

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

May 2026

Submission deadline for the next edition: Thursday 14 May

All the fun of the Fayre

The Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre returns for another fun-filled day, made possible thanks to the support of Durham County Councillors Chris Lines and Ian Catchpole, along with many generous local businesses and organisations. New for 2026 is a full-size T-Rex, Princess A-Roar-A, joining the children's 'Dancing Dinosaur' walking parade. Pittington Brass Band will provide musical entertainment, and the ever-popular Tug of War takes place at 12:30pm (team names to Peter Hinde on the day). Full details of displays, demonstrations and activities will be available on posters and on the SCA Facebook page - Ceddesfeld Hall 'Home of SCA'.



Food will be available in the main hall:

- Breakfast bar (sausage & bacon butties, hot drinks) from 10am-12:15pm, thanks to Sedgefield Players
- Afternoon tea plates from 1:15pm-3:30pm, provided by SCA's Pop In

Food in the main hall is cash only.

The Ceddesfeld Hall bar will be open from 11 am, with last orders at 3:45pm (card and cash accepted).

Donations of tombola prizes (bottles or gifts) are very welcome and may be left at the Ceddesfeld Hall bar weekday evenings (from 7:30pm), in the foyer collection box, or collected by arrangement. Deadline: Wednesday 13th May.

Volunteer help is essential on the day, particularly for setting up and taking down gazebos, tables and the performance area (8am-9am and 4pm-5:30pm). Help from strong, fit volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

If possible, please leave your car at home or use the car parks on the outskirts of town, as parking near the centre will be very limited.

To help or donate, contact info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk, Tony & Sarah on 01740 622185 or 07847 052761, John on 01740 620042 or Maggie on 07970 761844.

PROCLAMATION SEDGEFIELD MEDIAEVAL FAYRE

On the Green...

Meet Princess A-roar-a, the friendly, dancing dinosaur
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...

More activities with Princess A-roar-a, the T-Rex dinosaur
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@sedgefieldsca.org.uk
Sponsored & Supported by local businesses.

Sat 16th May 10am-4pm Family Fun Free entry

Meet Princess A-roar-a who is a T-rex dinosaur.
Pet, train and stroke her, but will she bite?



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

SCHOOL NEWS

Bringing books to life at SCC



At Sedgefield Community College (SCC), we celebrated World Book Day with a visit from author Malcolm Duffy. He delivered an engaging presentation about his journey as a writer, sharing insights into his experiences and inspirations. Students were captivated as he read a chapter from his novel 'Me Mam. Me Dad. Me.', leaving many eager to read more.



A selection of students were then invited to attend a writing workshop where they were encouraged to develop their own ideas and confidence as writers under his expert guidance. At lunchtime, Mr Duffy spent time in our library to sign books and chat with students, giving them the opportunity to engage with him in a less formal capacity and leave with their own signed copies – it has been wonderful to see the number of students engaging with his texts since!

The English team at SCC continue to create a wide range of opportunities to promote a love of literature within and beyond subject lessons. Just before the half term holiday, Year 7 and Year 8 students were given the exciting opportunity to experience a live performance of Macbeth in school. This was a fantastic way to deepen their understanding of Shakespeare's work, seeing the play brought to life as it was intended! Students sat in awe as the actors performed with passion, breathing life into the text that they are studying in

Sporting success

Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Academy is celebrating a month of sporting success, with KS2 pupils excelling in both cross country and rugby events.



The school's Year 5/6 boys and girls' cross country teams put in exceptional performances at the County Cross Country Championships, held at East Durham College. Competing against strong opposition from across County Durham, the Year 5/6 boys team stormed to an impressive 2nd place, securing silver in a tightly contested race. Their consistency, determination, and teamwork shone through on a challenging course. Not to be outdone, the Year 5/6 girls team also produced a superb display, finishing 3rd overall and earning a well-deserved bronze. School staff described the results as "a fantastic achievement and a testament to the pupils' hard work, dedication, and positive attitude throughout the season."



Meanwhile, over at the Go Well Rugby Competition, Sedgefield Hardwick's rugby team delivered a series of outstanding performances, battling their way through to the grand final of the event. Reaching the final not only demonstrated the team's skill and competitive spirit but also ensured their qualification for the County Rugby Finals, where they will represent the Sedgefield area against the best teams in County Durham. Staff accompanying the team praised the pupils for their teamwork, sportsmanship, and commitment throughout the competition.

