

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

March 2025

Submission deadline for the next edition: Friday 14 March

## Something old....



**The remaining original gate of Hardwick Hall is to be re-erected at its original location.**

The Friends of Hardwick charity gained planning permission to install the gate on Durham Road adjacent to the bus shelter between West Park Lane and Hardwick Road where part of the original park wall still stands. The gate would mark the historic eastern access point of the park from Sedgefield village.

The project, led by the Friends of Hardwick charity, is a restoration effort designed to reinforce the historic link between Sedgefield and Hardwick Park. It builds on the charity's previous activities for the restoration of Hardwick Park 20 years ago, and the installation of the replica of the lost statue of Neptune in the Serpentine Lake.

The original main gates to Hardwick Hall were removed during the construction of the Hardwick Road estate. One of these gates was lost after being used as the pattern for the modern gates on the A177 park entrance, while the remaining one has been in storage.



Standing 2.25 metres high and 1.565 metres wide, the gate will be mounted on a steel display structure with a plaque providing historical context and will be accessible from the footpath.

Friends of Hardwick say the initiative will "return a piece of Sedgefield history to visibility" and "provide an additional historic feature in Sedgefield".

The charity is currently undertaking the final fundraising for the project. The Friends of Hardwick would like to acknowledge the help and support of the Durham Council Area Action Partnership and our local councillors Chris Lines and David Brown. The charity can be reached via the Secretary, Chris Hearmon at [foh-charity@outlook.com](mailto:foh-charity@outlook.com).

## Something new....



**A new play attraction standing almost 15 metres tall is to be installed in Hardwick Park.**

Durham County Council has been making improvements to Hardwick Park's play area as part of a scheme to redevelop its play facilities. The work includes installing a brand-new play area which features a zip line; basket swing; hammocks; accessible roundabout and outdoor musical instruments.

In addition to this new equipment, a giant play tower will also be installed as part of the improvements. Only the second of its kind in Europe, the tower is coming all the way from Germany and will be similar to its twin found in Bietigheim-Bissingen, near Stuttgart.

Standing at 14.5 metres, the tower has been designed to complement the park's gothic gatehouse and tower, designed by architect James Paine in the 18th Century.



It will boast rope chimneys; a net bridge; slides and a range of sensory play elements. Children will also be able to enjoy enviable views over the park from the viewing platform.

The play area near the Gothic Tower at Hardwick Park is currently closed while work to install the tower and

new elements is carried out. The full new play area is expected to open in the spring.

Hardwick Park's other play facilities near the Tower Café remain open as normal. For more information about the park, visit [www.durham.gov.uk/hardwickpark](http://www.durham.gov.uk/hardwickpark).

Published by Sedgefield Development Trust: Company No 4312745 Charity No 1100906 [www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk)

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## SCHOOL NEWS

### Skill Builder

For this month's article about life at SCC, we'd like to share some information about 'Skills Builder' – an approach that we've introduced to our school this year that supports our students to develop 8 vital skills that will help them to achieve success here and for the rest of their lives.



The 'Skills Builder Universal Framework' is a tool that is widely used around the world by many schools and businesses. It breaks down the development of skills into a series of stages. Through this approach, it supports children and adults to build their confidence and ability to demonstrate each skill.

At SCC, we have focused on a number of priority skills since September and these are: 'Staying Positive', 'Speaking' and 'Listening'. Within school, we look for as many opportunities as possible to promote these skills in assemblies and across all subject lessons. We also aim to create as many opportunities as possible for our children to put these skills into practice through educational visits or inviting guests into school. For example, the Kingswood residential visit for the vast majority of our Year 7 students to take part in outdoor activities was a chance to develop the ability to 'Stay Positive'!

Lots of our students have made brilliant progress in developing our priority skills so far this year and we're looking forward to developing our school rewards systems in the coming months to recognise their excellent work!



### Parking around our school

At Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Academy, we believe that the parking around our school could be improved. To do this, the Year 4 pupils are working with Sophie McMullen, a Police Community Support Officer, to implement this as part of their Community Impact Offer. The pupils conducted a walk around the grounds outside of our school to check for examples of inconsiderate parking on the morning of Friday 14 February 2025 at 8:30am. "We saw some examples where parking could be improved. We hope that our work will make people think about their parking choices," explained a pupil from Year 4.



After assessing the parking and taking photographs of any areas to improve, the children will be making an informative video to show parents how parking could be better. This video will be posted on the school's social media pages to appeal to as wide an audience as possible.

