growing wildlife friendly plants, leaving food and water out, or building homes for wildlife.

Get physical with nature in mind - find adventure in the everyday by going for local bike rides or new woodland walks. Try out wildlife yoga or play sensory bingo.

Learn about the amazing wildlife around us - download a spotter guide and see how many creatures you can find, join a wildlife talk and learn from experts, or read a book about wildlife.

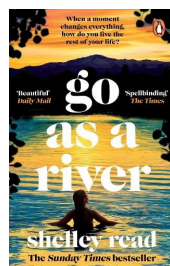
Get creative with nature - start a nature journal or create a wild picture using fallen objects.

An inspirational guide packed with ideas is available to everyone who signs up to take part, as well as a free packet of herb seeds to start your nature journey. 30 Days Wild encourages everyone to connect with nature. It could be going on a snail safari, eating your breakfast outdoors, closing your eyes to listen for bird song, outdoor yoga or forest bathing.

Sign up today to secure your goodies, including your free seeds, and embark on a journey that promises not just a month, but a lifetime, of wildness! Visit [wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild](http://wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild).



The Book Group enjoyed another lively discussion having read Shelley Read's *Go As A River*. Descriptions of the village were vivid and detailed but many of the male characters were portrayed in a rather negative way, perhaps to depict the hard life of the community. A score of 7/10 was given.



Our Lunch Group meeting was at the Ginger Dog in Coxhoe. So big were the portions that those people who had ordered puddings had to bring them home separately! But once again, a lovely social event.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 26 June at the Parish Hall from 2-4pm. If you are retired or semi-retired, you are very welcome to join us. We look forward to meeting you then.

Chris Balfour

## Upcoming events & activities u3a

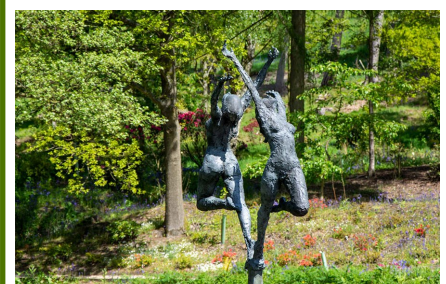
### 6 June

Speaker: Jonathan Slee, Durham County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Officer will be discussing Road Safety for Mature Drivers.



### 26 June

Historic Homes and Garden Visit to the the Himalayan Garden and Sculpture Park near Ripon.



## LETTERS

### Stepping down - Sedgefield Town Council responds

Sedgefield Town Council have provided a response to the letter from former Town Councillor Elizabeth Flanagan that was published in the May edition.

The full version can be found at [sedgefieldweb.co.uk/stc-letter.pdf](http://sedgefieldweb.co.uk/stc-letter.pdf)

Sedgefield Town Council elections take place every 4 years and these are run in accordance with legislation and administered by Durham County Council's (DCC) Electoral Services. Depending upon the number of people who put themselves forward determines whether an election is contested or uncontested. We had 14 people who put themselves forward for nomination with all being elected. We now have 1 Councillor vacancy which we will seek to fill by co-option using our open and transparent recruitment process advertised in Sedgefield Extra, on our website, our X account, via our resident database, the weekly Round-up, via the Town noticeboard and at the Parish Hall.

Across County Durham, there are a total of 256 of Councillor seats available for co-option. Democracy is strong in Sedgefield and we are bucking the county and national trends where many Town and Parish Councils struggle to attract Councillors or are operating with a significant number of Councillor vacancies. We are lucky to have a diverse mix of Councillors in terms of age, gender, skills, backgrounds and interests.

In response to Ms Flanagan's concerns regarding finances, the Town Council adheres to financial governance policies, legislation and robust internal audit scrutiny as well as reporting to an external auditor as part of its year end processes. The Town Council closely scrutinises its budget and continuously strives to make the best use of finances seeking efficiencies where possible. The Town Council has not been immune to the impacts of rising costs. The Town Council has committed to minimising price increases by entering an Energy Management SLA with DCC to help further analyse and alter the Parish Hall's energy usage.

