

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

September 2025

Submission deadline for the next edition: Sunday 14 September



*An early Sedgefield District RUFC squad*



*Senior members of Sedgefield Harriers in 2007*

## Celebrating 120 years of sporting success

Three of Sedgefield's successful sports clubs are celebrating major anniversaries in 2025, and each of them has a great and distinct story to tell.

Founded by Alan Hall in the same year that The Beatles released Rubber Soul and Help!, Sedgefield St Edmund's Football Club is 60 years old this year. Sedgefield District Rugby Union Football Club was formed by student nurses from Winterton Hospital in the same year as Live Aid and is still rocking all over the North East at 40. Sticking with the musical references, not long after the Live 8 concert in 2005, an invitation to go for a run was printed in Sedgefield News, which turned out to be the genesis of Sedgefield Harriers, now 20.

We asked the three clubs to give Sedgefield News an insight into their origins, key moments from their history, and aspirations for the future. They all delivered loads of great material – in fact, we've got far too much to include here! However, none of it is going to waste. Pop over to the Sports page on [sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://sedgefieldweb.co.uk) to read full features about the clubs, and you can find their stories in summary on the sports page.

All three have rich histories and are shining examples of grass roots sport that's embedded in the community, and powered by volunteers. Along with Sedgefield's other sports clubs, they provide wonderful opportunities for people of every age to lead active lives, with all of the physical and mental health benefits that this brings. It's clear that in each club, the social aspect of what it offers is just as important as the sport itself, bringing people together in a positive, life affirming way that is really special.

Whether you're participating, helping out, or watching, clubs like Sedgefield St Edmund's Football Club, Sedgefield District Rugby Union Football Club and Sedgefield Harriers contribute a huge amount to society here. Sedgefield News raises a metaphorical glass to toast 120 years of success, and in anticipation of many decades more ahead!

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## SCHOOL NEWS

### A Capital Experience



In June, Year 6 pupils from Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Academy set off on an exciting four-day residential trip to London, creating memories that will last a lifetime. The whole residential was fully funded by the Laidlaw School Trust, ensuring that all pupils had access to this extraordinary experience!

The journey began with a bus ride to the capital, where the group stayed at a YHA hostel that quickly became their base for adventure. The first stop was nothing short of magical – the Harry Potter Studio Tour, where pupils explored iconic sets, props, and costumes from the world-famous films.



Day two was packed with some of London's most famous landmarks. Pupils visited St Paul's Cathedral before heading to Buckingham Palace to watch the Changing of the Guard. The day ended on a high with a trip to the West End to watch a dazzling performance of Matilda the Musical, which had everyone singing along.

On day three, pupils stepped back in time with a visit to the Tower of London, learning about its fascinating history and seeing the Crown Jewels. They then took in breathtaking views on a Thames River Cruise before experiencing the London Eye.

The final day of the residential took pupils to the Science Museum, where interactive exhibits brought learning to life and provided the perfect ending to the trip.

Headteacher, Paul Taylor, said: "We are so proud of how our Year 6 pupils represented the school throughout the trip. They threw themselves into every activity with enthusiasm, and it was wonderful to see them experiencing so many of London's cultural highlights together."

### Team Sedgefield

Throughout each school year, there are always many events and successes for the students who represent 'Team Sedgefield' and demonstrate their considerable sporting skills. Amongst the successes in the summer term, it was a wonderful achievement for our Year 7 football team to complete a league and cup double in their first year at the school!



As well as footballing success, 'Team Sedgefield' also performed brilliantly in the SWDSAA District and Athletics Championships that took place in the summer term. Our Year 7 boys, Year 8 boys, Year 10 boys and Year 10 girls all came second in their competitions.

Impressively, we also had no fewer than 11 of our students who qualified for the County Championships across a wide range of disciplines including 100m, 200m, 800m and a range of field events too. A special mention should also be made of our school dodgeball team who qualified for the national finals that took place in Stoke – a great achievement!

We have many students who represent SCC with distinction across multiple sports and, in order to recognise this, 41 students were awarded a Skills Builder Teamwork or Leadership badge in an assembly at the end of the school year.

All of the children nominated by our PE team have shown exceptional teamwork or leadership skills and they are now able to celebrate this and wear their reward badge with pride.

### Anniversary



On 30 July, Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club turned 30 years old. We celebrated by having a huge birthday party. We hired a 7ft mega slide, an inflatable disco dome, had a dance party with Stitch and Sonic and enjoyed yummy party food and 30th birthday cakes.

