

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

November 2024

Submission deadline for the next edition: Thursday 14 November

Award winners



Left to right: Ned Hampson, Chloe Bruce (middle) and Allison Usher with Fun Club children

Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club, which



provides essential before and after-school care and holiday programmes, has been highly commended for the 'Out of School Club of the Year' award - effectively coming second from over 120 entries nationwide.

Additionally, Allison Usher, the Club's chairperson and a dedicated volunteer for 19 years, has won in the category of 'Support Worker of the Year'. Helen Ainscough, Fun Club Manager, said: "We are so pleased with the commendation and feel it demonstrates all the hard work that the staff team do, their passion for Fun Club and the dedication they display.

Allison's win was fantastic news, we nominated her as a team without her knowledge to thank her for all of her hard work and many years (19) volunteering. Allison is chair of our committee that currently has 7 volunteers. She is a huge support to the club and really deserves this win, as without her we would not have the amazing facility and service that we provide to the community today."

Established in 1994, Sedgefield Fun Club, a non-profit, registered charity located on the grounds of Sedgefield Primary School, has grown to provide care for up to 53 children per session, with more than 130 children currently on roll.

Over her 19 years of voluntary service, Allison has been instrumental in spearheading transformative projects, including fundraising for a purpose built facility which opened in 2017 and navigating the Club through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Allison said: "I've been with Fun Club for nearly two decades because I believe in the difference we make for families and children. Seeing the children grow, learn and enjoy their time here is incredibly rewarding. It came as a complete shock to discover that Fun Club staff had nominated me for this award and a very pleasant surprise to win. Fun Club's commendation is a result of the excellent staff team and the governing committee, all volunteers, each individual plays a vital role."

Meanwhile, Lynne Watson, manager at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, has won the BBC Tees Make a Difference Award 2024 for Fundraising.



Lynne has, in recent years, raised £1m to save the Fishburn Community Centre from demolition creating eight jobs.



Lynne Watson with her award

STOP PRESS: Lynne has done it again and has secured £181,590 from the National Lottery Community Fund for the Centre to help secure the services that it provides!

COUNTY DURHAM YFC
CHRISTMAS FAYRE
SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2024
11:00AM - 2:00PM
SEDGEFIELD PARISH HALL
STALLHOLDERS WANTED!

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SCHOOL NEWS

Community College Open Evening

On Thursday 3 October, Sedgefield Community College were delighted to welcome many parents, carers and children for our annual school open evening. During the event, our guests were able to attend one of two talks from the Headteacher in order to find out more about our values and the reasons why we believe we're an excellent school that can support all of our young people to achieve their full potential.

The highlight of the event was the chance for families and our potential future students to tour the school, speaking to members of staff and current students to find out more about what life at SCC is really like. Among the many highlights of the evening was the opportunity to visit our very own Italian café in Food Technology or participate in a range of sporting activities including table tennis or rowing!

A particular highlight of the evening for many of our guests was the invitation to join our grand 'Giraffe Hunt'! The team in Art had created a number of model giraffes painted in the style of well-known artists and the challenge was to spot every one of these around the school! Well done to all of the children who were successful and spotted them all!

For anyone who is interested in applying to SCC for September 2025, further information is provided in our school prospectus that is available at this link: sedgefield.laidlawsschoolstrust.co.uk/21/prospectus.



Scientific Discoveries & Investigative Learning



Sedgefield Primary School places a strong emphasis on scientific enquiry skills and investigative learning. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) pupils enjoy investigating their local environment through mini learning walks. A forest school approach to exploring our wonderful outdoor woodland on-site environment is embraced in the EYFS curriculum. Our fabulous recent addition to our school facilities of Sedgefield Primary's own individual outdoor classroom supports this approach for the whole school.

We are so grateful to our wonderful PTFA for all their support and the successful Back To School Carnival to support this new initiative for the whole school. Pupils and teachers alike are very excited to put this new resource of an outdoor on-site classroom to good use. One pupil said, "I can't wait to be outside where I'm at my happiest, but still able to learn."



During science sessions, Year 5 pupils have been working in cooperative groups, chalking orbits of the solar system in the sunshine. This hands-on activity enables pupils to prepare for their exciting workshop, which will be taking part in the science labs at The Life Centre in Newcastle next month. Pupils can't wait for this science trip and exciting experience to take place.