The Town Council commences its budget setting process for the next financial year in the autumn so that recommendations for the following financial year are agreed by full Council in January. In accordance with our governance arrangements, we give our service users notice in January of the new charges coming into effect on 1 April.

In order for this much-loved community asset to remain viable and sustainable for community use, the pricing structure has been updated and additional fees have been introduced. One of these new fees levied relates to space utilised for regular user storage, and in some instances, this space is considerable. In addition, the charges now ensure those who use the Hall for commercial purposes pay higher fees and those events which sell tickets, whether community or commercial, also pay higher fees to reflect that they are generating income for their group. The Town Council has been working with the Hall's regular users over recent months to ensure that community groups can utilise the hall's booking procedure in a way that keeps their price increases to a minimum, ensuring the building continues to support and prioritise the local community above commercial, profit-making or bookings made from outside the area.

With regards to the refurbishment of the bar area, the Town Council is thankful to Sedgefield Players for its assistance in seeking grant funding, however, it is the Town Council which has provided the financial match funding for this project and not Sedgefield Players.

The majority of Sedgefield Town Councillors regularly visit and attend events in Sedgefield Parish Hall, and therefore not only enjoy that facility themselves as individual residents but also fully understand and appreciate the Hall's importance as a community asset.

It is in everyone's interests that Sedgefield thrives and we would be delighted if readers wanted to apply for the Town Council's current vacancy and look forward to hearing from you.

Sedgefield Town Council

*Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher. We strive to be impartial and independent. We reserve the right to edit copy and will not publish letters of unknown authorship.*

*Please send your contact details with correspondence.*

## MORE EVENTS!

**TIM LOWE**  
From 101 and OASISJAM



**SOLO ACOUSTIC SHOW**  
SPRINGSTEEN / OASIS / SNOW PATROL / THE JAM  
THE VERVE / STEREOPHONICS / CASH / DENVER  
EAGLES / ROBBIE / JAMES AND MANY MORE!

**HOPPER HOUSE**  
SATURDAY JUNE 7  
8PM START

**OPEN FARM**  
FAMILY FUN DAY

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June  
11am - 4pm  
HOPPER HOUSE BREW FARM  
SEDFIELD  
TS21 2HL

**£1 ENTRY**

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- Bouncy castle
- Tombola
- Pony rides from 12.30pm
- Face painting
- Giant slide
- Fully stocked bar
- Tour of working farm
- Food
- and much more!

RAISING FUNDS FOR PROJECT NAKURU  
HELPING SLUM CHILDREN IN KENYA

**SEDFIELD DISTRICT R.U.F.C.**

**FAMILY FUN DAY**  
WITH A TOUCH OF AWARDS NIGHT

**4 PM - START**

**7 PM - AWARDS**

**9 PM - LIVE SINGER**

**BBQ FOOD**

BOUNCY CASTLES | FAMILY GAMES  
TOUCH RUGBY | ROUNDBERS

**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
**FREE ENTRY**

Date : 7th June 2025  
Time : Start at 4 PM  
Location : Sedgefield Cricket Club,  
TS21 2BY

**12 JUNE** ST. EDMUND'S CHURCH  
Front Street, Sedgefield  
7:30pm

**SUMMER CONCERT**

With the award-winning  
FERRYHILL TOWN BAND

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




North of England Brass Band Champions 2025

Tickets available from:  
Brian Mutch: b.mutch@btinternet.com | Tel: 01740 620 910 | Loft to Loved



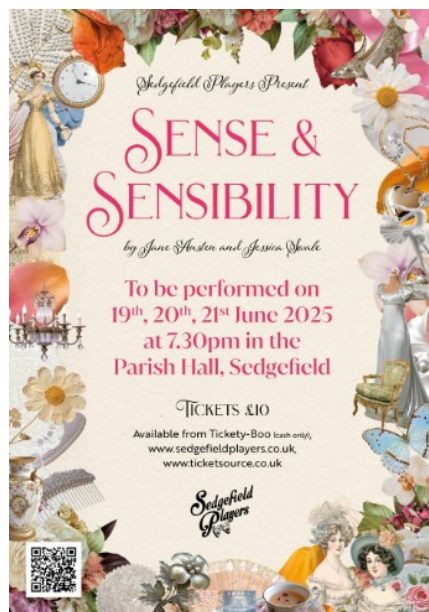
## ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

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

### Sedgefield Players Update

We are very proud of our ladies (Emily Legender, Lucy Atkinson, Kelsey White, Millie Malloy) who reached the All England Theatre Festival, Northern Final of One Act Plays 2025, winning the adjudicators award for their unique performances in Shakers by John Godber directed by Sarah Atkinson. Players never stop and have two big productions on the way....