In March, the pupils will repeat the process, with an observation of parking around the school, to assess the impact of their efforts. They will also be putting up posters on the school gates to promote better parking choices. It is hoped that parking around our school will improve and that road users will continue to be more thoughtful about parking near our school so that everyone can stay safe.

### Nursery celebration at Sedgefield Primary!



The children had a fabulous time celebrating Chinese New Year. We talked about how Chinese New Year is celebrated and compared this to how we prepare for our own celebrations and traditions in our homes. To develop our listening and language skills we have read and acted out the story, 'The Great Race'.

The children were animated, enjoying listening to and dancing to Chinese music. They were amazed by watching lion and dragon dancing. As it is the year of the snake we researched fascinating facts about snakes. To further develop their fine motor skills, we coloured and cut out snakes, creating our own snake designs in the malleable area. To develop number skills, the children placed the correct number of coins in red envelopes. Finally, to end our special celebration week we had a Chinese feast which was delicious!



### Sharing success in school



We are always delighted to share the success of our pupils both within and outside of school. Recently pupils shared their outside achievements by bringing an enormous shield to display inside the classroom.



A ceremony recently took place for Sedgefield First Cub Pack to receive the prestigious Pete Swinney shield. The Sedgefield cub team achieved this award last summer and were delighted to attend a recent ceremony with over a hundred participants. Collaboration and skill were used for the cub pack to achieve this award. Pupils at Sedgefield Primary were keen to share the success of this shield. Jay told his classmates, "It was one of the best achievements our cub pack has ever received and I'm very proud to be part of this."



## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*



**Sunday 3 March**  
**on the Village Green**  
**8:30am - 12:15pm**

All our regular stall holders will be at our Market and we welcome Mawbray Cheese who joined the Market last month. A full list of traders attending the Market will be posted on our Facebook page so make sure to check it out.

We are looking for local musicians to entertain everyone at the Market so if you or your group would like to help out, please email us at: [farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk)

### Sew Easy

Sew Easy runs on Monday evenings on alternate weeks starting 10 March and there are spaces available.

If you are interested, please contact Dorothy on 07773 286743.

### Repair Week

Friendly Fixers will be taking part in County Durham's first ever 'Repair Week' - a celebration of repair throughout the UK. Residents are invited to gain repair skills, fall back in love with their stuff and help save some money and the planet. Repair Week 2025 will take place from 3 to 9 March and County Durham will be involved alongside London, Manchester, Liverpool, Belfast and Cardiff. Local location details can be found at [www.durham.gov.uk/weee](http://www.durham.gov.uk/weee).

Our regular Friendly Fixers session will take place from 10:30am to 12:30pm on Saturday 1 March at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre with garments, furniture, small electrical, mechanical and ceramic repairs on offer.



Formerly part of 'Durham County Lunatic Asylum', Skerne Wood lies at the north end of Sedgefield NETPark and is managed as a Community Woodland by local volunteers. At first glance, it looks unremarkable; a linear strip of marginal grassland, hedgerows and wooded fragments heavily used by dogwalkers and bounded by farmland, industrial development and housing, the type of 'scrub' habitat commonly found across the County. A four year survey at Skerne Wood shows that it is home to 140 pairs of birds, including many red-listed species. Beginning with a social history of the site, this talk will demonstrate how such sites are essential and should be valued.

A few volunteers from the Woodland & Wildlife Project headed to the Durham Group of RSPB to listen to Fred's interesting talk about our project site, Skerne Wood. Fred is a regular volunteer with the project and carries out a dawn bird survey annually, visiting the site every 10 days between March and June come rain or shine! The work Fred carries out gives us a valuable picture of the bird species using Skerne Wood and how it compares to UK trends. Fred has kindly offered to deliver his entertaining talk in Sedgefield, so look out for further details in Sedgefield News and on social media, all will be welcome! If you would like to know more about the project please contact Melissa at [woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk) or join our Facebook page - [Woodland & Wildlife - Sedgefield](https://www.facebook.com/Woodland-Wildlife-Sedgefield).

'A tiny piece in the jigsaw: What Skerne Wood's birds tell us about marginal sites' – A talk by Dr Fred Milton.