Peter and Jamie Hinde came to help us celebrate along with our councillors Chris Lines and Ian Catchpole.



*Some of our children with the Mayor and Stitch and Sonic*

This huge milestone leads us to reflect on 30 years of service to the community, what an amazing time we have had meeting thousands of children and families along the way. The staff team and the volunteer committee would like to thank all of our children and families, both past and present, for their continued support of Fun Club.



## SEDGEFIELD FARMERS MARKET

On the Green, First Sunday Morning Every Month.



**Sunday 7 September  
on the Village Green  
8:30am - 12:15pm**



### Find out more about Sedgefield Development Trust

Fancy getting involved? Whether you'd like to volunteer, participate or start a new project, we'd love to hear from you.

Pop into Ceddesfeld Hall on Saturday 27 September from 2pm to 4:30pm.

## British Air Racing

The Royal Aero Club Records, Racing and Rally Association returned to North East England on the weekend of the 26 and 27 July when Fishburn Airfield hosted a series of air races for the organisation.



The air races are handicap events where pilots launch into the race at a specific time, depending on the maximum speed of the aircraft that they fly. Slower aircraft launch first while the faster take off later. The pilots then navigate around up to five laps of a pre-determined course before crossing a finish line. The first aircraft to cross the finish line is the winner of the race. The handicap start is designed to ensure that piloting and navigational skill are the decisive factors in the race, not pure aircraft speed.

Discussing the skill involved in the race, Ben Polwin, the pilot of aircraft number 777 said, "The difference between winning and losing a race can be down to the smallest error. We need to visually acquire the turning points and try to pass them with a lateral separation of less than 10 meters." Ben, a Royal Air Force Typhoon pilot, hand built his aircraft and won the coveted Schnieder Trophy in the 2024 air race season.

Before each race, a detailed briefing was given by Race Director Dan Pangbourne to the air race crews. This briefing covered the course to be flown, noise sensitive local areas that should not be overflown, and actions to be carried out in the event of an airborne emergency.

For the duration of the practise session on Saturday morning and the two races carried out on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, the airspace that the race was flown in was closed to other aircraft to ensure the race could be accomplished safely.

The owner of Fishburn Airfield, David Morgan, said, "It was fantastic to host the Royal Aero Club again at Fishburn Airfield this weekend. The races were professionally planned and flown, and it was superb to see the new owners of the Flight Ranch open their doors to host the huge number of our local community who visited the airfield to watch the racers."

Paul Heasman

## Sponsorship & fundraising



Local businesses and organisations were invited to support our ongoing efforts to maintain and improve the landscape and planting of our beautiful town of Sedgefield. We are pleased to recognise and thank the following sponsors and supporters:

### PLATINUM SPONSORS (over £100)

Franklin House Nursery  
Players & SPYS  
Sedgefield Squash Club  
Rotary Club of Sedgefield  
Wright Construction Ltd

### GOLD SPONSORS (£75-£100)

Blessed Edmunds Duke- E. Durham  
Alan Brown & Co Accountants  
Andrea Irving-Morse Associates  
Youngs RPS

### SILVER SPONSORS (£50- £75)

Back of Beyond Bookstore  
Tricia Slater  
Mrs Glenda Garside

### BRONZE SPONSORS (£25- £50)

Peridot  
Sedgefield Local History Soc.

In addition, we would like to extend our thanks to:

Sedgefield Mayor's Fund  
R Quarmby (In memoriam)  
Sedgefield Social Club  
Sedgefield Cricket Club

In total, we have received almost £1,800 and these monies will help fund tubs, baskets and floral beds, as well as an additional commemorative 'Bloomer' bench to be located adjacent to the lavender wave near to George Bolam's.

Again many, many thanks for your efforts from all the Bloomers.

Everyone is warmly invited to the  
**Second Annual Community  
Bring-and-Share Barbecue**



Drop into **The Rectory, 2 Durham Road, Sedgefield**  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September from 12 noon

Lawn chairs or picnic blankets recommended!  
If you can't bring anything, don't worry, just come!