Investigative biology has been a theme in Year 6, who have been studying pigs' hearts in this interactive approach to scientific discovery. Pupils throughout the whole school from age 3 upwards are enthused by their scientific discoveries.

New Logo For Sedgefield Memory Café

Alice Williams, a Year 4 pupil at Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Academy, has won a competition to design the new logo for Sedgefield Memory Café, which provides vital support for individuals living with dementia and their carers.

Sedgefield Hardwick worked with the Memory Café as part of their Community Impact Offer and Alice's design was chosen from numerous entries submitted by her peers, impressing the panel of judges with its creativity and meaningful representation of the café's mission. Her logo features a vibrant, welcoming design that beautifully captures the spirit of togetherness and compassion that Sedgefield Memory Café fosters.

"I wanted to create something that showed how the café is a warm and loving place," Alice explained. "I used green in my design as this is a colour that people with dementia usually associate with while the flowers link with the previous logo." The new logo will soon be displayed on all of the café's promotional materials, including the banner which was

produced by JOJOES Merchandising. Representatives from the café expressed their delight with Alice's work, noting how well it reflects the café's purpose of offering comfort and community to those who need it most.

Sedgefield Memory Café serves as a lifeline for many local residents by offering a safe space for individuals with dementia and their carers to share experiences, access support and form friendships. The café's team were keen to involve the younger generation in their efforts to raise awareness and reduce the stigma surrounding dementia, making Alice's contribution particularly special.



SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*



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



Next event:

Saturday 2 November from 2pm

Everyone is welcome to the Woodland and Wildlife site at NETPark, to join in with some autumnal activities, including:

- site tidying and litter picking
- path clearing
- planting donated tree whips
- transferring our 1-year-old tree seedlings into individual containers, to grow on.



Any donations of 1 litre card containers (e.g. juice/soya milk) would be appreciated on the day, as the seedlings will be planted into them.

Hope to see you there!

For further information on the project or to volunteer with us, please contact Melissa at woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or join our Facebook page - Woodland & Wildlife - Sedgefield.



If you need some help or can offer help, contact us at:

homework@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk.

Anniversary for Fixers

October saw two full years of Friendly Fixers meeting on the first Saturday of the month at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.



Over the two years we have had 286 items brought in for repair. The majority have been electrical, but fixers have also tackled sewing, furniture, sharpening, and ceramics. Some of the more unusual items include a barometer, shooting stick, music box and a cat scratching post. Many thanks to the fixers for giving their time and expertise, and to those who have chosen to fix rather than ditch.



THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA LOAN SCHEME

A project by Sedgefield Development Trust

By the time this edition goes to print, most people on the current list should have been given a time slot to collect the device of their choice from our friends at Mess Charcuterie on North End.

We have 3 devices; two which link to your Android or iOS mobile phone, the third is a standalone thermal camera, the HIKMICRO, from which results can be seen on the viewfinder and/or be exported to your computer.



All 3 models come with a comprehensive guide to use and suitable connection cables. The loan period is one week, Saturday - Saturday and the device must be returned in good time for the next borrower. To be sure that you are getting best value from your heating system, take the opportunity to find out where heat may be escaping from your home. Fill in a booking form at sedgefieldweb.co.uk/thermalimaging.html.

More things to do

Following up on last month's front page feature on keeping busy this winter, we have a couple more local activities to add to the list:

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers meet every Wednesday at Ceddesfeld Hall (in an upstairs room) except in the first week of the month when we meet on a Thursday (one of us likes to go to the W.!!) We start at 7:30 and finish at 9pm.



We have great fun, laughing at our mistakes when we try new pieces and get a great sense of satisfaction when we master a piece of music. Recently, we have played for a W.I, a Catholic social group and a care home and have had several requests for bookings in the near future. We are now finding ourselves a bit short in numbers as we have lost a few members through ill-health and we would love to welcome new participants. No previous experience is required though it is a great advantage to be able to read music. Anyone interested would be welcome to pop in and see what we do or for more information call Alison 01740 620912, Joan 01740 622871 or Tricia 01740 469208. **Zazz Girls Can** is a ladies fitness class which is largely attended by retired ladies. It runs on Thursday mornings at 8:30am in the Parish Hall. It is a friendly, fun, varied class consisting of dance, box fitness, toning, circuits and yoga inspired stretch. For further information call Sharon Gooch on 07766 700892.



