

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

July 2025

Submission deadline for the next edition: Monday 14 July

## Historic Hardwick Hall gate returns to its original home



**Ever wondered why the bus stop opposite The Lane is called Park Gates? The answer lies in a piece of Sedgefield's history that has just been beautifully restored and returned to public view.**



Thanks to the efforts of the Friends of Hardwick, one of the original gates from Hardwick Hall has been reinstalled at its historic location on Durham Road. This gate once marked the eastern entrance to Hardwick Park, and now, after decades away, it stands proudly once again.

The unveiling ceremony, held under unexpectedly dry skies, was performed by John Adamson, President of the Friends, and Alan Strickland MP, Vice President. The event was organized by Chair Angus Hearmon and attended by local residents, Mayor Peter Hinde, County Councillor Chris Lines, former committee members, and members of the press.

## Five Churches Round



On Sunday 22 June, walkers and runners gathered at St Edmund's Church to begin the "Five Churches Round" — a new walking and running route that connects all five churches in the Parish of the Upper Skerne. The route was created to celebrate the 20th anniversary of both the Parish of the Upper Skerne and the Sedgefield Harriers.

Before setting off, participants received a short briefing from Chris Lines. Reverend David Lucas then offered a blessing and officially started the event. If you'd like to try some or all of the 18.5-mile route yourself, you can find more information on the Facebook page [FiveCRound](#), or pick up a leaflet at Sedgefield Library.



1945 photo from the archive of Geoff Hill Snr

This particular gate is the last surviving one of four that originally welcomed visitors from Sedgefield into the park. It was originally saved by local builder Ben Roper, who repurposed it as a garden pergola. After storm damage in 2005, his widow Elsie generously donated it for restoration.

During the early 2000s restoration of Hardwick Park, Durham County Council created replicas for the A177 entrance, but this gate is the original piece. Its restoration was completed in 2025 by PRM Fabrications of Tudhoe.

The Friends of Hardwick appreciate the support of county councillors Chris Lines and David Brown, as well as the local Area Action Partnership for their funding and assistance.

To explore the full story behind the gate and more photographs, visit: [tinyurl.com/5cm8btvm](https://tinyurl.com/5cm8btvm).



SEDGEFIELD  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
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Join us in celebrating and showcasing the amazing work created by our year 7 - 11 students.

**WEDNESDAY**  
02.07.2025  
4:30-6:30PM

Sedgefield Community College:  
Auditorium  
Hawthorn Road, TS21 3DD



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## SCHOOL NEWS

### Carnegie Mental Health Award

Recently, we were delighted to find out that Sedgefield Community College has been awarded the Carnegie Mental Health Award in recognition of the work that we do to support the mental health and wellbeing of our students and staff. The Carnegie Award is administered by Leeds Beckett University and is a prestigious national award that is used by schools to help them to ensure a positive culture is in place for all members of their community.

The process of working towards this award began 18 months ago and we have been able to review and develop the way we operate to improve the self-confidence of our students and increase their enjoyment of school. Whilst our application had been for the 'Silver' award, the strength of the evidence submitted means that the assessor chose to award the 'Gold'.



There are lots of different elements to our approach and one of these has been our focus on the development of key skills, including the ability to 'Stay Positive' when faced with challenges and find solutions to overcome these. Last month, lots of students were awarded 'Staying Positive' reward badges, based on staff nominations, in recognition of their excellent ability to demonstrate this skill.

Working towards the Carnegie Award built on our previous success in being awarded the Rainbow Flag Award in 2023. Having achieved this latest award, we will now identify how best we can make the school environment an even more positive and inclusive one for all of our children.

### Flying high

Children at Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Academy have been flying through the air and climbing high into adventure, thanks to the arrival of two spectacular new OPAL play features – a 36-metre zipline and a wooden treehouse! This has been made possible due to the generous funding of Laidlaw X, designed to give pupils extraordinary experiences.



The school council has also been instrumental in the creation of the zipline and treehouse. Over recent months, they have canvassed opinion in the playground and then persuaded the senior leadership team to make their dreams a reality. The additions, designed and installed by Mr Treehouse, have transformed the school's forested play area into a thrilling outdoor learning zone packed with excitement, imagination and challenge.

"It's the best thing ever!" beamed one pupil. "When you're on the zipline, it feels like you're flying through the jungle!" The zipline, which stretches a whopping 36 metres across the school's wooded area and field, has already become a firm favourite with both pupils and staff. Built with safety as a top priority, the ride is low to the ground, fully supervised and fitted with a secure handle system. Meanwhile, the new treehouse – cleverly built on a custom wooden platform beside several mature trees – is quickly becoming a hub for relaxing, creativity and storytelling.