More info: [sedgefieldact@gmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldact@gmail.com)

*Sedgefield Area Churches Together*

## U3A UPDATE

u3a

For members of Sedgfield and District u3a, retirement doesn't signal the need to sit quietly at home wondering what life has come to. Our photographers are out and about, putting their newfound skills to the test, the Lunch Group continue to meet monthly in their friendly social group to visit a wide range of local eateries, we visit theatres and performance spaces across the region to see and hear exceptional drama, exuberant musicals, and perfect music. We marvel at wonderful gardens and beautiful historic houses, our scribes continue to extend their repertoire of writing styles and the Book Group explore different genres of others' writing. Our monthly meeting is when we gather to listen to an interesting speaker and have the opportunity to catch up over a coffee and to see what other members and their groups have organised for the next few weeks.

Most of our groups meet in either Ceddesfeld Hall or the Parish Hall. However, some of the groups meet in a member's home and, because of space constrictions, these are limited to approximately 12 members. One such group is the WAG – Wine Appreciation Group. We generally compare and contrast 4 or 5 wines, usually two white and two red, and enjoy a selection of complementary nibbles. We are not at all pretentious or *faux* knowledgeable but we like to think that we have all learned and now appreciate the varying types, styles and genres of mid-range wines. If you'd like to join us do get in touch.



Another popular group is the Science, Technology and Industry group. They visit a wide variety of factories, plants and scientific or technology sites. Later in September we will be visiting the Formica factory on South Tyneside.

We still have funds left in our travel budget, so members will pay only £5 towards the cost of any out-of-the-village transport. We have previously offered the occasional opportunity to non-members to join our trips so, if you have enjoyed those, please think about joining us as a member and coming on our visits!

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY SEPTEMBER 2025

I was going to write about a totally different subject when I sat down, but I was distracted by our House Martins who are still visiting the nest outside my window, bringing insects to their second brood. Sometimes three or four birds are seen visiting the nest, so I can only assume the first brood is now old



enough to feed themselves and are helping the parents. House Martins arrive here in April and can still be seen in September before they migrate back to Africa. The House Martin is glossy black above, completely white below, and has a white rump and a short, forked tail. It builds mud nests, sometimes in small colonies, under ledges, on cliffs and, as their name suggests, under the eaves of houses.

But I digress, back to my subject this month - one of the activities which is popular with a number of groups I work with is the museum of the strange - a collection of all sorts ranging from skulls and bone to poo and owl pellets. There is always one object that confuses most people when they are trying to guess what it is. They are round, brown balls with a diameter of around 1-2cm, sometimes with a very small hole in them and attached to either a branch or a twig. Any thoughts?



That's right, they are plant galls - in this case Oak Marble Galls. But what is a gall? A gall is defined as a growth on a plant that is made of plant tissue but caused by another organism. These organisms might be insects, bacteria, fungi or viruses. Insect galls are the most common.

All galls are formed for the same sort of purpose: the deformity is a deliberate mechanism by the gall causer to use the plant for its own purposes. In ecological terms, it's known as a parasitic relationship. The gall causer manipulates the plant tissue for itself, but the plant receives no benefits in exchange. Most galls don't harm the plant, though, and will have no effect on the health of the host trees.

Back to Oak Marble Galls. This is one of our most well-known galls. It occurs on both our native oak species, as well as other oak species, and can be found across the UK. It's caused by a gall wasp, *Biorhiza pallida*. The wasp lays her eggs inside a dormant leaf bud. The eggs hatch in spring and start the process for the formation of galls. These galls tend to drop from the trees in June, when the larvae are mature and ready to fly. However, some remain on the tree, going very woody – fascinating. You can find more about galls at [woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2018/07/galls-to-spot-this-year](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2018/07/galls-to-spot-this-year).

Our website ([sedgfield.u3asite.uk](http://sedgfield.u3asite.uk)) is updated with information on all forthcoming, visits, events, group topics and current committee details. There is lots more information and detail, as well as helpful links, about the u3a – locally, regionally and nationally; please do drop in and visit us there.

Our sessions restart on Friday 5 September at 2-4pm in Sedgfield Parish Hall when our speaker, Rev David Lucas, will be telling us about Camping in Canada, his home country. We're really looking forward to that, to catching up with what members have been doing over this glorious summer and to making some new friends. If you are part- or fully retired you are very welcome to join us at any of our meetings. We hope to see you soon!

Chris Balfour

### Sedgfield Charities: Education grants for students



The Sedgfield Charities' Trustees make awards each year to help students from families with a household income below £40,000 who are taking up full time education beyond A-level or its equivalent. Students of any age may apply.