Christmas Wreath Workshop 2024

Make your own Luxurious 24" Christmas Wreaths

Sunday 1st December
10am-12:30pm
Ceddesfeld Hall
Sedgefield TS21 2AE

All materials will be provided including festive greenery, Cinnamon, Dried Fruit, Pine cones, berries and tons of choices of luxury ribbons

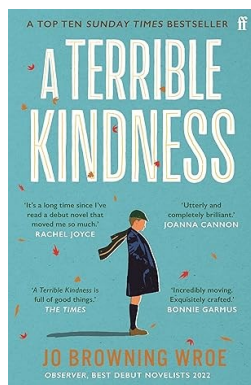
All for £40
 including refreshments
 To book please
 07523398922



U3A UPDATE

u3a

At our meeting on 4 October, Dave Dean returned and, this time, told us about the Hidden North East. He gave us lots of fascinating information and facts about events in our local area over the past two hundred years or so. Who knew about the Great Fire of Newcastle in 1864 or how Darlington's Macmullen Rd gained its name - to mention just two? Our Book Club reviewed *A Terrible Kindness* by Jo Browning Wroe. The group had mixed responses to this book which centred around how the Aberfan disaster affected the later life and relationships of just one man who had worked as an embalmer of the bodies of the young children recovered from the site. Most of our readers admired the writing skill but did not enjoy the use of Aberfan as a vehicle for the character's past.



However, the discussion revealed that the book resonated with many of the readers for many different reasons and a score of 7/10 was given. The Creative Writing Group is busy writing their Modern Pantomime which is to be featured in a radio broadcast over the Christmas period. More details on that very shortly! The Theatre Group visited Sunderland Empire where the group very much enjoyed *Wicked*, a prequel to *The Wizard of Oz*. Again, another wonderful evening of theatre, music and dance! Unfortunately our projected trip to Newby Hall had to be cancelled because of the atrocious weather. As it is now closed until Easter, we hope to rearrange the visit for next summer. We opened our trip to Alwick to non-members and were very pleasantly surprised by the response. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the day and we hope to repeat the experiment for another venue. The Lunch Club tried another new venue when they visited Maximo's at Castle Eden. This received another thumbs up and will be added to the list to revisit. Members from the Science and Industry Group took advantage of the Open Day at the Tees Pumping Station in Darlington which had been

STEVE'S NATURE DIARY NOVEMBER 2024

When you are out and about at this time year, you notice that most of the flowers have stopped flowering and the bird song has faded away, but there are still plenty of things to look out for. The other day it was a cool crisp morning and I managed to find one of my favourite mushrooms - the shaggy inkcap. Luckily it is an unmistakable fungus, easily recognised - it has a tall, narrow, cylindrical cap that is white and very 'shaggy' with 'scales' over its surface. The cap gradually opens out to a bell shape. The gills are very crowded; they are white at first, then turn pink and eventually black, dissolving from the margin of the cap until it is almost entirely gone. It has a number of other names including 'lawyer's wig' and 'shaggy mane'. It is widespread and common on roadside verges, parkland, grassland and gardens, growing in small groups.



Shaggy inkcap mushroom

The next day I spotted a very strange thing - what can only be described as a mess at the bottom of a tree. At first I thought it was dog sick - I poked it with a stick wondering what it was. Later that day I read a blog and realised what it was - Dog sick slime mould - it can turn up on grass overnight and is most common in September/October. It doesn't stick around though! After one night it will turn black, and it will have disappeared in a couple of days, especially if it has rained. 'Slime mould' is an informal name given to several kinds of unrelated organisms that can live freely as single cells, but some can also clump together to form larger structures (plasmodia). Once considered to be fungi, slime moulds are now recognised as a completely different kingdom of single-celled organisms, called protists, that more closely resemble amoeba. There are some 900 known species of slime mould worldwide, and there are likely to be hundreds more unknown species. They vary greatly in their colour, size and form. Slime moulds typically occur in cool, moist, shady places like crevices within decaying wood. They have some interesting descriptive names including wolf's milk, cauliflower slime mould and many-headed slime mould. Some slime moulds can tolerate toxic metals, and the scrambled egg slime uses its special powers (the yellow pigment that gives it its colour) to make the metals harmless. Look out for this magic slime in your garden this autumn after heavy rain. It loves to grow on the wood chips that are often put around plants. As November progresses this is a good time to look for fungi and slime moulds before we get the hard frosts of winter.