## Sedgefield Citizen of the Year & Young Citizen of the Year 2024

**Do you know of someone who has made an exceptional contribution to Sedgefield? Why not nominate them for Citizen of the Year 2024 or, for those under the age of 21 (on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024), Young Citizen of the Year 2024.**

They may have:

- Run a community group or project
- Excelled at representing our community
- Taken care of our environment and wildlife
- Done an amazing good deed
- Been a positive role model for people in Sedgefield

The awards (and prizes!) will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in Sedgefield Parish Hall on

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Submit your nomination online by scanning the QR code to the right. Please contact [town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk) or call 01740 621 273 if you require a paper nomination form.

Nomination deadline: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Get nominating now!**



## U3A UPDATE

u3a

Another great monthly meeting, when over 50 of our members gathered in the Parish Hall on the first Friday of the month to listen to an absorbing and motivating talk on the Durham Wildlife Trust. With David Bellamy as one of the early rangers, and now supported by Sir David Attenborough, the Wildlife Trust play a very important part in protecting our natural heritage. For 50 years Durham Wildlife Trust has been the leading conservation organisation dedicated to our local area, working to protect, enhance and promote wildlife and nature conservation in South Tyneside, Sunderland, Darlington, Gateshead and County Durham. Owing and managing 50 nature reserves throughout the North East, they focus on work to restore Durham's threatened habitats and species, and reconnect people with the natural world around them. While out and about in the coming months why not make it a reason to do your bit, perhaps calling into the West Rainton or Low Barns Reserves for 'a tea and a weel' or offering your services as a volunteer at any of their other reserves. Lots more details at [durhamwt.com/what-we-do](http://durhamwt.com/what-we-do).



Group meetings have been very quiet this month. With our demographic of retired people, however otherwise energetic and pro-active, we take care in the colder and less hospitable weather to stay closer to home; there have been no outside visits or trips away from Sedgfield during January and February other than by the intrepid members of the Lunch Group. In January, they re-visited the Bay Horse in Middridge and enjoyed another lovely meal and in February will be eating at the Green Tree in Tudhoe Village. However, work does continue with other groups. The Homes and Gardens Group have arranged their programme of visits until mid-summer, with many of them planning personal visits to Hardwick Park, Greatham or Kiplin Hall to see the wonderful snowdrop displays. The Book Group have been investing in the volumes suggested for the next few months and our Scribes Group

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY MARCH 2025

Have you ever wondered where all the spiders go during the colder months? You might think they're all inside your house – but the truth is, they have other strategies up their eight sleeves.

Rather than darting around in your house, most spiders that actually survive the winter choose to shelter outdoors instead. They look for a quiet spot in an outbuilding – or a natural shelter such as under logs or stones, in leaf litter or hollow plant stems – where they're not going to be disturbed by you. This is one reason why it's really important that we don't tidy up too much in the garden, because this can deprive those spiders of cosy spots to see out the cold weather.

Most spiders mate in the late summer or early autumn. After the females lay their eggs, they often die and leave the eggs somewhere sheltered, and wrapped in spider silk. Some species will stay with their egg sac to help keep the eggs warm, as long as they can and increase the likelihood of the eggs surviving to hatch in the spring. Some species get through the cold season in a pretty amazing way: as the temperature drops, they develop enzymes in their blood that act like antifreeze, and then enter a state called diapause where their metabolism slows right down, and they use barely any energy. There are some spiders that simply avoid outdoors altogether. Giant house spiders – the big dark ones you see in the bathtub – simply live in our houses all year-round. They're apparently getting more active in winter in recent years – maybe due to climate change, or perhaps just because we're keeping our houses warmer.



Photo by M. Samworth

One species of spider which is being seen more often in people's houses is the Cellar Spider or Daddy-Longlegs Spider as it is often called. It is an invasive species originally from the sub-tropics; it arrived in numbers in the UK in the 1930s, inhabiting buildings in the extreme south of England. Being from warmer climes it does not survive our colder environment and as a result inhabits houses and outbuildings that are protected from low temperatures. Of late they have spread throughout England and Wales and even apparently, into parts of Scotland, fuelled, no doubt, by the advent of central heating. When disturbed the spider, which hangs below an untidy silken mass, vibrates the structure (and itself) rapidly in an effort to confuse an attacker. Any further threat and the spider lets go of its home, drops away and scurries rapidly over whatever surface it lands on. They will tackle a range of prey including wasps and bees and anything that gets too close. During daylight hours they seem to prefer to be tucked away in a crack, crevice or corner and remain there until a prey item blunders into the web or it becomes dark, at which latter event they venture forth and, suspended beneath their hammocks, await the arrival of supper. So, keep your eye out when you are dusting and please don't disturb!