Staff also say the features are helping pupils develop coordination, confidence, and cooperation – all key components of the school's character curriculum. The school carried out full safety risk assessments, and daily checks are in place to ensure everything remains in top condition. Teachers have reported high engagement and improved social interaction during breaks.

"All my dreams have come true with this zipline," commented Maisie, as she waited in line for her turn. "It's the best playtime we've ever had!"

### Community First Aiders and Fire Wardens



The Year 6 children at Sedgefield Primary School have been upskilled learning how to undertake basic first aid and to be fire wardens.



As a school, we feel it is important for our young children to have the necessary skills to be able to carry out simple first aid procedures. Year 6 worked with enthusiasm and care to learn the techniques needed. As part of their training, they heard about real life events so they could see how relevant these skills can be to their own lives. The children learned how to do CPR and how to use a defibrillator. They now know where defibrillators are available within the village and how to gain access to these.



During the fire warden session, the children were taught how to assist others out of a smoky environment and how to use fire extinguishers. It was amazing how quiet they can be when evacuating the classroom.

Our children are already great assets to our community and with their first aid awareness, they have become even more valuable. We can hope that their skills aren't needed, but we know they have the capability to help if necessary.

The children were incredible representatives of our school, and the instructor commented on how fantastic their commitment and participation was throughout this essential life skills training.



## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECT NEWS*



**Sunday 6 July**  
**on the Village Green**  
**8:30am - 12:15pm**

**Are you a good communicator who can help with Market administration?** We are looking for a volunteer to help us coordinate the stall holders and our team of volunteers. If you can help then please contact us at [farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:farmers@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk).

## SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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### Can you help deliver the Sedgefield News?

As the holiday season approaches, we need a little help to deliver the News when our regular volunteers are taking their summer breaks.

If you can help over the summer or on a longer term basis then please contact us at [news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:news@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk).



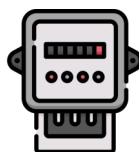
Last month the group hosted a dawn chorus walk and breakfast at Skerne Wood. We heard and saw many birds including dunnet, chiffchaff, blackcap, bullfinch and just off the northern boundary - sedge warbler.



To keep up to date with events or volunteering opportunities join our Facebook page '[Woodland & Wildlife - Sedgefield](https://www.facebook.com/Woodland&Wildlife-Sedgefield)' or email Melissa - [woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk).

### Energy Switch

We are no longer running the Energy Switch project, but residents are welcome to respond to iChoosr regarding the Big Community Switch, via [bigcommunityswitch.co.uk/ichoosr/home](http://bigcommunityswitch.co.uk/ichoosr/home).



## Coming together for school uniform support at SCC

A new community project is launching at Sedgefield Community College (SCC) to support families with school uniform access, comfort and sustainability. Building on the school's Uniform Swap Shop, the initiative offers practical advice on accessible, affordable and sustainable clothing.

We'll begin by taking part in the school's transition events for families of new Year 7 students. There, we'll share guidance, pre-loved uniform items and helpful resources for anyone experiencing challenges with school clothing. This is a community-led effort grounded in care and sustainability. We recognise that uniforms can be a source of stress—whether due to cost, sensory needs or sizing issues—so our aim is to provide practical, welcoming support.

If you're interested in what we're doing—whether you're a parent, carer or someone keen to support local families—we'd love to hear from you. The project brings together advice, pre-loved uniform and local repair skills to make school dressing easier, more inclusive and more affordable.

Contact us at [AccessToUniform@gmail.com](mailto:AccessToUniform@gmail.com), and follow [Friendly Fixers](https://www.facebook.com/FriendlyFixers) on Facebook for local updates. Check Eventbrite for meet-ups. If you have ideas or would like to get involved, we'd be happy to meet you.

Let's make sure every child starts school feeling comfortable, confident and included.



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•beer•  
•food•

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01740 622185 [www.sedgefieldscsca.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldscsca.org.uk) [info@sedgefieldscsca.org.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldscsca.org.uk)

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**SEDGEFIELD SOCIAL CLUB**  
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**REWARD**

£250 REWARD OFFERED FOR THE RETURN OF THIS SPANISH CONOR BERLIN EBIKE



IF YOU KNOW WHERE THIS IS PLEASE CONTACT DURHAM CONSTABULARY

It was stolen in Sedgefield in early June, and it is required for health reasons.

**Any questions or queries about advertising in Sedgefield News – please e-mail**  
[adverts@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:adverts@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk)



## U3A UPDATE

u3a

We were delighted to welcome this month's speakers from Durham County Council Road Safety team and from Durham Constabulary's Roads and Armed Policing Unit. They provided an excellent talk about road safety for the mature driver and emphasised the main causes of road traffic collisions: speeding, distractions, drink/drug driving and not wearing seatbelts. However, they really emphasised the fact that the majority of older person road traffic incidents are caused by our reluctance to lose independence by admitting to poor sight or hearing or other ill-health conditions and encouraged us to be guided by medical professionals and concerned family as we age.