On 19-21 June we have Sense and Sensibility, in this 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen. In Jessica Swale's delightful adaptation of Austen's dearly-loved classic, we follow the fortunes of Elinor (Amy Henery) and Marianne (Lucy Atkinson) as they chase their dreams from Devonshire to London and back. With brightly painted characters and a gripping narrative, it's emotional, it's funny, and it unfolds at pace. It is the story of two sisters and their first encounters with love and society in a world obsessed with reputation and class.



Then, on 11 & 12 July our youth section presents The Snow Queen. Kai and Gerda's childhoods are abruptly altered when a piece of cursed glass from a magic mirror leaves Kai susceptible to the Snow Queen. Gerda's epic quest to rescue her best friend will take her across the world, where she'll encounter witches and snow wolves, talking flowers and a castle made of dreams. Andrew Biliter's adaptation for the stage is written specifically for a youth group and is truly delightful; preserving the ethereal wonder and dark undertones of Hans Christian Andersen's original tale while tempering his icy world with warmth, humour, and heart.

Tickets for both plays from Tickety Boo or [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk).  
By Sedgefield Players



### More local events:

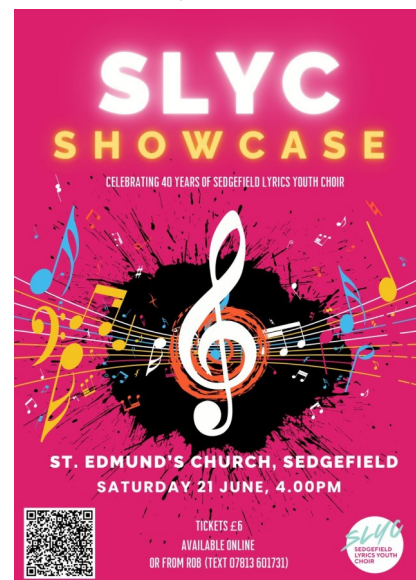
#### BAMS, Bishop Auckland Methodist Church

The third concert in Bishop Auckland Music Society's 2025 calendar of events brings award-winning Belgian triple-harpist Lise Vandersmissen to the region.

6 June, 7:30, £17.50 (U18s free)  
<https://bvemv.orpheusweb.co.uk/BAMSWeb/bams.html>



## Sedgefield Lyric Singers



On 21 June, for one night only, Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir celebrates 40 years of singing together with a special Showcase Concert. With pieces from your Youth Choir, group and solo performers, this concert will have you humming great tunes for days after.

Buy your tickets now for 4pm on Saturday 21 June at St. Edmund's Church, Sedgefield.

Tickets are £6 via our poster QR code, by texting Rob on 07813 601731 or from [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk) (search for SLYC Showcase).



Then, early in July, your three Sedgefield choirs present this year's joint summer concert called Like A Singing Bird. With beautiful, breathtaking, new pieces and some old favourites to set your heart a-singing, this concert is a must.

Tickets available from 23 June for 7:30pm on Friday 4 & Saturday 5 July, at St. Edmund's Church, Sedgefield. Tickets are £8 and £6 (U16s) from members of your choirs, by contacting [sedgefieldlyricsingers@gmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldlyricsingers@gmail.com) or from Tickety Boo.

By Sedgefield Lyric Singers

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

There's a lot of sports news to report this month, so I'd better not waste any space, and get on with it...

### Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers fielded a record number of eight athletes in this year's London Marathon, all of whom did a brilliant job of representing themselves and the club. First to finish in a new club record time of 2:31:29 was David Bentley. Justin Cox and Gary Thwaites also crossed the line in under three hours, followed in short order by Mark Raine, Jane Spink, Lisa Darby, Colin Gandy and Ray Carmichael, who fulfilled a long held ambition of running in London. Like every runner in the London Marathon, each Harrier took a distinct and personal story with them to London, along with one or two injuries that had threatened participation. Well done to all of them!

Away from London, it's been a very busy few weeks for Sedgefield Harriers. The summer road running season is now well underway. There were more 'marathoners' on duty in early May in Gateshead, with Roger Whitehill (third in his age category), John Haycock and David Porter all running really well, while Aidan Maloney, Ben Smale, David Wase, Sue Dobson (third in age category) and Trina Price (first in age category) all completed a half marathon at the same event. On the same day, Chris Lines (second in age category) and Paul Cowell took part in the Hartlepool Marina 5 Mile race on a flat but windy course.

A week later, a big group headed to Wearside for the Sunderland City Half Marathon and 10K races. On a warm morning, Mark Raine, Declan Munnally, Lisa Darby (third in age category), Ian Hedley, David Porter, Mark Chapman, Helen Hedley and Anna Haycock all completed the half marathon. Meanwhile, in the 10K, Sadie Abel continued her great recent form by finishing in a new club record time of 39:24. In the same race, there were more great performances by David Walker, Gary Forster (who set a new personal best), Claire Lee, Matt Cooke, Chris Ward, Victoria Fawcett, Andrew Swinbank, Trina Price and Graham Darby.

On top of all of this, Sedgefield Harriers also recently hosted the annual Neptune Relays event in Hardwick Park. Over 100 teams of all ages took part this year, enjoying the glorious weather and surroundings of the park, as they took on a series of four-leg relay races, with each runner completing 1.7 miles. The senior men's event was won by a team from Elvet Striders. Crook AC won the senior women's race. The home club took both junior titles. The Neptunes attracted teams from all over the region, with category winners receiving the traditional prizes of fruit. Along with participants from many of the North East's leading clubs, there were also non-club and mixed teams, and even a team of youngsters from Fishburn Community FC's U13s.

Staging the Neptune Relays is only possible thanks to a huge team effort by volunteers from within Sedgefield Harriers, and the support of the team at Hardwick Park. The club is grateful to everyone who helped, and to all of those who supported the event by taking part.

### Rugby Union

Sedgefield District RUFC finished the season on a high, with the team securing their status in Durham and Northumberland League Division 2. To celebrate, and with an eye on the future, the club will host a family fun day on the pitch next to the cricket club, from 4pm on Saturday 7 June. See poster on page 5. Everyone will be welcome.

In addition, Sedgefield District RUFC puts on touch rugby sessions on Monday evenings at the same venue, from 7pm to 8pm. Whether you're a seasoned player or completely new to the game, go along and get involved. To find out more about the club, you can find it on Facebook and at [pitchero.com/clubs/sedgefielddistrictrufc](http://pitchero.com/clubs/sedgefielddistrictrufc).

### Cricket

The driest spring in living memory has allowed the 2025 local cricket season to get underway without a single abandoned match anywhere in the region to date. The picky types may point to the often cold conditions, but that doesn't seem to have bothered Sedgefield Cricket Club's junior teams who have all made excellent starts to their seasons. The senior teams have also made solid starts to their league campaigns, with the 1st XI picking up the notable scalps of Darlington and Thornaby in consecutive games.

With home matches being played almost every day and the bar open, residents are encouraged to pop along to join or renew memberships. With member discounts making prices notably cheaper, the club remains a great place to enjoy your social time, whether that's to watch the cricket, televised sport or join the growing contingent of darts players who base themselves there.



### Squash

The pinnacle of Sedgefield Squash Club's season is the Club Championships, the finals for which took place on 9 May. This year, the club tried a new format where players were graded, the outcome being more prizes for a wider range of people.