have embarked on their next project. The Photography Group will be planning their visits to outside venues. If you are interested in learning more about composing, shooting, editing or presenting your latest images, please do come along and join them at one of their meetings in Ceddesfeld Hall. Whether you have one of the latest hi-spec cameras or a more pocket-friendly model our members would love to share their advice, knowledge and friendship. Do come along and have a chat. And that goes for all our groups! See the groups page on our website [sedgfield.u3asite.uk](http://sedgfield.u3asite.uk). Our next meeting will be on Friday 7 March in the Parish Hall from 2pm when Lynn Lamport will be returning to tell us all about 'A Weaver Sent to War.' Sounds intriguing! If you are retired or semi-retired, you are very welcome to join us. We look forward to meeting you then.

Chris Balfour

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Sedgfield Social Club  
Fri March 28th at 830pm

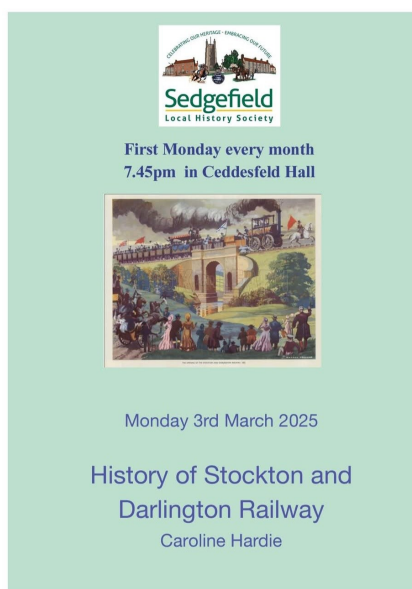




## parkrun celebrations

March is an important month for Sedgefield parkrun, a free community event where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate. Our local event in Hardwick Park takes place at 9am every Saturday. We will be celebrating our 600th event on Saturday 1 March and our 13th birthday on Saturday 15 March. A celebratory singsong is planned prior to the event on these two dates.

Since Sedgefield parkrun was set up by local runner Jane Spink with a team of volunteers, over 1,000 people have volunteered and over 15,000 people have taken part, improving their physical and mental health along the way.



## Butterwick Road Cemetery

### A Message From Sedgefield Town Council



Over recent years, we have been working on our Butterwick Road Cemetery expansion project, extending the cemetery to ensure we have a burial facility in Sedgefield for many years ahead. The expansion work relates to the area of land at the top of the existing cemetery and a new funeral vehicle access road between the cemetery and Butterwick Road allotments. We are delighted to let you know that our appointed contractor intends to start the construction work on 17 March 2025, lasting approximately 18 weeks. Burials will continue and access through the usual cemetery entrance will not be impacted. For more information, please visit our website [www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk).

## Fishburn Art Group celebrates 25 years

Fishburn Art Group celebrated their 25th anniversary on 14 February. The group originated from an art class organised as part of a funded regeneration scheme with Linda Birch as its tutor. A group of its attendees, enjoying the camaraderie of the class, decided to continue once the scheme finished and the Fishburn Art Group was formed.



The group provides a place for artists of all abilities to come along and enjoy their morning with other creative people. Although we don't offer weekly tuition, there is always someone there to offer advice and encouragement. The members of the group work in different mediums and subjects so there is experience on offer whenever needed. We occasionally enjoy a group visit to a gallery if there is an interesting exhibition in the area.

We are proud to exhibit some of our work on one of the walls in Fishburn Community Centre. We change the theme of the gallery regularly, please check it out! We would encourage anyone who may be interested in joining our group to come along to Fishburn Community Centre on a Monday morning between 9:30am and 12 noon. Pay us a visit, have a chat to our members, including some who have been part of the group for the last 25 years. We also have a Facebook page '[Fishburn Art Group](#)'. Alternatively you can contact our Secretary on [O.fennessy@outlook.com](mailto:O.fennessy@outlook.com).

## Thank you

Sedgefield Bowls Club have received their new box designed and built for them by Ian Gray. The cost of the box was met by the former mayor Dave Jasper and his consort Annette Lawson. The box reduces the necessary lifting by 80% which is a huge help to the bowlers as most are in their 70s or 80s. We love it and our lives are now much easier. Thanks to Dave, Annette and Ian we can now go on playing for many more years.