Applicants must live in Bishop Middleham, Bradbury, Cornforth, Fishburn, Mordon, Sedgfield or Trimdon.

For further information and an application form please contact the Clerk, Anne Gladwin:  
Post: 46 Whitehouse Drive, Sedgfield TS21 3BU  
Telephone: 01740 620811  
or [sedgfieldcharities@gmail.com](mailto:sedgfieldcharities@gmail.com)

Closing date for applications:  
30 September 2025



## TIME CAPSULE

### A day to remember

**As the Princess Royal celebrates her 75th birthday, Geoff Hill fondly recalls her visit to Sedgfield in 2012.**



*The Princess Royal, August 2025*

One of the proudest moments of my life occurred in July 2012. That's when I was asked to be the official photographer for the visit of the Princess Royal, who unveiled the new Market Cross, which is in front of St Edmund's Church, on the Crosshill. It had been months in the planning. The first meeting to plan it was in 2008!

MI5 had a list of everyone involved and a meeting was held, in Ceddesfeld Hall, for them to interview everyone. To my amazement, I was not asked to attend so I carried on familiarising myself with Princess Anne's route. I was then approached by John Robinson, who was Mayor at that time. He seemed a bit flustered and said "Geoff, I was talking with the MI5 security, and they said they knew you and didn't need to talk to you! How come?" I was unsure why but, speaking to security later, I learned that I had already been checked by them when I was official photographer for Durham County Council for the opening of Hardwick Park by the Duke of Gloucester, in May 2010.

Then the protection officer gave me his personal advice, about photographing Princess Anne. He said "She doesn't like being photographed, and there have been numerous photographers who have been dismissed in the past. It's best to stay well behind her" as Princess Anne likes to catch photographers off guard, so she will dash forward then stop, to see if the photographer bumps into her. If that happens I would be dismissed OH-OH!



Princess Anne arrived by helicopter, landing at the racecourse and travelled by official car to Ceddesfeld Hall. She was greeted by the Mayor of Sedgfield, John Robinson, and his consort, Maxine. After lunch, Princess Anne was escorted into the village by John, the Mayor, and Lesley Swinbank, Town Clerk. After the unveiling, the princess chatted to those involved in the 700 committee and the school children. As she left in her official car, it stopped. The protection officer jumped out and came over to me. I immediately wondered what I had done wrong but, he said, "Princess Anne would like to thank you very much for doing such a good job. She didn't know you were there!" Princess Anne then waved and smiled at me, WOW!

I later went on to do an exhibition of my photos in the Parish Hall and I was awarded a trophy by Sedgfield Town Council. What wonderful memories I have from that time.

*Geoff Hill*



*The Princess Royal, July 2012*

## LETTERS

### Diamond Wedding

Rosemary and Peter Johnson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 31 July 2025.



The couple were married at St. Luke's Church, Ushaw Moor, Durham in 1965, and have shared a lifetime of love, laughter, and memories together.

They are much loved by all who know them in the village and are celebrating this special milestone surrounded by their loving family - children, grandchildren and their many friends.

As a proud mark of the occasion, they even received a congratulatory card from King Charles and Queen Camilla.

With all our love and warmest congratulations on 60 wonderful years.

*Alice Johnson*

### A sad farewell to Dave Sayers

St. Edmund's Church and Mordon Village Green was packed to capacity on Tuesday 12 August by all those wishing to say their farewells to a dearly-missed friend, Dave Sayers. Dave died suddenly on Sunday 20 July at home.

It was clear that Dave meant so much to so many people. He was devoted to his family, to his friends and to the communities he loved and served. He was a regular deliverer of Sedgfield News to the village of Bradbury, a trustee and long-serving member of Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall committee, Parish Chairman for Bradbury and Secretary for Fishburn Bowls Club. He will be sadly missed by many. We at Sedgfield News send our love and warmest wishes to his loving wife, Wendy and her family.

*Opinions expressed in Sedgfield 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.*



## ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

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

### Sedgefield Players Update

#### Question

What do you get if you have:

- Six North Eastern drama groups from Sedgefield, Richmond, Bishop Auckland, Saltburn, Scarborough and Washington
- Eight One Act plays (around an hour per play)
- An independent adjudicator (that's a judge to you and me) who sums up each play's good points using a set of national guidelines, usually with a bit of humour
- A buffet on the last night
- A set of awards presented by the adjudicator on the final night for Best Play, Best Actor, Best Actress (yes we still have actresses), Best Youth Actor etc. (well you get the idea)
- An audience (who vote for their best play) and a bar!?

