

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

May 2025

Submission deadline for the next edition: Wednesday 14 May

Mediaeval Fayre 2025

SCA is busy with preparations for this year's Fayre and we're looking forward to another bumper year, with some new craft stalls and attractions. As always, practical help with setting up and taking down, with sponsorship and tombola donations from local organisations, schools, businesses, residents and SCA members, makes all the difference, in the run up and on the day.



New for this year is Olaf the Ice Dragon, with Princess Chardonnay, who perfectly match the 'Dragons & Damsels' children's parade theme. There will also be a samba band, to add to the excitement! We're hoping again to build on the success of recent years, with some real-life dragon training!

Special thanks to Sedgefield Players who are providing a breakfast bar with sausage and bacon butties & hot drinks from 10am to 12:45pm in the main hall, and to Sedgefield & District Uniformed Services Group (SDUSG) who are providing afternoon tea, with delicious homemade cakes and biscuits from 1:15pm to 3:30pm. Food service in the main hall will be cash only. Ceddesfeld Hall bar will be open from 11am, with last orders called at 3:45pm – card and cash payments.

Donate a tombola prize

All profits from SCA tombola stalls, go directly back to the upkeep of Ceddesfeld Hall. Please donate a tombola prize, (bottle or gift) if you can, which may be dropped in to Ceddesfeld Hall bar any evening (Monday to Friday from 7.30 pm) or to a collection box in the foyer, or to be collected by contacting one of the numbers below. Donations would need to be made by Wednesday 14 May.

Community help needed

Help on the day remains crucial; to carry across, set up, take down and carry back gazebos (and weights), tables and chairs and to set up the performance arena in the middle of the green. We're looking for strong, fit people to help between 8am and 9am and from 4pm to 5:30pm. The gazebos are easily erected, best done with 4 people, one on each corner.

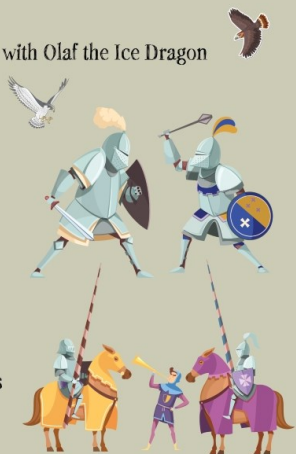
SCA is delighted that the Mediaeval Fayre continues to be an important and well attended event for the town, its residents as well as the shops and businesses. A very small management committee organise the event, but it is not possible for them to put everything out on the day – hence this very important and necessary plea for help remains.

Continued on Page 8

PROCLAMATION SEDGEFIELD MEDIAEVAL FAYRE

On the Green...

Damsels & Dragon Training, with Olaf the Ice Dragon
Fishburn Chi Taekwondo
Bubbles on the Green
Durham Rams
Country Dancing
Escafeld Mediaeval Knights
Tug of War
Walworth Falconry
Craft & Gift Stalls
Community & Charity Stalls
Fun Fair and Show Rides
SCA Gift and Bottle Tombolas



On the Lawns...

Meet Olaf - 'Dragon feeding & training experiences'
Circus Skills Workshops
Chi Taekwondo Workshops
Face Painting
ACLE Living History
Escafeld Living History
Walworth Falconry
True North Trades
Children's Rides & Games
Bucking Bronco



In Ceddesfeld Hall...

Breakfast bar, with sausage and bacon butties and afternoon tea, coffee & cakes
BAR OPEN



Any support from willing volunteers on the day, to set up and take down stalls, marshal the parade, and man SCA tombola, please contact Sarah and Tony on 01740 622185 or email info@sedgefieldscs.org.uk
Sponsored & Supported by local businesses.

Sat 17th May
10am-4pm

Family Fun
Free entry

NEW ATTRACTION

Meet Olaf the Ice Dragon & Princess Chardonnay and the battling mediaeval knights!



On the Village Green,
Ceddesfeld Hall & gardens
www.sedgefieldscs.org.uk

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SCHOOL NEWS

Author inspiration

We do everything we can to promote a lifelong love of reading at Sedgefield Community College. We know that reading regularly can have enormous benefits for learning and can give a person enormous pleasure for the rest of their lives. Linked to World Book Day during the spring term each year, we invite an author into school to work with our students.