the subject of one of our speakers earlier this year. They were able to marvel at the skill and expertise of the Victorian engineers who took water from the River Tees and circulated the cleaned and purified water to homes and businesses in Darlington and Teesside. Of course, all our other groups continue to meet to learn new skills or expand their knowledge. We're not at all a serious or pompous group and really believe in our mantra - Live, Laugh and Learn. There is really no need to be bored or lonely in retirement; come along and see what the u3a can offer to fill your time at sedgfield.u3asite.uk. Our next meeting is on 1 November, 2-4pm in the Parish Hall so do come along to listen to our speaker and to see what the rest of our year holds - what visits, events and speakers we have planned. We look forward to another full house with members and guests joining us then. Guests are required to pay a cover charge of £3 but this is refunded from the yearly subscription if you become a member.

Chris Balfour



Sedgefield
Primary School
Learning Together for Life

Do you have an interest in shaping the education of the children of Sedgefield and skills you could offer?

Sedgefield Primary School is looking for a new member of our governing body who has skills to contribute and an interest in education. Training and support will be provided.

Our governors are friendly, welcoming and dedicated. They thoroughly enjoy their role and find it interesting and rewarding.

If you are interested in finding out more, please ring the Headteacher, Andrea Cox, on 01740 620359 or send in an email to sedgfield.primary@durhamlearning.net and she will be happy to discuss the role in more detail. The closing date for expressions of interest is 29 November 2024.

LETTERS

The impassable path

Where is the impassable public path in Sedgefield?

As a resident of Sedgefield I'm disconcerted to find that a signposted public path in the centre of the village is virtually impassable. I refer to the pathway between East End and West End.

To be blunt it is a disgrace. It does not appear to have been maintained in any way for quite a while. It is so overgrown in places that people who have used it in the past have nicknamed it "The Impassable Path". In fact, people with mobility issues are unable to use this pathway and many people without mobility issues have problems negotiating it as well. I have recently discovered that there is a dispute as to who is responsible for its maintenance, Sedgefield Town Council or Durham County Council. It should be pointed out that there is street lighting in the pathway so one would assume it would be the County Council, however, I have not had this confirmed.

I have discussed this issue with the local ward councillors and county councillors but, as yet, have still not received any logical answers as to why it hasn't been maintained. In the meantime the path is becoming even more overgrown and impassable.

Brian

Join us at our local Parkinson's Café

PARKINSONSSM
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.



Meeting in Sedgefield on the first Thursday of each month at 11am. Come along and join this friendly group, connecting with others affected by Parkinson's. Get in touch for up to date meeting details, current meeting place is the Dun Cow Inn.

Contact Cara Connolly by email cconnolly@parkinsons.org.uk or by phone 07973 900823.

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.

Aurora Borealis in Hardwick Park

October gave us a rare opportunity to catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights, also known as the Aurora Borealis. Many thanks to Paul Heasman for his beautiful image of the lights over the Temple of Minerva in Hardwick Park.



Changing Places



County Durham's network of Changing Places toilets has expanded, making it easier for people with disabilities and their carers to plan and enjoy days out. Facilities are now in place at Durham Bus Station, at The Story in Durham, Locomotion in Shildon, Raby Castle, Dunes Café in Crimdon and at Hardwick Park.

Each facility provides a clean and safe space for people with multiple and complex disabilities who are accompanied by one or two carers. In addition to accessible toilets, they also include equipment such as hoists, privacy screens and adult changing benches. From exploring picturesque parks and heritage attractions to trips to the seaside – Changing Places toilets open up the county to people with disabilities and their carers.



Margaret's magnificent morning for Macmillan



Every year, Margaret Dickerson hosts a Macmillan Cancer Support coffee morning, to raise money for the charity.