#### Answer

The 47th Sedgefield Drama Festival of One Act Plays 2025.

Taking place from 9-13 September.

And you can be part of all this entertainment, and friendly competition for just £30 for the whole festival.

This season ticket gives you voting rights on the final night for the audience award and a buffet. If you've been before we know you'll come again. Where else can you get 5 evenings of shows for just £30? If you haven't been before why not give it a try either with the week's season ticket or on any single evening for a tenner.

We look forward to welcoming you to the festival. Tickets available on [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk), [www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk) or from our new outlet 'Back of Beyond Books' (cash only).

By Sedgefield Players

SEDFIELD PLAYERS PROUDLY PRESENT

## THE 47TH SEDGFELD DRAMA FESTIVAL OF ONE ACT PLAYS 2025

PERFORMED AT SEDGFELD PARISH HALL  
TUES 9TH - SAT 13TH SEPTEMBER AT 7.30PM

TUES 9TH SEPTEMBER	FRI 12TH SEPTEMBER
SEDFIELD PLAYERS YOUTH SECTION "TWELFTH NIGHT" by William Shakespeare	SALTBRUN '33 DRAMA GROUP "BRAG QUEEN'S STORY HOUR" by Craig Horneford
SEDFIELD PLAYERS "BUCKETS" by Adam Burnard	BAHANADRAMA "HISTORY MAN" by Shari Clark
WEDS 10TH SEPTEMBER	SAT 13TH SEPTEMBER
SEDFIELD PLAYERS "MY BEST FRIEND" by Simon Ogilby	DRAMA AT A DISTANCE GROUP "INSANE BARRIERS" by Barry Hynes
RICHMOND AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY "ANGER MANAGEMENT" by Robert Scott	FINAL ADJUDICATION AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS BY BEN HUMPHREY, GODA
THURS 11TH SEPTEMBER	
BISHOP AUCKLAND THEATRE SOCIETY "ALL BY MYSELF" by Robert Scott	

**TICKET PRICES**  
Tickets for each night £10.00  
Final adjudication night ticket: £5.00  
Season ticket: £30 (includes final night buffet)

**HOW TO BUY**  
Available from Back of Beyond Books (cash only) or [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk).  
See also [www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk).

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### Lafacadio Hearn Exhibition

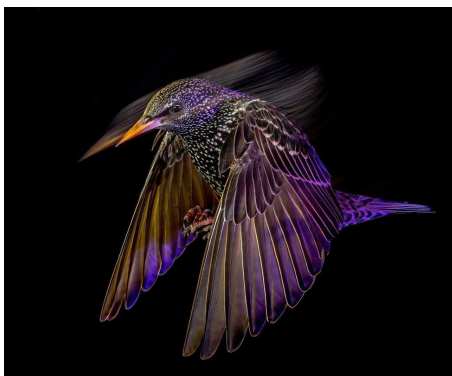


**The global tour of Kwaïdan comes to Lafacadio Hearn's alma mater Ushaw House on 6 September**

A collection of 40 prints by international artists inspired by his seminal collection of Japanese weird tales.

[ushaw.org/whatson/kwaïdan](http://ushaw.org/whatson/kwaïdan)

### British Wildlife photography awards



The British Wildlife Photography Awards (BWPA) will hold a touring exhibition at Bishop Auckland Town Hall from 12 September to 30 November. Expect award-winning photographs celebrating British wildlife and wild spaces. More details at: [bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk/gallery/future-exhibition](http://bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk/gallery/future-exhibition).

SEDFIELD MAYOR INVITES YOU TO

## Blind Panic

### CEILIDH BAND

SEDFIELD PARISH HALL

SEPTEMBER 20TH | ENTRY £12.50

FROM 7.30 TO 11.00

TICKETS FROM TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES  
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND NIBBLES.  
BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

### More local events:

**Sedgefield Rock & Blues Club, Parish Hall.**

Featuring Alice Armstrong plus support from Phil Caffrey, Pat McMahon and George Lamb.