A bright summer

Sedgefield Primary School is looking forward to the Summer Term ahead. It promises to be a busy and exciting time, filled with new learning opportunities, outdoor activities, and events for pupils to enjoy.



We love making the most of our outdoor facilities, including our fantastic school field, newly installed outdoor gym equipment, and an open-air classroom that supports learning beyond the classroom walls.



The Summer Term will bring a renewed focus on creativity, teamwork, and celebrating achievements as the school year draws to a close. We are particularly excited to begin the term under the leadership of our new Head Teacher, Mrs Collings.

Our school community continues to welcome both new opportunities and much-loved traditions, including the return of events such as the Mediaeval Fayre later this term.



SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECTS*



FARMERS MARKET
Sunday 3 May
8:30am to 12 noon
Sedgefield Village Green



The residents of Hardwick Grange Estate came together for a community Easter event. Families enjoyed Easter games, food and of course, Easter bonnets. Not only did they have lots of fun, but also raised money for Butterwick Hospice and The Woodland & Wildlife Project. We gratefully received £150, which will be used at Skerne Wood to buy some new tools and litter picking equipment.

A huge thank you to those who organised and attended the event!



Aurora and Max wearing their Easter bonnets

If you would like to know more about the woodland, please contact Melissa – woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or join our Facebook page - [Woodland & Wildlife – Sedgefield](https://www.facebook.com/Woodland&Wildlife-Sedgefield).

Friendly Fixers

Saturday 2 May
10:30am to 12:30pm

Fishburn Youth & Community Centre

Contact us at repaircafe@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or join our Facebook page - [Friendly Fixers - Repair Café](https://www.facebook.com/FriendlyFixers-RepairCafe).



Local Trips: Choose Your Bike

With petrol prices continuing to rise, it's a great moment to rethink how we make short local journeys. Using your bike for everyday errands is one of the easiest ways to save money, cut fuel use and make getting around feel simpler and more enjoyable. For trips of a couple of miles or less—going to the shops, collecting a parcel or visiting friends—cycling is often just as quick as driving once traffic and parking are taken into account.

A bike can easily be adapted to carry shopping or other items. One of the most useful upgrades is a sturdy rear rack, which allows you to attach panniers. These clip-on bags are secure, weather-resistant and keep weight low and balanced, making them more comfortable than carrying a heavy backpack. For lighter or bulkier items such as bread, flowers or takeaway containers, a front basket or crate is a simple solution. Bungee cords or a cargo net can help keep heavier loads steady—just make sure nothing can move into the wheels or interfere with steering.

Riding with extra weight does mean taking a little extra care. Keep tyres properly inflated, balance loads evenly, and avoid over-packing. If you're new to carrying cargo, start small and build confidence gradually.

A good quality lock is essential while you shop, and the village has plenty of secure bike parking. If you'd like advice on getting started or adapting your bike, BAT is always happy to help.

Choosing your bike for short trips saves petrol, reduces wear on your car and adds some fresh air and calm to everyday life—a small change with big benefits.



Sedgefield Allsorts

We are delighted to announce that as of May 2026, Sedgefield Allsorts will become a member of the Sedgefield Development Trust. Previously 'WI Allsorts', we are looking forward to this exciting new phase of being part of a wider local organisation and the opportunities that this will create.

Our aim is to provide a supportive and inclusive women's community group offering conversation, friendship and fun in a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere. We meet once a month and members engage in wide-ranging activities from craft, guest speakers, singing to dancing and occasional trips out.



Yoga on the beach

The aim is to create a safe space where women can enjoy the company of others, spend time with friends and meet new people while trying new activities.



Bauble making

For more information please email allsorts@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk We would like to thank the Sedgefield Development Trust for their support and for making us feel so welcome.

u3a update



Derek Potter is a historian and travel writer with a fascination for ocean travel in the age of sail. On this occasion, however, his visit was to describe his many underwater expeditions and historical salvage and sunken-treasure projects. Drawing on thousands of scuba dives across all the world's oceans, his talk also explored the wide range of equipment used – who knew there was so much choice available?

Last month's Lunch Group took place at The Impeccable Pig, where we were able to sample their new Spring menu. Several members indulged in the very reasonably priced fish and chips, complete with bread and butter and hot tea. We will be on our travels again this month with a visit to The Spotted Cow at Elwick.