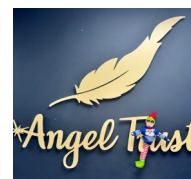
Macmillan encourages organisations and individuals to organise an event every September, for what it describes as the "world's biggest coffee morning". Margaret's coffee morning is certainly sizable and raised a very impressive sum of £540 this year. Margaret wants to express her thanks to everyone who supported the event, either by baking and helping out, or attending on the day. And thanks and well done to Margaret too - what a brilliant effort for such a good cause!

Angel Trust Elf Run

Get ready to lace up your trainers for Angel Trust's naughty but nice "Elf run" taking place on Sunday 1 December 2024

from 11am at Hardwick Park. Entries are £10 for adults, £8 for children or a family ticket is available.

Details are on the website at: shorturl.at/RIE9C or you can call 01388 737270 to register. Office open Mon-Fri 9:30am - 4pm.



"What Are You Waiting For?"

Sedgefield Area Churches Together will be holding an Advent Event on **Saturday 30th November** in Sedgefield Methodist Church, and everyone is warmly invited.

It will start with coffee at **10 am** (alongside the regular coffee morning) and continue with presentations, readings and discussion on the theme of waiting for the coming of Jesus. A light lunch will be provided before the afternoon session and the event will end by **2 pm**. These SACT ecumenical get-togethers are always interesting, friendly and thought-provoking, so please come along for a few hours' escape from the usual whirlwind of pre-Christmas activity and enjoy an opportunity to explore the real meaning of Advent.

ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Songbird

Well what an awesome night! Lirica performed their main concert of the year, 'Songbird'. Ceddesfeld Hall was buzzing with excitement as the audience listened to 13 talented musicians singing such a wonderful variety of songs. Favourites included were 'Big Yellow Taxi', 'Sleep', 'Songbird', 'Lullabye', 'Crossing The Bar' and 'One Day More'.

No wonder it was a sell out performance as we were treated to their tight harmonies, soaring melodies and overall engaging performance.

Alistair was an absolute marvel as Lirica's accompanist. We're so lucky to have these incredible musicians on our doorstep.



We next look forward to hearing Lirica as part of the Lyric Singers, Lirica and SLYC performing Sedgefield's choirs' Christmas Concert: A Rhapsody of Christmas which will be an exhilarating programme of seasonal arrangements sparkled with snippets of festive strains secreted within each song.



Join us in St. Edmund's Church to hear this joyous offering and see how many hidden gems you can spot. Tickets: £7 & £5 (U16s) available from members of your choirs and at Tickety-Boo from mid-November. Friday 13 & Saturday 14 December, 7:30pm in St Edmund's Church. Sedgefield Lyric Singers

Hardwick Park Story Time

Step into Story Time at Hardwick Park combines outdoor play, crafting and heart-warming tales for toddlers and their parents during November.

Forthcoming events feature hardy perennial 'Whatever Next!' (which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2023) and the evergreen 'Oh Christmas Tree'.

For times, dates and tickets visit durham.gov.uk/hardwickevents.



Cramlington Train Wreckers

This new play chronicles the fascinating story of the general strike of 1926, during which The Flying Scotsman was derailed at Cramlington. Relive this seismic period of our local history in a marvellous production from the Wisecrack team who brought us *Wor Bella*, *Hadaway Harry*, and *Carrying David*.

They tour locations including Bishop Auckland and Barnard Castle this month.

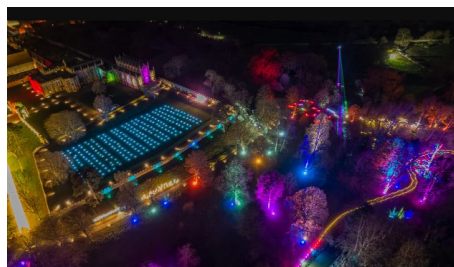
cramlingtontrainwreckers.co.uk/tour-dates.



AGLOW at Auckland Palace

See Auckland Palace's gardens and grounds as you never have before from 22 November.

With the site transformed by 22 light installations, some of which are new for 2024, it promises to be more spectacular than ever! Visit aucklandaglow.org for tickets and a video preview of the display.