6 September, £17.50

[www.sedgefieldblues.com](http://www.sedgefieldblues.com)

### Hartlepool Folk Festival

Expect a rich line-up of acts in iconic venues like Borough Hall and St Hilda's Church, and cozy evening sessions in pubs and function rooms across the headland for the 10-year anniversary folk festival

3-5 October, various venues

[www.hartlepoolfolkfest.co.uk](http://www.hartlepoolfolkfest.co.uk)

**HARTLEPOOL FOLK FESTIVAL**  
3 - 5 OCTOBER 2025 10TH ANNIVERSARY!

DOUGIE MACLEAN KINNARIS QUINTET  
JOHN TAMS IARLA Ó'LIONÁIRD & TIM EDEY  
THE WILSONS BELINDA O'HOOLEY  
FROM THE GROUND IONA FYFE JIM CAUSLEY  
MALIN LEWIS THE RHEINGANS SISTERS  
ROBB JOHNSON THE JOHNNY QUINN MACS  
RE:VULVA JENN BUTTERWORTH

### The Gathering Sounds Festival, Stockton

A massive music day with literally dozens of performances, shared, between 7 walkable venues in Stockton — back-to-back acts across different stages.

Noon until 11pm, £25

[arconline.co.uk/whats-on/gathering-sounds](http://arconline.co.uk/whats-on/gathering-sounds)

KU PROMOTIONS PRESENTS

THE GATHERING SOUNDS STOCKTON-ON-TEES SAT 27TH SEPT 2025

## SOMEBODY'S CHILD • KEO

THE COVASSETTES • BRÛGEAL • GRANDMAS HOUSE  
SUNBEAM • BETTER JOY • THE KAIROS • THE GUEST LIST  
L'OBJECTIF • DIRTY BLONDE • KEYSIDE • CARSIK  
BIG SLEEP • DYLAN FLYNN & THE DEAD POETS  
PRECIOUS PEPALA • YAANG • DEAFDEAFDEAF  
ALEX MAY • CARDIAC • CORTNEY DIXON • CRUZ  
CYDNI & MAPLE • DICTATOR • EIGHTY EIGHT MILES  
END CREDITS • FLORENTINES • GUILTY PLEASURE  
HANNAH SMITH • HARLAN FRANK AND THE HOUSEPLANTS  
HARVEY JAY DODGSON • ISABEL MARIA • JAM TUB  
JEANIE AND THE WHITE BOYS • LABYRINTHINE OCEANS • LONG ISLAND  
LOREN HEAT • MAE GRACE • MARRICK • MONTELO • O'PHANTOM  
PG CHARLETTA • PORCELAIN • PROVENANCE • RISCO  
RON JON • SPACECRAFTBLOOM • SWINDLED • THE BLACKPINE  
THE CASES • THE NORTH • THE REDROOM • THE SLATES  
VICE KILLER • VINCENT'S LAST SUMMER

ARC THE LOCAL WINK HIL UNDER THE INFLUENCE FATSOMA

THEGATHERINGSOUNDS.CO.UK • TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ARCONLINE.CO.UK



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

As you can see from the front page of this edition of the News, three of Sedgefield's sports clubs are celebrating significant milestones this year. There's a bit more about each of them in this update, and you can find more detailed features on the Sports page at [sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://sedgefieldweb.co.uk).

### Cricket

As the 2025 cricket season enters its final month, there is still much to play for at Sedgefield Cricket Club. With the 1st XI almost certainly retaining their place in Division 1, much of the focus has turned to the 2nd XI who, in a very tight Division 3, found themselves in a relegation spot by late July. However, August saw an unbeaten run, including an emphatic win against league leaders Maltby, meaning that by the month end the team had at least put their fate in their own hands by climbing several places up the table. I will report on the season's final outcome next month.

That report will also let you know how the boys' U13 team got on in the end-of-season championship play-offs. Sedgefield won their league and, at the time of writing, are preparing to compete with the winners of the two other leagues to secure the overall crown.

On an individual front, last month's report mentioned that 17-year-old Ollie Johnson had scored centuries in consecutive games. Print deadlines meant that by the time you read that report, Ollie had gone on to score another ton (yes, three in a row) in his next 3rd XI match - a remarkable achievement!



U13 boys and coaches

## Celebrating 120 years of sporting success in Sedgefield

### Sedgefield St Edmund's FC at 60

St Edmund's Football Club was founded in 1965 by Alan Hall, at a time when Sunday football was in its infancy. The club started by playing friendlies and then joined the South East Durham League, initially playing home games in Hartlepool. In 1976, the club joined the Durham and District Sunday League, and in 1978 won the President's Cup and its first promotion. St Edmund's has played in only Division 1 and the Premier Division since first climbing the divisions, and has been in the top division continuously since 2001-02, with three Heart Foundation Cup wins along the way. Today's management team of Graham Kime and Martin Lower (both former players) have a great desire to secure more success for the club.