This year, we were delighted to welcome Dan Smith to the school. Dan is the author of enthralling young adult fiction such as 'Boy X', 'The Wall Between Us' and 'The Dead Soul Project'. All of our students in Y7 and Y8 were able to attend a talk from Dan to understand where the inspiration for some of his ideas came from...from his days spent at boarding school to the terrifying experience of swimming with piranhas!

During the visit, some of our students were able to take part in a small writing workshop led by Dan. There was also an opportunity for students to meet Dan during lunchtime and to have their books signed and dedicated to them by the award-winning author!

The culture of reading for pleasure continues to go from strength to strength at SCC. This culture was reflected in the many students who received a free book as their reward for completing all of their reading homework set via Sparx Reader last half-term. Well done to everyone!



Celebrating our school heritage

Sedgefield Primary School is very proud to celebrate their heritage and links with the local community. This well established school site serves our pupils well due to our prime location in the heart of our community.

Pupils have been making the most of our fabulous surroundings and enjoyed taking part in Geography fieldwork this term. Our pupils are frequently seen accessing the local area by making mini learning walks to the village green, St Edmund's Church and Ceddesfeld Hall. The warmer weather has enabled pupils to make the most of our fabulous school field with its fascinating woodland area.

Key Stage 2 pupils were fascinated by the amount of wildlife we surveyed in our woodland area recently and many pupils said visiting our school field was the highlight of their school week.

Many thanks to our supportive parent, Paul Heasman for providing the drone shot of our amazing school site to use in our Geography lessons.



British Science Week Poster Competition

During British Science Week, pupils in Sedgefield Primary were invited to enter the British Science Week poster competition. The theme this year was 'Change and Adapt'.

Pupils could create a poster showing how plants and animals adapt to changing seasons or surroundings, or how humans have adapted to changing technology. Alternatively, they could look at climate change and how we can adapt our behaviours to protect the environment, or their favourite science experiment and how it shows change.

We were delighted with the calibre of entries and asked our School Governor, Dr Gill, to judge the posters to decide upon a winner for each year group. This was a difficult task as Dr Gill was very impressed by the quality, commitment and enthusiasm shown in the many posters. Five of the winners were also chosen to enter the official British Science Week Competition. Thank you to everyone who entered. We loved seeing your enthusiasm for science!

Building awareness



This half-term has been one of celebration and awareness at Sedgefield Hardwick as pupils and staff marked a range of important events including British Science Week, Ramadan, World Down Syndrome Day, and Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month.

British Science Week saw children across the school learning about scientists of the past and present and how this subject has helped to create the world around us. Alongside scientific discovery, Sedgefield Hardwick pupils further broadened their cultural and community awareness. During Ramadan, pupils learned about the significance of the holy month through stories, artwork, and thoughtful discussions.

On 26 March, pupils wore odd socks in support of World Down Syndrome Day, sparking important conversations about inclusion and celebrating uniqueness. Classrooms were filled with discussion and curiosity as children shared messages about friendship and understanding. On 28 March, the school also marked Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month with Think About...Talk About sessions that helped children understand the experiences of people living with the condition.



Autism Awareness Day came next and was marked with a whole school assembly, encouraging pupils to come together in support of neurodiversity. The pupil-led presentation shared an exploration of what it means to be autistic and how to support friends who may experience the world in different ways. A Year 4 pupil commented, "It's been really fun learning about different people and how we can be kind and respectful to everyone." Paul Taylor, Headteacher, praised the pupils for their enthusiastic participation: "We're so proud of how our children have engaged with these celebrations, showing curiosity, compassion, and a true sense of community."

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*



Sunday 4 May
on the Village Green
8:30am - 12:15pm



We welcome back Hambleton Hill to the Market for the summer. They will have a wide range of fruit and vegetables including cauliflowers, bunched carrots, bunched beetroot, lettuce, celeriac, potatoes, parsnips, garlic, red cabbage, onions, apples and rhubarb.



All our regular traders will be there and we have music from the Sedgefield Ukulele Smile Time Band. They will be performing at 10am so come along to support them and your local Market.