Results on the night were:

U11 winner - Oscar Allen, runner up Flynn Probart  
 Junior Champion- Huey Lamb, runner up Magnus McKay  
 Junior Plate winner - Josh Bunting, runner up Samuel Lines  
 C Grade winner - Richard Flanagan, runner up Craig Weatherspoon  
 C Plate winner - Colin Pearce, runner up Jimbo Evans  
 B Grade winner - Phil Best, runner up Tom Hartburn  
 B Grade Plate winner - Chris Rowsby, runner up Neil Kime  
 A Grade winner - Ben Storey, runner up Gary Ankers  
 A Grade Plate winner - Peter Redshaw, runner up Ian Williams  
 Club Champion - Rob Pearce, runner up Oliver Walls  
 Club Championship Plate winner - Colin Langley, runner up George Peden  
 Ladies Champion - Karen Naunton, runner up Emma Allen.

Two nights later, representatives from the club went to Norton Squash Club for the county's annual presentation event. All of the season's winners picked up their trophies, including the first team who were runners up in the Boss League Cup.



In addition, awards announced on the night included Huey Lamb who won County Junior of the Year, Oliver Walls who was named County Player of the Year, and Julia Rowsby, who is on the County Committee and picked up the unsung hero award for all the work she does on top of being treasurer. In all, it has been a hugely successful season for Sedgefield Squash Club.

Although the club's leagues are at an end for the season, members can continue to play competitive squash by participating in the Summer Ladder. Anyone wishing to join the club should send an email to [info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk).

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



## Ferryhill Town Band

Ferryhill Town Band recently won the North of England Brass Band Championships (Second Section) and will represent the North of England (a region stretching from Cleethorpes to the south, up to the Scottish Borders) at the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain. The band has also won promotion to the First Section from next year.



This is the second year in succession that the band have qualified for the national finals and is a great achievement, particularly as we have a young band including several students at school or in full time education. Indeed, at the contest in March we also won the prize for fielding the youngest player in the competition, Ellen Mortimer!

The band is entirely self-financing – we no longer receive financial support from Ferryhill Town Council or any other organisation – and all of the costs associated with running the band (hire of rehearsal space, insurance, etc.) need to be funded through concert fees and other fundraising.

We are playing a number of concerts over the summer – including a concert at St Edmund's Church in Sedgefield (see poster on Page 5) – and this will assist with our fundraising efforts. We have played in Sedgefield on many occasions over the last decade and really enjoy playing to the appreciative audience at St Edmunds. Everyone is welcome.

As part of our fundraising efforts we have also organised a recycling collection. Details of the items that will be accepted are included on the poster. The recycling can be dropped off at 4 Durham Road in Sedgefield – or can be collected. Call 07753 470350 to arrange a collection. Every penny raised will help to support the band and brass music in the area.

## CEDDESFIELD HALL

### Dates for your Diary!

#### SCA AGM - Thursday 19 June

Come along and get involved with Sedgefield Community Association. The organisation is at the heart of community life here in Sedgefield and being involved as a volunteer can be very beneficial in so many ways, with proven health benefits by keeping active and engaged – it can be great fun and very interesting. The SCA Annual AGM will be held at Ceddesfeld Hall on Thursday 19 June at 8pm – SCA members and non-members are most welcome.

#### Ceddesfeld Beer Festival - Friday 11 & Saturday 12 July

Look out for information nearer the time, on the website, social media, and posters around town. Any willing volunteers to set up, take down, serve, collect glasses etc, please contact Tony via email: [info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk).

There will be a full write up about the Mediaeval Fayre in next month's article, but SCA would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Sedgefield's wonderful local shops, companies and businesses who have very generously sponsored the many attractions and donated tombola prizes for this year's event. Their support is important and much appreciated. Their help means that the event can grow, with new attractions and activities, for everyone to enjoy. Thank you also to the organisations, groups, members and residents who volunteered their time to help throughout the day, from set up, to take down. The Fayre most definitely brings folk together!