A full minibus took members of our ever-popular Homes and Gardens Group to Belsay Castle and Gardens, where there is a Regency-style country house, a medieval castle, and over 30 acres of magnificent gardens to explore. Although it was another chilly day, the visit proved a great success. Our April trip is already proving so popular that two buses have been booked.

We have also decided to re-start our Health and Well-Being Group, and a number of members met recently to plan meeting dates and future topics. Our first speaker will be the local NHS Wellbeing Adviser in May, followed by talks on nutrition and what not to eat, diabetic screening, eye health, legal matters, hearing loss (including sign language and lip reading), surgery services, and more. We will also discuss topical health issues highlighted in the media, practise balance exercises, and enjoy some mindfulness activities. A busy time lies ahead.

The co-ordinator of our Scribes (Creative Writing) Group will be moving to Tyneside in the summer and will be very much missed. Members have taken this opportunity to rethink how the group works. From September, they will meet once a month for a three-hour session over a sandwich lunch, focusing more intensively on a specific topic over several weeks.

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY MAY 2026

One of the pleasures of my garden is watching the birds that visit. Like many people, I've been feeding birds all year round. For many years, the advice was to feed mainly during winter, but that later changed to year-round feeding. More recently, however, that guidance has changed again.

Research has shown a worrying decline in some of our much-loved garden birds, partly due to a disease called trichomonosis. This is a highly contagious condition that can spread easily where birds gather in large numbers, such as at bird feeders. The RSPB report that Greenfinch numbers, for example, have dropped by over 65% in the last three decades.

RSPB conservation scientists have carried out an evidence review and found that feeding birds during winter is often beneficial, particularly during cold weather when natural food is scarce. Birds can also benefit from feeding between March and April, a period sometimes known as the "hungry gap", when natural food sources are limited for seed-eating birds such as finches.

The good news is that we can help reduce the spread of disease by making two simple changes to how we feed birds:

Feed seasonally. Feed safely.

The RSPB now suggests that from 1 May to 31 October, we should pause filling feeders with seeds or peanuts, but continue offering small amounts of mealworms, fat balls, or suet. During summer and autumn there is a higher risk of disease spread, and birds also have greater access to natural food sources such as seeds and insects.

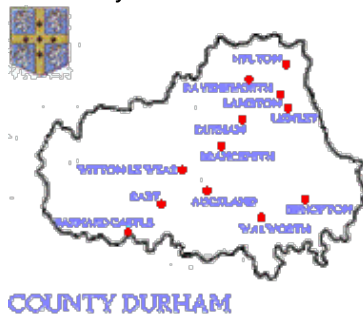
From 1 November to 30 April, it's fine to feed birds a full range of foods again, including seeds and peanuts.



Busy bird feeders can become hotspots for disease, so good hygiene is vital. The Wildlife Trusts have recently strengthened their guidance on keeping feeders clean, which can be found at www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-feed-birds-your-garden.

One of the best ways to support garden birds in the long term is to help them find natural food. Filling your outdoor space with bird-friendly plants such as sunflowers, teasels, and ivy provides vital food sources – and means birds will still visit your garden for you to enjoy.

Finally, one of our own members, Keith Simpson, will be our speaker on 1 May at 2pm in the Parish Hall, where he will share his knowledge of castles and fortifications in County Durham. It promises to be another fascinating insight into local history.



If you are retired or semi-retired and would like to know more, do join us.

Chris Balfour

Fishburn Youth & Community Centre
Fishburn Parish Council

FISHBURN DAY
Saturday 30 May 11-4pm

Live music from Lily Ho
AND
The Cardiac Dodgers

Lots of stalls

Fancy Dress Competition

Tombole

Hot Food

Bar Open

Tug-of-War

Face Painting

Hoopla

Dog Show

62 Miles in 62 Hours – Challenge Complete

Over three days, I completed a 62-mile coastal walk from Saltburn to Roker, finishing in under 62 hours while carrying a 15kg pack. The route was tough and unpredictable, with roadworks, flooding, and even a bomb-squad diversion – but it also delivered some breathtaking scenery.

This challenge was a charity fundraiser for If U Care Share Foundation, completed in memory of my dad.

The final stretch from Seaham, completed on what would have been my dad's birthday, was made especially meaningful thanks to the support of friends, family, and local organisations who joined and encouraged me along the way.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated, shared kind words, followed the journey, or walked alongside me – your support truly kept me going. It's not too late to donate at www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/62miles62hours.