### Sedgefield District RUFC at 40

The origins of Sedgefield District RUFC involved a group of student nurses from Winterton Hospital who were missing rugby and came up with a plan to establish a team comprising students and members of the local community. In 1985, the group had borrowed a set of shirts, gained permission to play at the secondary school field, and had established a clubhouse at the hospital's social club. After a nomadic existence for a while, the club established its home at the cricket club, for which it is eternally grateful. Sedgefield District RUFC hopes to continue growing, so that it can consistently field two teams each Saturday, and stay a vibrant and popular part of the local community.



Sedgefield District RUFC team 2025  
Photo by Iwan Edwards

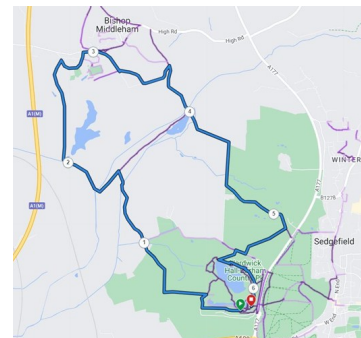
### Sedgefield Harriers at 20

In the September 2005 edition of Sedgefield News, a message from Ean Parsons invited those with an interest to join him for a Sunday morning run. That first run on 7th September was the genesis of Sedgefield Harriers, which was founded later the same month. Only six years after that, the club had almost 200 senior and junior members and was crowned UK Athletics Club of the Year. Despite its development being restricted by not having access to local track and field facilities, the club continues to thrive today, and remains ambitious for the future. Commenting on the 20th anniversary, club chair Sue Dobson notes: "Many of our members also volunteer to support the club, and this is an opportunity to say thank you for that ongoing support."

## Athletics



Sedgefield Harriers will host the annual Sedgefield Serpentine Race on Sunday 14 September, beginning at 10am. The 10k trail race will start and finish in Hardwick Park and follow a route on paths to Bishop Middleham and back.



Places cost £13 for members of an affiliated club and £15 for everyone else (aged 16 and over only). For more information, visit [facebook.com/groups/SedgefieldSerpentineRace](https://facebook.com/groups/SedgefieldSerpentineRace) or [sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/sedgefield-serpentine](http://sedgefieldharriers.co.uk/sedgefield-serpentine).

Looking further ahead, the English Cross Country Association (ECCA) has confirmed that the 2026 English National Cross Country Championships will be held in Sedgefield. Organised in partnership with Sedgefield Harriers and supported by Durham County Council, the championships will take place in East Park on Saturday 21 February. The event was last held in the North East in 2013 and will be returning to County Durham for the first time in 25 years. In recent years, East Park has been the venue for both the North Eastern Counties Cross Country Championships, in 2015 and 2021, and the Northern Cross Country Championships, in 2024. The much larger scale national event next year will use similar routes around the park, and organisers are working with the local authority and other partners to ensure that adequate infrastructure and logistical support is put in place for the championships.

Sue Dobson, chair of Sedgefield Harriers, comments: "We're delighted that ECCA has decided to bring the English National Cross Country Championships to Sedgefield. Our members know better than anyone that East Park is a great place to run, and we can't wait to welcome fellow athletes from all over the country to find out for themselves. The championships will be a wonderful way to showcase this corner of County Durham to thousands of visitors, and demonstrate that we can put on major events here."

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

## CEDDESFIELD HALL



Summer is nearly through, and the nights will soon be drawing in. SCA look forward to the autumn diary of events and activities, following a busy and successful summer. Don't stay home, as there's lots to do at Ceddesfeld Hall. All sections and groups (with times and contact information) are listed on the SCA website, under the 'Regular Activities' heading, as well as on the SCA 2025 pamphlet. There really is something for everyone! The hobby and interest groups provide organised activities which include playing bridge, singing in a community choir (including the youth choir), carpet bowls, model railway construction, craft clubs, handbell ringing, playing Northumbrian pipes, folk music, Last Wednesdays music group, concertina playing, art, book group, photography, local history, lip reading class and crafts (Durham Deafened), Pimms and Needles, Weight Watchers, and Pop In, which is a social group for older people. Sedgefield Squash Club are a large section of SCA, and their club is situated within the grounds. Sedgefield Players too are a section of SCA, who meet Wednesdays and Sundays at Sedgefield Parish Hall.