More local events:

Speak Soon: A New Musical, Sedgefield Parish Hall

Tim Jasper is returns to Sedgefield with the original musical 'Speak Soon'. Friday 8 November at 7:30pm. Tickets are available from Dave Jasper on 07791 030886 priced at £12 (£10 concessions) or from TicketSource.



Most Haunted: The Stage Show, Billingham Forum

The ground-breaking and fondly-remembered 'Most Haunted' TV show comes to the stage with an acclaimed supernatural theatrical experience. Friday 15 November, 7:30pm £29.50 forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk/show/most-haunted-the-stage-show/.



An Evening With: Franc Roddam

The world-renowned local-born filmmaker talks all things *Auf Wiedersehen Pet* and *Quadrophenia*. Thursday 7 November 6pm £18 arconline.co.uk/whats-on/an-evening-with-franc-roddam/.



SPORTS UPDATE with Chris Lines chrisjlines@aol.com

As I write this, news has just emerged that Sir Chris Hoy has terminal cancer. Sir Chris is without doubt one of the greats of cycling, and indeed sport in general. He won six Olympic gold medals between 2004 and 2012, among many other medals in a glittering career. More than that, Sir Chris was the unofficial in-the-saddle leader of British Cycling, and a role model and inspiration for everyone in the team during his era, and those who have followed. I once heard or read an interview with the team manager, who had a huge framed photograph of, put bluntly, Sir Chris Hoy's Lycra-clad backside, on a saddle, heading away from the camera. The interviewer asked why this was on the wall and the interviewee replied that it was to remind him and his team that they were all there to support Sir Chris. In another way, I'm sure that the whole nation is supporting him now.

Cricket

Following its presentation evening in October, Sedgefield Cricket Club can now fully reflect on the 2024 season. With an impressive run of form in the final third of the season, the 1st XI comfortably allayed any fears of relegation and finished mid-table. With a cup in the bag too, it was a satisfactory season. On the downside, player availability was challenging at times and this filtered down to the 2nd and 3rd XIs who increasingly relied on a mixture of youth and creaking-jointed, out-of-retirement seniors.

All of the junior sides had good seasons and this remains one area in which the club is strong. The boys' U17 team once again won the league and the U12s came within a whisker of winning the County Cup. The club is already on the lookout for additional players for the 2025 season, so if anyone is interested, they are encouraged to get in touch.

The club's AGM will be held on Monday 4 November, at 7pm. Members should all have received their notification by the time they read this and it is anticipated that, as in recent years, there will be a healthy turnout.

One vacancy to be filled is that of Club Secretary following the recent resignation for health reasons, of club stalwart John Walker. Everyone at the club would like to thank John for his many years, both as a committee volunteer and valued sponsor, and warm wishes are extended to him for his recovery. During the off-season, the bar will be open on Wednesday to Friday evenings, and all day at the weekend. Extra opening nights will depend upon televised football games.

Squash

Sedgefield Squash Club's season is well and truly underway, with numerous events every week. The in-house structure is booming, with fourteen leagues, representing a wide cross section of ages and abilities playing every month.

It is still early days in the Durham & Cleveland League, but the 1st, 3rd and 4th teams are currently sitting top of their respective divisions. The 2nd team and ladies' team have only played one match so far due to fixture changes, with the 5th team sitting mid table after some great away wins. Hopefully, the December edition of the Sedgefield News will reflect continued success.

As always, the Sedgefield Squash Club is keen to promote health and fitness for everyone and is focusing on getting kids involved in squash over the next few weeks. The club's England Squash qualified coaches run programmes for junior members throughout the autumn and spring terms, early on Thursday evenings, and on Saturday mornings. The club is always keen for new members to join, and can be contacted at info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk. Additionally, England Squash is running a junior programme called Squash Stars for children aged 5-9. More information, and joining instructions are available on the England Squash website at www.squashstars.co.uk/Play.

Duathlon

The annual Kielder Marathon weekend took place in early October, with two days of races, including a 10k, half marathon, full marathon, junior events and a gravel duathlon (run-bike-run) for individuals and teams. The gravel duathlon involves a 10k run, followed by a 34k bike leg, and finishes with a 6k run. It follows an undulating course around Kielder Water, including plenty of challenging ascents.