And if you've been looking for a sign to reach out or get involved in something positive, this might be it.

Myles Mantripp



if u
care
share

Cricket Club

Sedgefield Cricket Club is a club with huge ambition to improve its facilities both on and off the field.

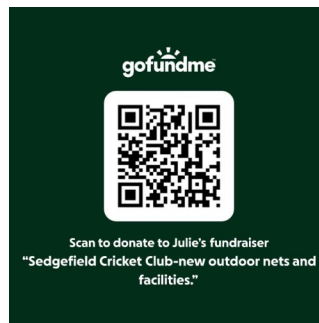
We are an inclusive cricket club in Sedgefield supporting our local community from our All Stars cricketers (aged 5+), junior boys and girls (aged 9-17), Senior teams (1st/2nd/3rd) and our social cricketers 'The Winkers'.

We are looking to replace the outdoor fixed nets and improve changing room facilities and toilets including access.

Our aim is to raise £10,000 by the end of June 2026 which will go towards delivering on our ambitions. Each squad/team is hosting a fundraiser and there will also be events at the club, a stall at the Farmers Market on 7 June and a raffle. Regular updates will appear on the club's social media and the GoFundMe page.

If you'd like to read more or donate/support us please scan the QR code or pop into the club.

We'd also love any support from the business community for match funding or help with events, please contact Rachel on 07919 190553 if you can help!



Colouring Competition

Over Easter, the Mayor of Sedgefield, Cllr Peter Hinde, judged the Easter colouring competition set up by Co-op Funeralcare Sedgefield.

Sedgefield Primary submitted pictures from Nursery and Reception children, with Elliot winning, Sophie B in second place, and Ivy B in third.

Sedgefield Hardwick submitted pictures from Year 3, with Mya winning, Bodhi in second place, and Bailie in third.

All children who took part did an amazing job and the team at Co-op Funeralcare Sedgefield were very impressed with their work, as was the Mayor. Thank you to Sainsbury's Sedgefield and Co-op Wynyard for supporting with prizes for the winners and a small token for all other children involved.



BUSINESS NEWS

Two Sedgefield Businesses Celebrate Awards

Two Sedgefield-based businesses are celebrating major achievements this year.



Storey's Hair & Beauty has been named Best Hair Salon 2026 in County Durham, just over a year after opening. Owned by Rebecca Storey, the salon has quickly built a reputation for its welcoming, inclusive atmosphere and high-quality services. The award recognises the dedication of the whole team and the strong support they've received from the local community.



The Storey's team



Meanwhile, Willowdene Care Home has been recognised as one of the Top 20 Care Homes in North East England by Carehome.co.uk. Based entirely on independent feedback from residents' families and loved ones, the award reflects Willowdene's outstanding rating and consistent praise for its compassionate, respectful care. Home Manager Ruth Wilkinson Robson said the recognition is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the entire team.




Colleagues at Willowdene Care Home celebrate

ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

Contact Geoff at sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

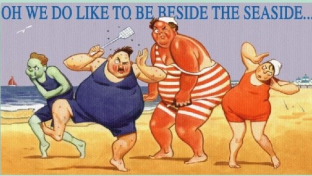
Sedgefield Local History Society

Visitors are welcome to join the local history society at May's meeting on the first Monday of the month at Ceddesfeld Hall. On 4 May at 7:45pm, Frances Wilson will tell the fascinating story of traditional seaside holidays in the North East. For updates on this or other events from the group, please follow 'Sedgefield Local History Society' on Facebook.



First Monday every month
7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Visitors welcome



OH WE DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE...

Monday 4th May 2026
The History of North East Seaside Holidays
Frances Wilson

Sedgefield Rock & Blues

Catch Thomas Heppell delivering gritty blues, soaring guitar work and powerful vocals in the legendary club's famously close-up setting. A must for fans of contemporary blues with a classic edge.

sedgefieldblues.com/gigs.html



SEDGEFIELD ROCK AND BLUES CLUB

THOMAS HEPPPELL

From the sun-soaked South Coast of the UK to legendary venues nationwide, Thomas Heppell is redefining the blues for a new era. Blending the soul of Blues, the raw energy of Rock & Roll, and the finesse of Jazz, Thomas captivates audiences—whether commanding the stage solo or driving the groove with his powerhouse trio.