## St Vincent de Paul Society

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is part of an international Christian voluntary network that aims to alleviate the struggles of poverty and tackle it right from the very cause. Across England and Wales, there are over 8,000 members who offer person-to-person friendship within their communities to help those who are struggling. Members try to seek out and help those suffering from any kind of poverty. Visiting and befriending is at the heart of what the SVP do, but practical help is also provided where possible. Working with Sedgefield Area Churches Together, the SVP would like to set up an ecumenical SVP group to serve those in need in the Sedgefield area. Deacon Patrick Rutherford will give a presentation on the SVP at Sedgefield Methodist Church on Saturday 5 April at 11:30am (after the regular coffee morning, which starts at 10 am).



It will last approximately 45 minutes and there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion. All are warmly invited to attend if interested in learning more and might be willing to be part of such a group. You can also contact Patrick about this at [patrickr@svp.org.uk](mailto:patrickr@svp.org.uk).



Find out about the SVP  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 11.30 am  
Sedgefield Methodist  
Church (after the coffee morning)  
with Rev. Patrick Rutherford  
All welcome

*Sedgefield Area Churches Together*

## ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

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

### Sedgefield Players Update

Another fantastic panto run has ended. A sell out audience enjoyed Dick Whittington defeating the evil rat queen. Loads of booing, cheering, singing and dancing. The Sedgefield Players want to thank all those chaperones who helped with the panto this year – it couldn't have happened without them. Thanks also to Adam White and CDB Productions who continue to support the group with all the tech and special effects.



2025 is going to be another full packed year of great plays. March sees the group putting on Ladies Unleashed, set on Holy Island, in which friends Pearl, Jan, Shelly and Linda reunite.

This play is the third in a series that started with Ladies Day and Ladies Down Under, both of which the Players have produced. Playing the four friends are Jacqui O'Meara, Liz Flanagan, Sarah Legender and Gill Hook, supported by Kelsy White, Millie Mallow, Helen Crawford and Ace Warrand.

June sees the group tackling the wonderful Sense and Sensibility. With a large cast and wonderful costumes, this is going to be a wonderful piece of theatre.

Our SPYS then perform The Snow Queen in July. This again will be a wonderful play involving all our young players.

Tickets for all these forthcoming productions will be available from Tickety Boo as well as from [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk).

Sedgefield Players

### All Change: Spectacular S&DR200 Launch Show

Prepare for an unforgettable evening as the S&DR200 festival kicks off with a spectacular open-air performance and drone show in Bishop Auckland on Saturday 29 March. Taking place at the home of Kynren, this show blends history, art, and technology to celebrate 200 years of our region's railway heritage and the transformative impact of rail.



Created by award-winning performance company 'Imitating the dog', All Change races through two centuries of history, from the Industrial Revolution and two World Wars to the present day. The show will feature up to 100 local performers, dazzling projection mapping, large-scale set pieces, original music, and an awe-inspiring fleet of 400 drones by SKYMAGIC. The team behind light displays for iconic events like the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Coachella will deliver a breathtaking aerial experience against the night sky. Festival Director Niccy Halifax says: "With All Change, we aim to recapture the wonder of the first journey on the Stockton and Darlington Railway, offering an exciting glimpse into the region's heritage."

Doors open at 4:30pm, pre-show from 6:30pm and the main performance at 7:00pm. Tickets are just £5 per person. Park and ride available for £5 per car. Book now at [sdr200.co.uk/all-change-opening-event](http://sdr200.co.uk/all-change-opening-event) to secure your place at this one-night-only event.

### David Gray in Stockton!

Catch David Gray live in Stockton on Friday 21 March, as part of his *Past & Present* World Tour.

Known globally for his iconic *White Ladder* album, which made him one of the best-selling British records of recent decades, Gray remains a powerful influence on today's artists and a hugely popular, distinctive voice.

Audiences can expect a blend of classic hits and fresh tracks, showcasing Gray's lyrical depth and melodic flair. Book a night of unforgettable music at [stocktonglobe.co.uk/shows/david-gray](http://stocktonglobe.co.uk/shows/david-gray).

### More local events

#### Room On The Broom, Billingham Forum

A broomstick, a hungry dragon, and a cast of charming characters bring Julia Donaldson's beloved book to life in this Olivier-nominated adaptation. 26 & 27 March, various times £12 [forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk/show/room-on-the-broom](http://forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk/show/room-on-the-broom)



#### Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!