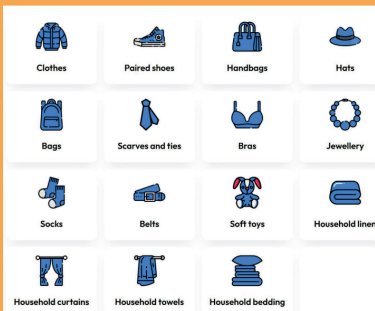
For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, contact Wendy on 01740 620206, Pat on 01740 620607, John on 01740 620042, Sarah on 01740 622185 or visit our website at [www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk). Follow us on Facebook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

### We need your help!

Ferryhill Town Band has qualified for the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain, which will take place in Cheltenham in September. We need to raise funds to help with the cost of the trip and have organised a recycling collection, the proceeds of which will directly help the band.

If you have unwanted clothing or household items (see guide below) please donate it to us, placing the items in a bin bag.

Thank you for your support!



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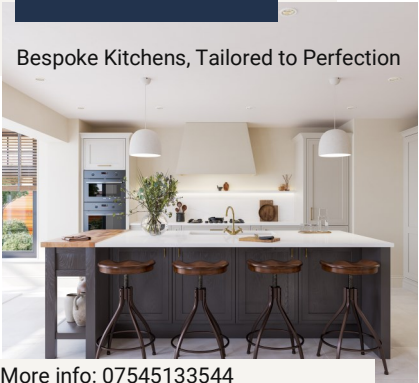
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## DIARY & EVENTS

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

June 2025

- Sunday 1** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30-12:15pm.
- Friday 6** **Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. A talk by Jonathan Slee from Durham County Council on Road Safety for Mature Drivers. Visitors welcome, suggested donation of £3.
- Saturday 7** **Friendly Fixers**, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Repair café.
- Sedgefield and District Rugby Union Family Fun Day**, Sedgefield Cricket Club from 4pm. See page 5 for details.
- Tim Lowe from 101 and Oasisjam**, Hopper House, 8pm. Solo acoustics show, see poster on page 5 for details.
- Sunday 8** **Open Farm Family Fun Day**, Hopper House Brew Farm, 11am -4pm. See poster on page 5 for details. £1 entry.
- Thursday 12** **Summer Concert with Ferryhill Town Band**, St. Edmund's Church, 7:30pm. Tickets £10 or family ticket for £25. Includes a glass of wine/juice and nibbles.
- Friday 13** **Sedgefield in Bloom Summer Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am. Lucky door prize, cakes, tombola, raffle and more. Come along and meet your friends.
- Summer Quiz and Standing Bingo**, Bradbury Village Hall, 6:30pm. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. £3 per person on the door.
- Evening Bat Walk**, Hardwick Park, 8pm-10pm. £8.50 per person, family ticket £18.
- Saturday 14** **St. Edmund's Church Quiz Night**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7pm. Pie and peas supper. Tickets £12, available at Loft to Loved.
- Tuesday 17** **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, 7:15pm. Demonstration by Anne Simpson, "Willow, Wood and Wine". Members free, guests £5 donation.
- Saturday 21** **SLYC Showcase**, St. Edmund's Church, 4pm. Celebrating 40 years of Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir. Tickets £6.
- Sunday 22** **A tour of the Five Churches Round**. See page 3 for details.
- Friday 27** **Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.

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

### 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) for more information.

### 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 in 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  
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### parkrun & junior parkrun

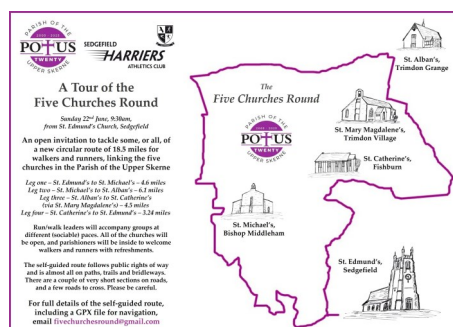
Every Saturday at 9am there is a free, 5k timed run at Hardwick Park. All welcome as volunteers, walkers or runners.

Every Sunday at 9am, there is a free 2k run for 4-14 year olds at Hardwick Park. We welcome volunteers including those doing their Duke of Edinburgh awards.

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

### One Step Forward

A bereavement support group runs every Thursday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm at St. Edmund's Church. Everyone is welcome - of all faiths or none. For details contact Sue on 07779 093386.



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