PLUS STONEY BROKE

Stoney Broke is a Scottish singer/songwriter combining scintillating lead guitar over sapped rhythm, rocky blues and engaging Americana, to spine-tingling soulful emotive ballads, he looks to push the boundaries of "normal" acoustic songwriters.

FRIDAY 16TH MAY
SEDGEFIELD PARISH HALL
TS21 3AT

LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE
DOORS AT 6:45PM

www.sedgefieldblues.com www.facebook.com/sedgefieldblues

Fleetwood Mac Candlelight Experience

St Edmund's Church welcomes the Lumos Experience on 30 May. Enjoy the timeless music of Fleetwood Mac, reimagined in new arrangements, within the beautiful setting of our lovely church. There will be two performances on the night.

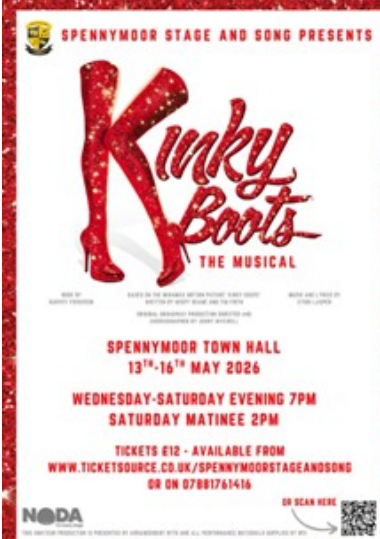
For times and tickets, please visit www.lumos-experiences.com/event/a-fleetwood-mac-candlelight-experience-in-sedgefield-saturday-30th-may/



Kinky Boots on Stage in Spennymoor

Tickets are still available for Spennymoor Stage and Song's performances of the award-winning West End musical Kinky Boots, featuring words & music by Cyndi Lauper. Spennymoor Town Hall Wednesday 13 to Saturday 16 May. Visit

www.ticketsource.com/spennymoorstageandsong/ for tickets.



SPENNYMOOR STAGE AND SONG PRESENTS

Kinky Boots
THE MUSICAL

SPENNYMOOR TOWN HALL
13TH-16TH MAY 2026

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY EVENING 7PM
SATURDAY MATINEE 2PM

TICKETS £12 - AVAILABLE FROM
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/SPENNYMOORSTAGEANDSONG
OR ON 07881761416

NODA

More local events

Rapunzel, ARC Stockton

A fresh, feisty and child-friendly take on Rapunzel, where fairy tale tradition is turned on its head with humour and heart.

Wednesday 27th May, £9.50

arconline.co.uk/whats-on/rapunzel/



Bishop Auckland Music Society Concert, Bishop Auckland Methodist Church

Rising star solo pianist Sherri Lun brings her dazzling technique and expressive flair to Bishop Auckland, fresh from international acclaim and major competition wins.

Expect a captivating programme of classical favourites and virtuosic showpieces from one of the most exciting young talents at Bishop Auckland Methodist church.

Friday 22nd May 2026, 7:30, £20 on the door or £18 if bought in advance bvemv.orpheusweb.co.uk/BAMSWeb/bams.html




SEDGEFIELD PLAYERS PRESENT

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST
BY OSCAR WILDE

ORIGINAL 4 ACT VERSION

TO BE PERFORMED ON
18TH - 20TH JUNE 2026 AT 7.30PM
THE PARISH HALL, SEDGEFIELD

TICKETS £10

Available from Back of Beyond Books
www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk
www.ticketsource.co.uk/sedgefieldplayers

Sedgefield Players

SPORTS UPDATE with Chris Lines

As summer approaches, here in Sedgfield the cricket season is underway, while our football, rugby and squash teams are (at the time of writing this) getting close to wrapping up their latest campaigns. This update includes the first news from senior cricket teams, and part one of a squash season wrap-up. I'll conclude that next month, alongside end of term reports from football and rugby.

Cricket

The 2026 North Yorkshire & South Durham Cricket League season got underway on 18 April, with Sedgfield Cricket Club's senior teams beginning with encouraging results. The 1st XI earned a creditable draw away at last season's Premier League side Great Ayton, while the 2nd XI thumped their Great Ayton counterparts by seven wickets. The following day, Sedgfield's 3rd XI took on Barnard Castle, in a game that had a thrilling finale. Chasing 189, Sedgfield lost wickets regularly, but captain Phil Reynard anchored the innings and hit a century, including a crucial last wicket partnership with youngster Josh Bunting that secured a rare tied match. All in all, it was a good first weekend for Sedgfield's senior teams.