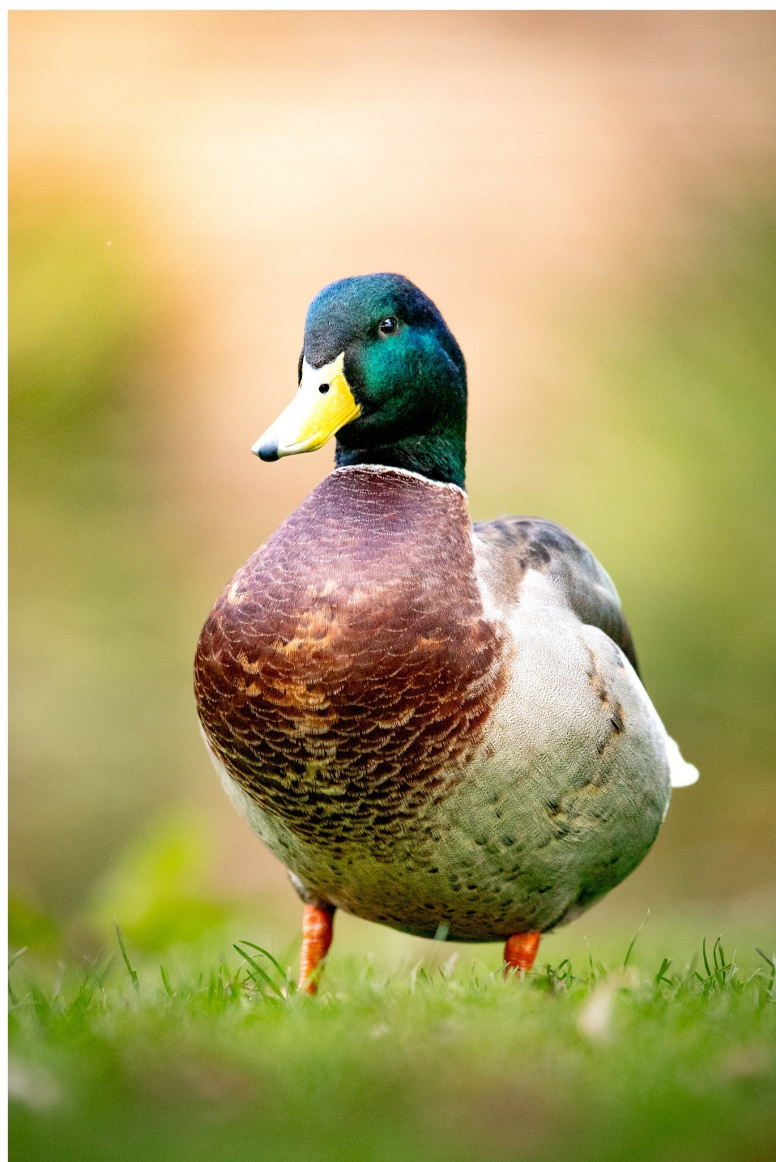


Dawn Chorus Walk

Sunday 18th May
6.30am

@ Woodland & Wildlife
Project Site - Skerne
Wood

Limited places so please email
woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk
to book a free place



Many thanks to local photographer Caitlin Ally Penning for this beautiful image.

Passport to Nature

Evening Bat Walk

Hardwick Park

Friday 13 June 2025

8.00pm - 10.00pm

£8.50 per person
Family ticket price £18

See durham.gov.uk/hardwickevents for more information.

Durham Bird Club

50th Anniversary Day

with Castle Lake Conservation Group

Bishop Middleham Village Hall &
Castle Lake Bird Hide

Sunday 11 May 10:00 – 16:00

Free events:
Dawn chorus, guided walks for birds & botany, archaeology exhibitions, talks, refreshments & more*

Come along & find out about the fantastic wildlife on your doorstep. Please park at Bishop Middleham Park or with consideration around the village.

*For all timings & event updates, please visit
<https://www.durhambirdclub.org.uk/castle-lake-11-05-2025>
or scan the QR code

Please note – Castle Lake access routes are not in ownership of DBC. This is a working farm with livestock, there are locked gates navigated via stiles. Access may not be suitable for all visitors.

Contacts:

Durham Bird Club:
<https://www.durhambirdclub.org.uk/>

Social Media X @durhambirdclub

John Olley, Conservation Officer: 07393 913695

Richard Cowen, Secretary: 07397 862533
richardcowen@durhambirdclub.onmicrosoft.com




See durhambirdclub.org.uk for more information.