Local organisations including Sedgefield in Bloom, Sedgefield Development Trust, Sedgefield Squash Club, Sedgefield Players, Sedgefield Uniformed Services and Sedgefield Show Committee, hold their regular meetings in one of the four upstairs meeting rooms. New volunteers are always encouraged. These groups and organisations are open to everyone, so do get in touch if anything is of interest. Any new group is also very welcome.

### Upcoming events at Ceddesfeld Hall

#### Ceddesfeld Autumn Quiz Night – Saturday 27 September 7:30pm

Come along for a fun evening with quizmaster Peter Hinde. There will be a raffle and please advise of any vegetarian, gluten-free or vegan requirements, prior to the evening. Tickets from Pat, Sarah and/or Peter Hinde or from behind the bar, on a first come, first served basis. Pie & Peas £10 per person. Teams of six or fewer.

#### Music Night – 'The Sedgefield Sounds' – Saturday 4 October 7:30pm

Come along for a heartfelt evening of live music and community spirit, with local musicians taking the stage to raise funds for the charity Breast Cancer Now. The evening will feature young up-and-coming acts as well as some long-established musicians. From soulful covers to original tunes, "The Sedgefield Sounds" promises a night of fantastic talents. Entry is £5, with all raffle and proceeds going to a breast cancer charity which makes a real difference. Contact via email [info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk) or via Sarah on 01740 622185 to reserve a seat. Come along, bring your friends and let's make some noise for an amazing cause!

#### STC Fireworks & Halloween Howler – Friday 31 October

Tickets will be on sale from Friday 15 September from STC offices and from behind the bar, Monday to Friday from 7.30 pm.

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



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## DIARY & EVENTS

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

September 2025

- Monday 1** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. Stockton International Brigade with Tony Fox.
- Wednesday 3** **Sedgefield WI**, Methodist Church Hall, 7:15pm. "Town Crier" - Peter Strummer, harvest bring and buy, soup will be served (please bring a spoon). Members' competition is a holiday memento. Visitors welcome. £4 including refreshments.
- Friday 5** **Sedgefield WI Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10-11:30am, Homemade cakes and raffle.
- Saturday 6** **Friendly Fixers**, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Repair café.
- Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club**, multi-award winning blues artist Alice Armstrong plus support from three magnificent North East guitarists. [www.sedgefieldblues.com](http://www.sedgefieldblues.com)
- Sunday 7** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30-12:15pm.
- Friday 12** **Mayor's Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.
- Sunday 14** **Second Annual Community Bring and Share Barbecue**, The Rectory, 2 Durham Road, Sedgefield, 12pm. See poster.
- Tuesday 16** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers.
- Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club Demonstration Evening**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm. Susan Fairhurst—"Catch of the Day". Free for members, £5 for guests.
- Friday 19** **Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-12pm. Entry £2.
- Saturday 20** **Mayor's Ceilidh with Blind Panic**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:30-11pm. Entry £12.50. See poster on page 6.
- Friday 26** **Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.



### Mayor's Fashion Show

The Mayor of Sedgefield invites you to a Fashion Show hosted by Betty's Boudoir. Sedgefield Parish Hall on Thursday 30 October at 7pm. Tickets £7, from Council Offices.

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### Friends of St. Edmund's

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Angel Trust

## CHRISTMAS FAIR

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### Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group

Methodist Church on Mondays from 9:30am to 11am.

### Little Movers

Fletcher Room, Sedgefield Parish Hall every Thursday from 10am.

### Railway Society

Every Wednesday evening from 7:30pm to 10pm at Ceddesfeld Hall.

### Sedgefield Social Club

Singer fortnightly, see "Sedgefield Social Club Official" on Facebook.

### Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm in Ceddesfeld Hall.

### Pop-in Club at Ceddesfeld Hall

Tuesdays 9:30am-12pm

Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm

Thursdays 1pm-3:30pm

### Speed Quiz at Hardwick Arms

Every Thursday at 8pm in the Hardwick Lounge Bar.

### Quiz at The Dun Cow

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

### From Loft to Loved Craft Groups

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

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### Move County Durham

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

### Sedgefield Library

Events at the library include a craft group, book circles, a Lego drop in and a digital support drop in – see [durham.gov.uk/sedgefieldlibrary](http://durham.gov.uk/sedgefieldlibrary).

### 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.

parkrun

junior parkrun

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