Philip Wears bowls for Sedgfield Cricket Club's 3rd XI against Barnard Castle

The club has welcomed Harry Flynn from Australia to play this season. Harry hails from Melbourne and is a former Victoria U19 player. Playing in north eastern chilly spring conditions is a new experience for him, but he's very quickly settled in and integrated with the club, and everyone at Sedgfield wishes him well for the season.

Sedgfield Cricket Club's junior section is also back in action with Friday evening coaching not in any way proving just as popular with the parents watching on from the bar. The All Stars programme for 5-8 year olds returns in mid-May, with bookings selling out in record time after they became available in February. May will be a perfect opportunity to get down to watch some good quality cricket (if the action in the early fixtures is any indication), and/or take in loads of televised live sport in the clubhouse. With very competitive prices for everyone (even lower prices for members), the club hopes to welcome plenty of folk very soon.

Walking football

The walking football group based at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre is looking for new players. The friendly, diverse group meets indoors at the youth club gym, at 11:30am on Fridays. Participants of all abilities welcome. The cost is £2 per person. Players are also welcome to stay and enjoy a home cooked main course and dessert in the community centre afterwards for £6 per person (booking is advised if you would like to stay for food - call on 01740 629 536 or email events@fycc.org.uk).



As always, please send any sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com.

Squash



The Durham & Cleveland County Handicap competition, in which the winner is awarded the Boss Events Handicap Cup, started at the end of September 2025. Sedgfield Squash Club's 1st team battled through the group stages, won their quarter final match, and played a thrilling semi-final against Barnard Castle, winning 3-2 by the slimmest of margins. Sunday 19 April saw them play in the final against the Norton 1st team. Unfortunately, Sedgfield weren't able to secure the cup, losing 4-1, though each match was close, and provided great entertainment for spectators.

The 2025/26 season is now at a close for the club's ladies and senior teams in the Durham & Cleveland Leagues. After a slow start, Sedgfield's ladies picked up their form in the latter part of the season, finishing a creditable third place, with Durham University Ladies winning that league. The 1st team again finished runners up in the top division. Unfortunately, Sedgfield's 2nd team, who were promoted into that division for the first time last season, were relegated. The 3rd team, who were promoted to Division 2 last season, were relegated, and will now play in the same division as the 4th team, who finished a creditable fourth. Finally, the 5th team, Sedgfield's development team, competed well in Division 4 with some great performances across the season from players of all ages.

Sedgfield's junior section, who are coached on a Saturday morning and Thursday evening, have now competed in several events across the county this season. The club is grateful to its team of England Squash qualified coaches for their dedication and for passing their experience on to the next generation.

The next update will feature news from the Sedgfield Squash Club Championships.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining the club, please get in touch by email at membership@sedgfieldsquashclub.co.uk, including your contact number. You can find out more about the club at www.sedgfieldsquashclub.co.uk.

Sad update from the Friends of Hardwick Park



Two long term supporters of Hardwick Park have sadly passed away, Michael Rudd, a previous chair of the Friends of Hardwick and staunch supporter of the restoration we benefit from today, unfortunately died last month. Many may remember his weekly re-enactment of James Paine, landscape designer of Hardwick Park.



Michael Rudd, as James Paine

Recently we have also been told of the death of Richard Gater, longtime supporter of the Friends and Hardwick and volunteer ranger in the park. He too played a part in re-enacting the history of Hardwick Park.



From Sedgefield News October 2006 edition Left to right: John Fitzpatrick, Lesley Fitzpatrick, Richard Gater, Catherine Grezo, Tom Stubbs, Gloria Wills and Tony Smith

Local History Projects Reach Their Conclusion

Two major projects led by the Thorpe Thewles History Group (TTHG) are now drawing to a close. Readers may remember the story, featured in the January 2026 edition of Sedgefield News, of the antique diaries of David McLaren, discovered at a car boot sale. The diaries, which vividly describe life in the years leading up to the Great War, have since been transcribed and turned into a full-length documentary supported by a National Lottery grant.

The documentary will be screened at Sedgefield Library at 2pm on Thursday 21 May 2026. Tickets are available from the library.