U3A UPDATE

u3a

We're delighted to report that attendance at our monthly meeting is growing every month. In April, we had another 14 visitors, many of whom also signed up as members. They joined over 60 members to listen to Bob Pullen with his enthralling talk about the brain and how it governs our behaviour and personality. We learned that brain cells develop at a rate of about 5 million every 5 minutes during the first trimester of pregnancy and that this growth stops immediately at birth. There are three main parts to the brain, each with quite specific responsibilities; if one part of the brain is injured, its 'duties' are lost too. Brain cells cannot repair and regrow if damaged in any way after birth. We learned that the human speech/language centre is held in both hemispheres of the brain in women, but only in the left side of male brains. Brain power has not actually increased since Neolithic times; we have merely increased the connections between the various cells by continually learning and reinforcing new activities and knowledge. This is, of course, an ethos of the u3a movement!

This month, our Lunch Group went to The Scruffy Duck in Norton where we thoroughly enjoyed another lovely meal with lots of chat and laughter. We certainly do cover a wide range of topics in those couple of hours!

Bestselling author of *Brooklyn*

Colm Tóibín Long Island



The Book Club read *Long Island* by Colm Tóibín. A difficult book which several members found frustrating, being bewildered by the passivity of some of the characters. However, everyone enjoyed the wonderful lyricism of the prose; the Irish accent and voice a strong force throughout the book. A score of 7/10 was given.

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY MAY 2025

It's that time of the year again, when you can put the lawnmower away, put your feet up and see what appears in your own garden. Plantlife's No Mow May is here – let's give power to the flowers!

#NoMowMay is one of the easiest ways to help connect with wildlife, and the perfect way to start supporting nature in your garden (in May and beyond!). Join in by letting the wildflowers grow and be part of the No Mow Movement. It's super easy to take part. No lawn is too small! Even the smallest wild patch can provide vital food needed by bees and butterflies, connecting us with nature and giving nature the best start to summer.

Approximately 97% of flower-rich meadows have been lost since the 1930s, and with them, vital food and habitats needed by wildlife. But your garden can help! A healthy lawn with some longer grass and wildflowers helps to tackle pollution, benefits wildlife and can even lock away carbon below the ground.

There are more than 20 million gardens in the UK, so even the smallest grassy patches can add up and deliver enormous gains for nature, people and the climate.

No Mow May is the perfect starting point for summer and leaving a mix of grass lengths in your lawn from May and beyond means you're giving nature the boost it deserves. Leading on to Let it Bloom June and beyond, this is the perfect time to join the #NoMowMovement and manage your garden for nature all year round.

But how do you increase the diversity of plants in your garden? Here are some tips from Plantlife's wildflower experts to help you create a blooming bonanza!

Avoid using herbicides, fertilizers and moss killers as these are detrimental to wildflower species.

Allow plants time to go to seed before cutting your lawn – so they increase naturally.

Remove grass cuttings to prevent nutrient build-up in your lawn which might discourage wildflowers to grow.

Visit plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay for more information.



Visits, visitors, events and activities in May

u3a

2 May Speaker : David Williams on *The Tribulations, Trials and Triumphs of George Stephenson*. Really pertinent in this 250 anniversary year of the Stockton to Darlington Railway.



7 May – Science, Technology and Industry Group visit to The Glasshouse (formerly The Sage) in Gateshead. A behind the scenes tour of this magnificent music performance and rehearsal centre. Booking required.

22 May – House and Gardens visit to Keswick. Booking required.

See sedgefield.u3asite.uk for contact details.

The House and Gardens Group spent a lovely day in Raby Castle where they celebrated many of the women who lived there and who influenced the lives of so many others, both at home and abroad. A visit was also made to the magnificent new gardens and grounds, the work of the current Lord and Lady Barnard.

Check the Events page of our website (sedgefield.u3asite.uk/events) for forthcoming visits, visitors, events and activities. The Groups page gives more information on their activities both current and forthcoming.

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

Chris Balfour

LETTERS

Stepping down

After much thought and reflection, I have decided not to stand for re-election as a Town Councillor. This was not a decision I made lightly, but one I feel is necessary under the current circumstances.