Holmes returns for one final mystery - expect twists, secrets, and a tour de force solo performance in Nigel Miles-Thomas' gripping show! Wednesday 5 March 7.30pm £15 [bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk/bishoppost/sherlock-holmes-the-last-act/](http://bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk/bishoppost/sherlock-holmes-the-last-act/)

#### Kathryn Tickell & Amy Thatcher, The Witham, Barnard Castle

Experience the enchanting sounds of Northumbria as Kathryn Tickell's soulful pipes and Amy Thatcher's vibrant accordion create a spellbinding evening of music, storytelling, and traditional dance. Thursday 6 March 7:30pm £18-20 [thewitham.org.uk/event/kathryn-tickell-amy-thatcher/](http://thewitham.org.uk/event/kathryn-tickell-amy-thatcher/)

#### BAMS, Bishop Auckland Methodist Church

Bishop Auckland Music Society concert series returns with world-class chamber music from award-winning Trio Havisham. Friday 4 April 2025 7.30pm, £17.50 [bvemv.orpheusweb.co.uk/BAMSWeb/bams.html](http://bvemv.orpheusweb.co.uk/BAMSWeb/bams.html)





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

We're only a couple of months into the year, but already the sports stars of Sedgefield have been securing plenty of silverware. This month's update includes news of great success in boccia, bare knuckle fighting and squash, with the potential of cup success in football on the cards too. Meanwhile, the cricket club is raising funds for equipment that it can use to broadcast games live online in the summer. Given the haul of trophies achieved by Sedgefield in recent years, viewers can anticipate some exciting and rewarding action, which is a decent incentive to help the club achieve its target.

### Squash

The County Masters tournament was hosted by Redcar Squash Club in January. This is a competition based on various age groups, the youngest being over 35 with no upper age limit. Sedgefield Squash Club was well represented across several age groups, resulting in appearances in a few of the finals. Sedgefield's successes were:

Colin Langley won the over 40s, with Francis Jones runner up

Patrick Billany won the over 50s

Ian Williams was runner up in the over 60s

Gordon Peden was plate winner in the over 60s.

That's an impressive haul of titles at county level for the club!

Back on the home courts, the Individual Handicap final was contested between Stephen Rowsby and Oliver Walls, watched by a lively crowd of spectators, who were treated to a five-game thriller. The winner on the night was Oliver Walls - many congratulations to him.

Three club members were picked for the Durham & Cleveland County squad to play in Carlisle against Northumbria, Cumbria and Lancashire. Congratulations go to Rob Pearce and Oliver Walls, and to Matthew Bond who was making his debut for the county.

The last few weeks have seen record numbers of members playing in the internal leagues and squash friendlies. This is a very encouraging statistic and is in part down to the new booking and payment system that the club invested in last year, called Manage My Match.

The county has a junior coaching programme in place and Sedgefield was proud to be asked to host this on a Sunday morning in February, when junior players of all ages come together from various clubs to improve their technical and match playing skills.

If you would like to enquire about joining, please email [info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk).

### Boccia

I have covered the exploits of Sedgefield boccia star Lee Maddison in the past. Lee continues to perform brilliantly at an elite level and recently, with his ramp assistant Chris, came first in the Boccia England National Championship qualifying round, which means that he has qualified for the national finals. Lee has also set up a boccia club (Tees Valley Tigers) and the North East Boccia Hub, which invites players old and new from the region to train with high level guest coaches at quality training venues. The club is seeking a kit sponsor (needing around £1,500 each year to equip all of the players), and Lee is also looking for sponsorship so he can continue to represent England and push on in his quest to represent Great Britain in the Paralympic Games. Any business or individual that is interested in supporting Lee can send me an email and I will put you in touch with Lee.



Lee Maddison after winning the England National Championship Qualifying Round

### Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship

Karl Thompson, originally from Sedgefield, is now UK cruiserweight champion in bare knuckle fighting. Karl needed just 106 seconds to take the vacant crown at the Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship (BKFC) United Kingdom event in Newcastle in February. After hitting the canvas himself, Karl, known as 'The Wasp', picked himself up and dropped his opponent Rob Boardman. Karl is undefeated in four BKFC fights.

### Cricket

With the 2025 cricket season due to get underway over the Easter weekend, the volunteers at Sedgefield Cricket Club are aiming to introduce live streaming of all home matches, with the purchase of the wonderfully named Frogbox equipment. To buy this, the club needs to raise funds, and so on Saturday 22 March, four players will embark on an ultra-marathon run from Bedale CC to Sedgefield CC, a distance of about 35 miles (they had originally planned the run for February, as reported last month).