Meanwhile, TTHG are also completing work on the Thorpe/Carlton Cross project, first covered in the October 2025 edition. The cross fragments, found in the garden rockery of a former farmhouse, have been examined by experts from Durham and York Universities, who confirmed them to be early medieval, dating to the 10th century, and Anglo-Scandinavian in origin. More information can be found at thorpe-thewles.org.uk/the-carlton-thorpe-cross/.



adverts@
sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk

HARDWICK HALL HOTEL
SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2026
HELD IN THE HARDWICK TAVERNA 12pm - 6pm
THE BIG FAT GREEK FEST EXPERIENCE
NAKIPIN TWIRLING GALORE | AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD
TRAVEL TO THE FICTIONAL ISLAND OF KALOKAIRI WITH US
• LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM A CAST OF 20+
• LIVE ABBA TRIBUTE SHOW
• GREEK FOOD & WELCOME COCKTAIL
• DANCERS, SINGERS, ACROBATS & MUCH MORE
• VIP SEATING & DRINKS PACKAGES AVAILABLE
STANDARD TICKET FROM ONLY £40PP
SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS
BOOK AT HARDWICKHALLHOTEL.CO.UK
Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield, Co. Durham TS21 2EH. 01740 620253
Any special diets must be confirmed in advance.

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based in Sedgefield
For quality one-to-one hairdressing in the comfort of your own home
With over 40 years experience, I can offer a full range of hairdressing for ladies, gents and children of all ages—seniors discounts
Appointments available daytime, teatime and evening
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www.cooperandbarr.co.uk
sedgefield@cooperandbarr.co.uk

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General & cosmetic dentistry with friendly, quality care.
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01740 621040
sedgefielddental.co.uk
hello@sedgefielddental.co.uk



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COUNSELLING
& SUPERVISION

Pauline Forster-Fowler
Qualified Counsellor & Clinical Supervisor
MBACP (Accred)

Expert support – personal approach
CLOSE offers a safe, confidential space to unpack or unpick whatever is preying on your mind, affecting your day-to-day living or to support your professional journey. Focus can be past, present or future, and is always client centred.

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- Sessions in person in Sedgefield or Online -
Adults over 18 only
*You are warmly invited
to reach out for more information.*

Call: 07955 769700
e-mail: paulineforsterfowler@outlook.com

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DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

May 2026

- Friday 1** **u3a Meeting**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. Keith Simpson on Castles and Fortifications in County Durham.
- Saturday 2** **Friendly Fixers** repair cafe, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm.
- Sunday 3** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am-12 noon.
- Monday 4** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm. Frances Wilson: The History of North East Seaside Holidays.
- Tuesday 5** **Sedgefield Annual Town Meeting**, 7pm, Sedgefield Parish Hall.
- Wednesday 6** **Sedgefield WI**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 7:15pm. Member's competition is an item of WI memorabilia. Visitors welcome (Fee £4 – includes refreshments).
- Thursday 7** **Sedgefield Parkinson's Group**, 11am, The Cafe at NetPark. Welcomes anyone living with Parkinson's and their family and friends to their drop-in social. For more information, contact Cara Connolly on 020 7963 3693 or cconnolly@parkinsons.org.uk.
- Friday 8** **David Attenborough 100th Birthday Walk**, 9:30am, Hardwick Park. For more information and to book a place, please visit www.durhamwt.com/events.
- Sunday 10** **Dawn(ish) Chorus Walk**, 6:30am, Skerne Wood at NETPark, booking essential at woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk
- Saturday 16** **Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre**, 10am-4pm, see front page for details.
- Tuesday 19** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers. Clients must be accompanied.
- Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am. Patti Dawson: A special place.
- Friday 22** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-12pm. Donation of £2.
- Friday 29** **Sedgefield District Uniformed Service Group Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.

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, Ceddesfeld Hall.

Pop-in Club at Ceddesfeld Hall

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

Speed Quiz at Hardwick Arms

Every Thursday at 8pm in the Hardwick Lounge Bar.

Quiz at The Dun Cow

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

From Loft to Loved Craft Groups

Every Wednesday (10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm, 5pm-7pm, 7pm-9pm). Sewing groups every Thursday (10am-12pm, 12:30pm-2:30pm). Places need to be pre-booked. Visit us or call on 07833 226676.

Move County Durham

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

Sedgefield Library

Wednesday 9:30am – 12:30pm
Thursday 10am – 6pm
Friday 1pm – 7pm
Saturday 9:30am – 12:30pm
durham.gov.uk/sedgefieldlibrary.

One Step Forward

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

parkrun & junior parkrun

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

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

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