Currently, Sedgefield's Town Councillors, including myself, are not elected by the people of Sedgefield but are co-opted when a vacancy arises. At this election, although two new people are standing, there will also be two councillors stepping down, not including myself. Personally, I believe that until the people of Sedgefield can vote directly for their Town Councillors, things will not change in a meaningful way.

One of the main issues that pushed me to make this decision is the Town Council's handling of the recent increase in hall hire fees and booking changes. I understand the need for price increases, but the way this has been handled is deeply concerning.

In 2024, the Council set out a 25% rise in fees for April 2025, followed by further 25% increase in 2026 and another in 2027 – although the amount has yet to be agreed. Despite this, regular users of the hall weren't informed until January 2025, just months before the rise. This delayed communication has caused significant hardship, with many long-standing groups now having to consider leaving due to the unaffordable costs. The Town Council have changed their pricing policy so those holding ticketed events are paying more for hall hire. The WI often have events where other members are welcome as guests but need to pay an additional fee – this is now classed as a ticketed event. The WI have been meeting in the hall for over 100 years and members have now reluctantly made the decision to leave and meet elsewhere.

To make matters worse, the council has also imposed additional charges for storage, with one group being asked to pay £900 for cupboards that they built and paid for years ago. The lack of transparency around these price hikes and the council's refusal to provide a breakdown of costs to user groups, about running the hall is deeply frustrating. They are also imposing a £25 charge for anyone that uses the bar – a charge the Sedgefield Players will also have to pay despite finding funding to refurbish it.

The Parish Hall is a vital part of our community and has been used by many groups for decades. Yet, many Town Councillors rarely attend events at the hall and seem disconnected from the needs of the people who rely on it. I believe that if we want to protect and preserve this essential asset, the people of Sedgefield must have a say in who represents them on the Town Council.

I urge the people of Sedgefield to get involved in local governance, especially when vacancies arise. We need more transparency, more community involvement, and more Councillors who are truly invested in the wellbeing of the people they represent.

Together, we can make a difference.

Elizabeth Flanagan

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.

New footpath

Sedgefield in Bloom would like to thank everyone involved in the planning and construction of the new footpath on Wykes Close, opposite Sedgefield Social Club. We are especially grateful to local councillors Chris Lines and David Brown, Andrew Coulthard from Livin' and Durham County Council for their support and funding of the project.



The path has transformed the area, which is one of the many green spaces in the town tended by Sedgefield in Bloom volunteers. It is becoming increasingly popular with residents and visitors to the locality.

Marie Etherington

Coffee Morning



Methodist Church



Saturday 10th May 10am – 11.30am

Chapel Choir of University College, Durham

Friday 9th May at 7:00 pm in
St. Edmund's Church, Sedgefield

Tickets £10 / £8 conc. /
£2 children/students

to include post-concert refreshments

from Tickety Boo (cash only, please),
SACT team, sedgefieldact@gmail.com
or on the door

Sedgefield Area Churches Together



Bus Trip to Keswick

Thursday 22 May 9am–6pm, £8



Leaving from the Parish Hall at 9am, we will be returning from Keswick at approx. 4.30pm. Please note that we will require a mobile telephone number from each group and emergency contact details for each passenger. Necessary in case of accident or other incident during the day, we hope we won't need to use them!

You do not need to be a member of the u3a to join us for this visit. Please contact Alison (01740 629276) or Carol (01740 469324) for more information or to book a place(s).



U3A

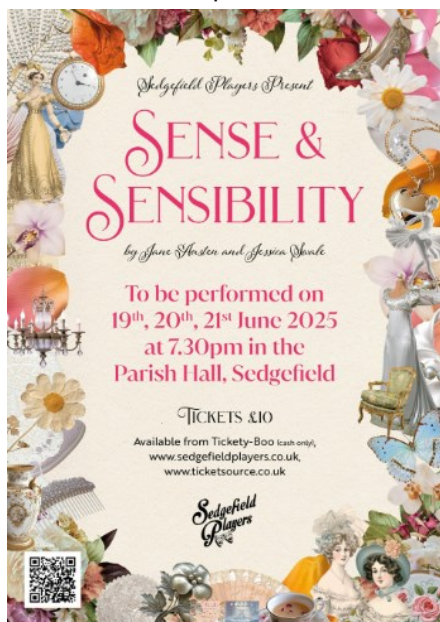
ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Sedgefield Players Update

As usual the Sedgefield Players are not sitting around. On 12 April, they held a Roaring 20's fundraising evening. Full of flappers and gangsters there were the usual songs, dances and poems as well as newly written sketches, a radio play and a silent film. Thanks go to Christine Walker and Meg Edgoose-Clubley for pulling together such a great show and thanks again to a fantastic audience who always step up to the mark with their own fabulous costumes.