Bedale is the most distant opponent that the 1st XI will face during the season ahead and so Ben Swindale, Luke Henderson, Phil Reynard and David Budd have been training hard for this endurance test. All sponsorship and donations, however small will be hugely appreciated—you can find out more at [gofund.me/c327ffe0](https://gofund.me/c327ffe0).

**SEDGEFIELD CRICKET CLUB**  
**ULTRA MARATHON SPONSORED RUN**

56K FROM BEDALE CRICKET CLUB TO SEDGEFIELD CRICKET CLUB  
SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2025

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

On Saturday 22nd March 2025 1st Team Captain Ben Swindale, Luke Henderson, Phil Reynard and David Budd will be running an Ultra Marathon of 56k (35 miles to be precise). Starting from Bedale Cricket Club to Sedgefield Cricket Club (the 1st team's furthest away game in 2025).

They would love you to support them and help raise the much needed funds for the purchase of the equipment which will enable the Cricket Club to live stream games.

Interested in joining them?  
If you would like to join them along the route, we will be posting more details in the weeks leading up to the ultra marathon.

A Go Fund Me page has been established for donations. Alternatively, there will be a sponsorship form behind the bar and a collection jar.

Visit our Go Fund Me page below or scan the QR code from your Smart Phone.  
<https://gofund.me/c327ffe0>

**SCC FUNDRAISING MARATHON TARGET**  
**£3,000**

£3K  
£2.5K  
£2K  
£1.5K  
£1K  
£500  
£0

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### Football

The season is now well advanced for St Edmund's FC and (at the time of writing), the club is still in two cup competitions. St Edmund's face Witton Park in the County Cup (on 23 February), a team they have already played three times this season in other competitions, and also have a semi-final in the League Cup to look forward to. Due to cup runs and bad weather, St Edmund's have only played nine league games all season (compared to 11 cup games!). With 13 league fixtures left to fulfil, and hopefully more progress in the cups, the club faces a hectic end to the season, which is supposed to finish in the first week in May.

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

## CEDESFELD HALL



SCA was delighted to host a special evening with the John Wrightson Band and Friends. Thank you to Joan Edmundson, John and the band, Dave Walker, John Weighall, Eric Duggan, Sammy and John, Trevor Bond, Maggie and Jeff, and Whisky and Wine. Thanks also to Richard Flannagan on the sound. It was a fantastic evening with all proceeds from ticket sales and a raffle (£630) going to James Cook Oncology department.

### Springtime community events – Save the date!

#### Easter Monday – 21 April - Easter Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt - 2pm to 4pm

Always great fun, the egg hunt (with chocolate and sweet prizes) is for children under 12 years old on the lawns. There will be decorated eggs and Easter bonnet competitions, with prizes for all ages. Families are welcome to bring their own picnic and the bar will open from 1:30pm to 4pm.

#### SCA Spring Quiz Night – Saturday 26 April – 7pm for 7:30pm

£10 per person to include pie and peas, with quiz master Peter Hinde – tickets from behind the bar, or from Pat, Sarah, or Peter. Teams of 6 or less, £10 per person. The SCA quiz is always very popular, so don't be disappointed!

#### Mediaeval Fayre - Saturday 17 May - 10am to 4pm - Village Green and Ceddesfeld Hall and Lawns

The Fayre begins with the children's walking parade from Burton Mews to the central performance arena on the village green. We're expecting, 'Dragons and Damsels' this year, with Olaf the Ice Dragon and Princess Chardonnay adding a bit of extra magic to this special day! SCA will have two tombola stalls (bottles and gifts) while around the Green there will be new and varied craft, gift and food stalls as well as the traditional fun fair. Throughout the day, the mediaeval mayhem will continue with knights who will demonstrate their combat skills, local groups doing battle in the tug of war and a fantastic falconry display – not to be missed!

Ceddesfeld Lawns will be open, for everyone to enjoy 'Walworth Birds of Prey', True North Trades tool making, face painting, Marko's circus skills, living history re-enactments, bucking bronco and more! Delicious hot and cold refreshments will be served throughout the day and the bar will be open.

### Volunteers are essential!

SCA wholly rely on local people, community groups and businesses to get involved, to engage and volunteer support in making large events such as the Fayre sustainable and successful. Any financial sponsorship and support from local firms and businesses, as well as practical help with setting up, taking down, manning stalls, running activities etc, is very necessary, so please do get in touch if you can offer any support and help with the events.