There was plenty of success for Sedgefield competitors this year. In the individual event, Sedgefield Harrier Peter Milburn was 20th overall and won the V60 category in a time of two hours 48 minutes and 11 seconds. Ray Carmichael also completed the gruelling race in 3:15:37. The team event was won by the 'Sedgefield Specials', featuring Harrier Chris Lines on the opening leg, Ferryhill Wheeler Ian Dunn on the bike, and anchored by Harrier Roger Whitehill. The team in second place was from Newcastle University and also had a strong Sedgefield connection, as Tom Hearmon was on the bike leg. All of the Sedgefield participants were given encouragement around the course by other members of the Hearmon family, as Angus and Christine were part of the army of volunteers up at Kielder.

Athletics

Winter is coming, and cross country season has already arrived. For Sedgefield Harriers, this means a return of the North East Harrier League, with a series of fixtures around the region. This year's opener was at the end of September, just up the road at Thornley Farm, and Sedgefield was well represented.

There was an encouraging turnout of junior Harriers, who delivered some great performances. Phoebe Grievson was eighth in the U11 girls' race, with Tilli Lewis not far behind in 14th. In the U13 boys' race, Karl Thompson was 16th, With Cameron McGill in 31st and Matthew Graham 33rd. Jess Davis claimed a great third place in the U13 girls' event and Daisy Woodward was 31st in the U15 girls' race. In the always competitive boy's U17 category, James Taylor was 36th. Plenty of senior Harriers were also in action. Six women competed and the team finished sixth in Division 3, which was an excellent start to the season. The four 'counters' were Sadie Abel, Rosie Warnett, Sarah Maloney and Christine Hearmon, and Sue Dobson and Trina Price also ran strongly. The men started their third season in Division 2, once again competing against some of the biggest clubs in the region. They finished ninth at Thornley the six counters were David Walker, Mil Walton, Justin Cox, Roger Whitehill, Stuart Ord and Chris Lines. Stuart Park, Ray Carmichael and Ben Smale also ran, with more Harriers lining up to take part in future fixtures, demonstrating that the club has good strength in depth.

A lot of Harriers have also been tackling marathons and other road and trail races in recent weeks, with more to come at the time of writing this. I'll round up those performances next month (including the rest of the Kielder Marathon weekend events).



Roger Whitehill secures victory for the Sedgefield Specials at the 2024 Kielder Gravel Duathlon

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

CEDESSELD HALL

Autumn time is well and truly here, with darker evenings and colder days. However, the lawns and grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall look stunning in the autumn sunshine. Very special thanks must go to the dedicated, hardworking Sedgefield in Bloom volunteers, who do so much to improve the area around the Ceddesfeld Hall.

Ceddesfeld Hall bar is delighted to have been awarded a prestigious entry into the '2025 CAMRA Good Beer' guide. This achievement is down to the enthusiasm and hard work of the dedicated bar committee and volunteers. During 2024, large scale work was carried out to move, improve and modernise cold storage facilities at the hall. This has resulted in increased scope to store a larger range of beers and to include smaller as well as larger barrels. Typically, there are two real ales on offer (usually one light and one dark at £3 a pint), supplied by local breweries. Atlantic pale ale and lager is also available. The bar and lounge are open Monday to Thursday from 7:30pm to 10:30pm, and to 11pm every Friday. We'd love to see you!

Events @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Fireworks and Halloween Howler on Friday 1 November at 6:30pm

Admission into Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds (with pumpkins for judging) from 5:45pm to 6:20pm. Adult £3, child under 16, £2 - tickets from STC offices (9am to 1pm) and Ceddesfeld Hall bar (7:30pm to 10:30pm). Sedgefield Scouts will be selling hot chocolate and hot dogs.

Mayor's Quiz on Saturday 23 November at 7:30pm

Tickets £5, from STC offices.

Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 30 November from 1pm to 4pm

This event is part of STC Snow Party & Parade. The Fayre will take place in the main hall with the community bar open until 7pm. Refreshments (teas, coffees, cakes and biscuits) served by Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group (SDUSG).

Christmas Wreath Workshop on Sunday 1 December, 10am to 12:30pm

Make your own 2024 Christmas wreath, with all materials provided (cinnamon, dried fruit, berries, pinecones, luxury ribbon), all for £40, including refreshments. Contact 07523 398922 to book a place.