On 4 May, the Players are taking 'Shakers' the play which won the preliminary round in March, to the All England Theatre Festival Northern Area Semi-Final at the Royalty Theatre in Sunderland. We are wishing 'break a leg' to Lucy, Kelsy, Millie and Emily, who will do us all proud.



Rehearsals are under way for the June production of Sense and Sensibility, which involves many of the group. This lovely period costume play about the loves of Eleanor and Marianne Dashwood (Amy Henery and Lucy Atkinson). Director Sarah Atkinson said, 'The play has many different locations, so on a small stage, I have to be creative, but with music between scene changes and using the floor of the stage, it will be lovely'.

The SPYS are well into their rehearsal schedule for their July production of The Snow Queen. This is a huge undertaking for directors Sarah Atkinson and Tom Guest, who also writes some music for the play. With almost 60 young people it will be a spectacular show.

Tickets for the both plays are available from Tickety Boo and www.ticketsource.co.uk.

By Sedgefield Players

Bishop Auckland Music Society Update

The first concert of the season was a great success and so we move onto our second which features Ewan Millar, who is a prominent young oboist building a career in the UK. Do remember that children are welcome to attend free of charge and they will have the opportunity to meet Ewan).

In 2020 Ewan won the woodwind final of BBC Young Musician, advancing to the Grand Final, and performing Navarro's "Legacy" concerto with the BBC Philharmonic. Since the competition he has been selected as a Tillet Debut Scheme Artist and Countess of Munster Trust Recital Scheme Artist, and as such will continue performing regular recitals in the coming years. As a freelancer, he has had the privilege of playing principal oboe with the RPO, Aurora Orchestra, and Britten Sinfonia. Ewan did his undergraduate studies at St. Hilda's College, Oxford, and his postgraduate at RAM, receiving firsts in both degrees.

The remaining program of BAMS dates and artists are listed below and as always, the concerts are in the lovely setting of Bishop Auckland Methodist Church (opposite Bishop Auckland General Hospital) each starting at 7.30pm:

Friday 6 June: Lise Vandersmissen (triple harp)

Friday 11 July: Ignas Maknickas (solo piano)

Friday 5 September: Lumas Winds (wind quintet)

Full details of all the programmes and artists are on our BAMS website: bvemv.orpheusweb.co.uk

By BAMS



More local events:

VE Day Ceilidh, Field & Fodder, Bearpark

A night of dancing and celebration at Field & Fodder! A traditional Ceilidh to commemorate VE Day.

8 May, 6pm Adults £15, children £7.50
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ve-day-ceilidh-and-beacon-tickets-1290804584259?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep_tld=1.

There's A Monster In Your Show

Tom Fletcher's much-loved *Who's in Your Book?* series leaps from page to stage in this lively new musical!

Expect laughs, mayhem, and a few surprise guests as Little Monster and friends come to life.

21 & 22 May 2025, times vary
forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk/show/theres-a-monster-in-your-show/.

Hardwick Festival, Hardwick Hall

tickets are available for all 3 days at Hardwick Live 15-17 August 2025, prices vary
www.hardwickfestival.co.uk.



SPORTS UPDATE with Chris Lines chrisjlines@aol.com

This sports update mainly focuses on individuals and teams who participate in sport in and around Sedgefield. Meanwhile, there are plenty of folk here whose main relationship with sport is as supporters, none more so than the many passionate football fans. It's a sport that delivers plenty of highs and lows and Sedgefield is home to plenty of followers of all of the North East's big teams. Newcastle United fans are still on a high after the recent cup win, while (at the time of writing this!) Middlesbrough supporters are still hoping to join Sunderland in the Championship play-offs.