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

## NEFirst Credit Union



NEFirst Credit Union has provided savings and loan accounts for members for more than 20 years. Operating across the whole of the North East, the NEFirst was formed by the merger of over 20 smaller local community-based Credit Unions coming together to form a modern vibrant credit union that puts its members at the heart of everything they do.

Business Development Officer, Martin Johns will be based in and around East Durham, as well as the East Durham Rural Corridor villages of Sedgefield, Trimdon, Fishburn, Cassop, Quarrington Hill, and Bowburn. Part of Martin's role is to support existing local service points and help to promote NE First and their services. However, he also aims to create new service points in every village within these areas. These service points allow residents to access savings accounts and financial support at their local community centre or village hall, whilst having a 'cuppa' and a chat.

Martin will liaise with several partners such as Advice Agencies, Community Centres, Family Hubs, Schools and Colleges, Housing Associations, and Community Police with a view to identifying individuals and families that might benefit from the services NEFCU offer. These services include savings and loans, offering an alternative to the high street banks by providing an ethical, fair and affordable option for borrowing. NE First are also aiming to tackle extortionate and illegal money lending.

For more information about NE First Credit Union and how it can help you, see [www.nefirstcu.co.uk](http://www.nefirstcu.co.uk), [www.facebook.com/nefirstcu](https://www.facebook.com/nefirstcu) or contact Martin at [martin.johns@nefirstcu.co.uk](mailto:martin.johns@nefirstcu.co.uk).



Joan Edmundson with the John Wrightson Band

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## DIARY & EVENTS

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

March 2025

- Saturday 1** **Sedgefield parkrun 600th Event**, Hardwick Park at 9am.  
**Friendly Fixers**, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Repair café.  
**Mayor's Ceilidh**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7pm for 7:30pm. BYO food and drink. Tickets £12.50 from Sedgefield Town Council Office. Capacity limited to 75.
- Sunday 2** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30-12:15pm.
- Monday 3** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. Caroline Hardie, "History of the Stockton and Darlington Railway".
- Tuesday 4** **Open Mic Night**, Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall, 7:30pm. Hosted by The Gastric Band. £5 per person.
- Wednesday 5** **Sedgefield WI**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm. Elaine Johnson "From Fleece to Farm". The members' competition is "a piece of Rington's pottery". Visitors welcome (£4 fee).
- Friday 7** **Sedgefield WI coffee morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-11:30am. Homemade cakes and raffle. Everyone welcome!  
**World Day of Prayer**, Sedgefield Methodist Church, 2pm. All welcome.  
**Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. A talk by Lyn Lamport, "A Weaver Sent to War". Visitors £3.  
**Family Quiz Night and Standing Bingo**, Mordon Village Hall, 6:30pm. See Mordon and Bradbury Facebook page for full details.
- Friday 14** **Sedgefield Memory Café coffee morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10:30am-12pm. Everyone welcome.
- Saturday 15** **Sedgefield parkrun 13th Birthday**, Hardwick Park at 9am.  
**Lent Event with Sedgefield Area Churches Together**, Sedgefield Methodist Church, 10:30am-2pm. Including refreshments and light lunch. All welcome.
- Tuesday 18** **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, 7:30pm. Demonstration by Marion Hinchley, "Whatever next". Members free, guests £5.
- Friday 21** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club coffee morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-11:30am. Cake stall and raffle. All welcome - please come along and join us.
- Thursday 27** **Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall AGM**, in the Village Hall from 7:30pm.
- Friday 28** **Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group coffee morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.  
**101**, Sedgefield Social Club, 8:30pm. Playing songs from Oasis, the Jam, The Killers, The Cure and many more.
- Saturday 29** **Sedgefield Games Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, from 6pm. Come along and play a variety of board games. £2.50.

### parkrun

Every Saturday at 9am there is a free, 5km timed run at Hardwick Park. Register at [parkrun.org.uk](http://parkrun.org.uk). All welcome as volunteers, walkers or runners.

**Sedgefield Library**  
[durham.gov.uk/sedgefieldlibrary](http://durham.gov.uk/sedgefieldlibrary)

### From Loft to Loved Craft Groups

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 Sewing groups every Thursday (10am-12pm, 12:30pm-2:30pm).  
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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 in Ceddesfeld Hall.

### Pop-in Club at Ceddesfeld Hall

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### Speed Quiz at Hardwick Arms

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