Mulled Wine & Mince Pies on Friday 20 December at 7pm

This event will take place following the Churches Together 'Carols on the Green' in the bar and lounge. Sedgefield Smile Time Ukulele Band will perform at 7pm in the main hall.

SCA Christmas Eve Quiz on Tuesday 24 December at 8pm

Free event, with doors open from 7.30pm. Teams of 6 or less. Bar open.

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.



Christmas Trees!

What to do with your real Christmas tree once the festivities are over?



Sedgefield in Bloom group are again organising a collection of trees on Wednesday 8 January. It couldn't be easier. Simply get in touch with us on ChairSIB@gmail.com or call 07443 606907 and for a donation of £5 we will collect it from you and recycle (courtesy of AW Treecare). All monies raised will go directly towards planting and projects in Sedgefield, helping us to keep Sedgefield Blooming.

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DIARY & EVENTS

Please send information to diary.sedgefieldnews@gmail.com

November 2024

- Friday 1** **Sedgefield in Bloom Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am. Please come along and join us for a coffee morning with a Halloween theme. Co-op Funeralcare will be selling poppies for the Royal British Legion.
- Sedgefield and District U3A**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm. A talk by Mark Braithwaite, A notorious Teesside murder, the first double jeopardy case. Visitors welcome, £3.
- Saturday 2** **Friendly Fixers**, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Repair café.
- Sunday 3** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am-12:30pm.
St. Edmund's Church Annual Memorial Service, 4pm.
- Monday 4** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. A Walk in the Park (South Park, Darlington) with Chris Lloyd.
- Wednesday 6** **Sedgefield WI**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm. A talk by Chris Lloyd of the Northern Echo, members' competition is an item beginning with "N". Visitors welcome, fee is £4.
- Friday 8** **St. Edmund's Church Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-12pm. Please join us.
- The original musical Speak Soon**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm, with cash bar and raffle. Tickets £12 and £10 for concessions, from Dave on 07791 030886.
- Sunday 10** **Remembrance Service**, St Edmund's Church, 10am followed by a gathering at the Turning Circle.
- Monday 11** **Armistice Day Commemoration**, St. Luke's Church, near NETPark, 10:45am. Hosted by the Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group.
- Tuesday 12** **Open Mic Night**, Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall, 7:30pm. Hosted by The Gastric Band. £5 per person.
- Friday 15** **Autumn Family Quiz Night**, Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall. Families are welcome. Bring your own drinks and snacks. Some refreshments available to buy. £3 per person.
- Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-11:45am. Tea/coffee and scones.
- Tuesday 19** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30pm. Open Night Flower Demonstration by Ros Harrison - "Winter Wonders". Members £5, guests £8.
- Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers.
- Friday 22** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-11:30am. £2 for tea/coffee plus scone/cake. All welcome.
- Saturday 23** **Sedgefield Games Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, from 6pm. Come along and play a variety of board games. £2.50.
- Mayor's Quiz**, Ceddesfeld Hall. Doors open at 7:30pm, the quiz starts at 8pm. Tickets £5.
- Sunday 24** **County Durham Young Farmers Club Christmas Fayre**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 11am-2pm. Stallholders wanted.
- Friday 29** **Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.
- Saturday 30** **Sedgefield Area Churches Together Advent Event**, Sedgefield Methodist Church, 10am. See Page 5 for details.

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Book Circle, 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 2pm.

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Lego Club
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Digital Drop-In
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Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group
Methodist Church on Mondays from 9:30am to 11am (except Bank Holidays). Suitable for babies, toddlers and pre-school children. Please follow us on Facebook for regular updates.

Little Movers
Fletcher Room at the Sedgefield Parish Hall every Thursday from 10am, places need to be booked on the Little Movers' (Stockton) website. A second class for babies follows the session.

Making Tracks
Railway Society Club Night every Wednesday evening from 7:30pm to 10pm in the Kell Room at Ceddesfeld Hall. New members welcome, under 13s to be accompanied by an adult.

Sedgefield Social Club
Singer every fortnight, see "Sedgefield Social Club Official" Facebook page for details.

Sedgefield Carpet Bowls
Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. The first three afternoons are a free trial and then you have the option to become a member.

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
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