Talking of the latter, the Sedgefield branch of the Sunderland Supporters Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Founded by Dennis Frampton, John Walker, John Marshall, Norman Jackson, Bob Jackson and others, the branch now has over 300 members, from Sedgefield, Fishburn and the Trimdons, with many traveling to home and away games. For its 25th anniversary, the branch organised a celebration photo, and did the same again recently to mark the 50th. Membership of the branch is £5 per year – contact Clive Dent for more information, on 07775 710889 or clivedent55@btinternet.com. By the way, I'm also happy to hear from supporter groups representing the other North East clubs!

Right, back to the recent local sports action...

Taekwondo

It's been a busy start to the year for Fishburn Chi Taekwondo at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, with a Kup grading (belt promotion) in early March, when 16 students were successful in obtaining their next level-coloured belts. Also, students took part in a British Taekwondo sparring competition at Newton Aycliffe leisure centre, where Haydem Ali from Sedgefield won a medal in his weight category, fighting for the first time.

At the time of writing this, the club is busy practicing for an in house poomsae (pattern) competition at the end of April and getting prepared for a demonstration at the Mediaeval Fayre, followed by a Taekwondo workshop in Ceddesfeld Hall grounds.

Taekwondo is a martial art for everyone and contrary to popular belief, young people who study it do not spend their time looking for a chance to show off their skills and what they know. Instead, in realising their capabilities, they search to avoid conflict at all costs. The serious atmosphere in which classes are conducted instils a sense of respect for the art in all students, young and old.

Fishburn Chi Taekwondo Club is continuing to grow, with over 40 students now meeting every Tuesday and Thursday night, from 6pm to 7:30pm. If interested in giving the sport a go, please contact: Mike Britton on 07743455065 or 07368818372. All instructors are DBS checked and Kukkiwon certified.

Cricket

Easter weekend saw the local 2025 cricket season get underway, and Sedgefield Cricket Club's senior 1st and 2nd XI teams went through the first round of fixtures unbeaten after drawing their opening games. Throughout the season, senior home matches are now being live streamed online - to follow the action on your device, go to www.youtube.com/@SedgefieldCricketClubLive.

May sees the club's junior sides begin their campaigns, along with The Winkers, who are once again targeting cricket and bar domination in the North East Social Cricket League.

With the club bar now open every evening and all day at the weekend, showing all major televised sport, Sedgefield Cricket Club is looking forward to welcoming many residents over the summer. The club is open to both members and non-members, but if you are interested in a discount on your drinks prices, membership costs only £16 for 2025.

Bowls

The Fishburn Bowls Club green is now open for the summer and residents are welcome to pop along and try the sport. The club is keen to attract new members. To find out more, contact Dave Sayers on 07970 629013.

Squash

The 2024/25 Durham & Cleveland League season turned out to be one of the most successful ever for the senior teams at Sedgefield Squash Club. The 1st team started the last round of matches top of their division by one point. After some dramatic twists and turns during the final evening's matches, the team finished in second place by just a point to Yarm. Meanwhile, the 2nd team finished runners up in Division 2, securing promotion to the top division next season. The club is looking forward to the fierce competition, rivalry and banter between its two teams in the top division.

The 3rd team led Division 3 virtually from day one and comfortably finished champions. And the 4th team was again involved in a dramatic last match, having to secure 10 points against Darlington to win Division 4. They delivered on this challenge, securing top spot, and promotion for next season. The 5th team used 19 players across the season, giving opportunities to introduce players to compete in the league. They achieved some memorable results.

Sedgefield's ladies' team, by their high standards, had an average season, finishing fourth in the Ladies Division. This is still a great achievement, given some of the larger clubs in the area are not able to field a ladies' team at all.

Congratulations to the team captains, all of the players, and other volunteers and spectators who have combined to make this happen.

The Sedgefield Squash Club Championships will take place from the end of April, with the finals being held on 8 and 9 May.

A reminder to all members that the club is holding its AGM in the Swinhoe Room at Ceddesfeld Hall on Monday 19 May at 7:45pm.

Boccia

Last month's update included a photo of Sedgefield boccia star Lee Maddison, but there wasn't room for more details. The image was taken in Antrim, Northern Ireland, where Lee was competing in the UK four nations competition. He won every game convincingly until the final match, which he lost by a narrow margin. In securing second place, Lee brought home another trophy. Lee was again grateful to his ramp assistant Chris Foster for his hard work.

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



CEDDESFIELD HALL

Continued from Page 1

If possible, please leave the car at home or use the car parks on the outskirts of town. Parking on the day, specially near the centre of town is very restricted. If you (your friends, team, colleagues) can help, please do get in touch soon. Contact info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk or telephone Tony & Sarah on 01740 622185, John on 01740 620042 or Maggie on 07970 761844.



Special Note: SCA Annual AGM will be held at Ceddesfeld Hall on Thursday 19 June at 8pm. All welcome – do come long to get involved.

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

Clothes Throw

The Big Slimming World Clothes Throw with Cancer Research UK is an annual event that takes place in Slimming World groups across the UK. It sees members donating good quality clothes, shoes, and accessories that no longer fit – and they're confident they will never need again.



Slimming World members in Newton Aycliffe and Sedgefield have raised £3,300 for Cancer Research UK by donating the clothes they've slimmed out of to the charity's shops.

Slimming World Consultant Sam Hudson, who runs the groups, says she's proud of how her members came together to support the charity, as well as to celebrate how far they've come on their own weight loss journeys.

"Being overweight doesn't necessarily mean that a person will develop cancer, but we know that losing weight and maintaining a healthy weight can help prevent a number of health conditions, including some types of cancer. I'm proud to host The Big Slimming World Clothes Throw at my Slimming World group to help Cancer Research UK continue its vital work."

The Sedgefield Slimming World group is held at Sedgefield Methodist Church every Tuesday. For more information or to join Sam's group either pop along or call her on 07970 451284.

SEASIDE TRAVEL FISHBURN

14 MAUGHAN TERRACE,
TS21 4BY

WILL BEAT ANY
HIGH STREET PRICE

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DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

May 2025

- Friday 2** **Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. A talk by David Williams on George Stephenson. Visitors are welcome, suggested donation of £3.
- Sedgefield Memory Café Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10:30am-12pm. Everyone welcome.
- Saturday 3** **Friendly Fixers**, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Repair café.
- Sunday 4** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30-12:15pm.
- Tuesday 6** **Mordon and Bradbury Open Mic Night**, Bradbury Village Hall, 7:30pm-10pm. £3 performers, £5 non-performers on the door. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.
- Wednesday 7** **Sedgefield WI AGM**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm. The members' competition is "a photo frame (including photo)". Visitors welcome, £4 donation.
- Friday 9** **Chapel Choir of University College, Durham**, St. Edmund's Church, 7pm. See poster on page 5 for details.
- Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-11:45am. A police officer will give a short talk on scams and frauds. Proceeds to Cancer Research.
- Saturday 10** **Christian Aid Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Methodist Church, 10am-11:30am.
- Sedgefield Rock & Blues Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, Doors 6:45pm. Sean Webster Band & Russ Tippins Electric Band.
- Tuesday 13** **Sedgefield Town Council Annual Town Meeting**, Sedgefield Parish Hall
- Friday 16** **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.
- Tuesday 20** **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 Kathleen Williams, "Seasonal Influences". Members free, guests £5 donation.
- Friday 30** **Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group coffee morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.

parkrun

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

Junior parkrun

A free 2km run for 4-14 year olds, meeting at the back of the visitor's centre at Hardwick Park every Sunday. We welcome volunteers including those doing their Duke of Edinburgh awards. Register at parkrun.org.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 for more information.

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.

Saffire Shares Club

Are you interested in stocks and shares? Do you have a good idea for making a profit? If so, come and join our informal group.

Sedgefield Saffire Investment Club are looking for new members. We meet on the 4th Monday of every month at 8pm in Sedgefield Social Club. Contact Rob on 07889 364567 for more details or come along. All welcome, next meeting is 19 May (due to the Bank Holiday).

For more details about these events, go to 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

Tuesdays 9:30am-12pm
Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm
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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.

Durham Bird Club is 50

On Sunday 11 May, Durham Bird Club are celebrating their 50th year. See Page 3 for event details.

Passport to Nature, Bat Walk

Evening bat walk, Hardwick Park. Friday 13 June 2025, 8pm-10pm. See Page 3 for event details.

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).

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