The Homes and Gardens Group enjoyed a wonderful day out to Keswick when we were joined by over 20 visitors who were delighted to come along and take advantage of our reduced grant-aided bus fare! Wall-to-wall sunshine enhanced our enjoyment of the market, the shops and the walk down to the lake through the park to say nothing of the great cafes, pubs and ice cream parlours sampled throughout the day. Members of the u3a enjoy these days out regularly and we hope to be able to continue our reduced fares.

The Theatre Group visited the Hippodrome Theatre in Darlington to see a production of Spitfire Girls. Adapted from the book of the same name, this atmospheric and nostalgic production brought the group to tears as well as laughter during this funny, heart-breaking yet hopeful evening.



Our Photography Group's final meeting this season revised focus stacking and the use of macros. Don't forget we are always happy to advise on camera purchases and skills. Do come along to any of our meetings and see how we can help.

The Hamilton Russel Arms at Thorpe Thewles was the venue for this month's meeting of the Lunch Group. As we had not ordered ahead of time, service was a little slow but the food was, as ever, delicious. Once again, a lovely, lively social event.

Our next meeting will be our AGM and cream tea on Friday 4 July in the Parish Hall. We don't have a meeting in August so we look forward to meeting you at our next meeting on 5 September when the Speaker will be David Lucas on Camping in Canada.

Chris Balfour

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY JULY 2025

As I write this it's halfway through #30dayswild and I am sure you are keen to know what I have been up too. The idea behind 30 Days Wild is to promote nature connection and I have been doing a number of things so far including watching clouds, looking for fractals, identifying insects in my garden, going on a boat trip, having lunchtime walks and smelling roses, amongst other things. The one I want to concentrate on was visiting a reserve I hadn't been to for nearly 30 years. I took part in a guided walk organised by Durham Wildlife Trust at their reserve Hannah's Meadow. Situated not far from Romaldkirk, the Trust own two species-rich unimproved upland hay meadows and a grazing pasture in a traditional farming landscape. This upland hay meadow and pasture are set within the traditional farming landscape of Baldersdale, part of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



The site has evolved as a result of farming practices over several centuries. Once owned and farmed by Hannah Hauxwell, who lived alone at Low Birk Hatt Farm without the luxury of electricity and running water, the land was managed for hay and pasture and maintains the rich variety of wildlife that has been lost from many other Teesdale meadows. On her retirement in 1988, Durham Wildlife Trust continued the traditional management and created the reserve as it is today.

Now a Site of Special Scientific Interest, the meadows are considered to be some of the least improved and most species rich in upland Durham. The meadows are particularly abundant with swards dominated by common bent, meadow foxtail, downy oat grass, Yorkshire-fog, red fescue and sweet vernal grass. We visited in June and the warden showed us a wide range of traditional hay meadow flowers, including ragged robin, wood crane's-bill, marsh-marigold and yellow-rattle. The scenery is spectacular and very close to a couple of reservoirs. As well as the flowers we saw a number of upland bird species including oystercatcher, curlew, redshank and meadow pipit and the highlight: good views of a redstart. The weather could have been better but we managed to dodge the showers and hope to go back on a summer day soon. The meadow is cut mid-July so you really need to go sooner rather than later. There is an unmanned visitor centre at the site which provides information about Hannah and her special meadows. The best parking is situated at Balderhead Reservoir. You can find more information about the reserve at [www.durhamwt.com/nature-reserves/hannahs-meadow](http://www.durhamwt.com/nature-reserves/hannahs-meadow).



### Sedgefield Charities: Education grants for students



The Sedgefield Charities' Trustees make awards each year to help students from lower income families 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, Sedgefield or Trimdon.

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

Closing date for applications: 30 September 2025

## STOP PRESS: Lee Maddison wins gold!

Sedgefield boccia star Lee Maddison has secured a gold medal in his latest tournament - the Boccia Tatra Cup 2025, which was held in Slovakia from 18-24 June. Look out for more details in next month's sports update. For now, huge congratulations to Lee!



## LETTERS

### Anaerobic digestion plant proposal update

The appeal relating to the proposed anaerobic digestion plant development at Sprucely Farm is now set to be determined through a hearing, held locally (subject to the agreement of the inspector for the case, once they are appointed). The official start date of the appeal process was 27th May and comments must be received within five weeks, making the deadline for those 1st July.

Hearings usually takes place 10-14 weeks after the start date, but that's not set in stone and the exact date is decided by the Planning Inspectorate, and then shared by the local authority (in this case Durham County Council) with everyone who has made representations, and those who are entitled to appear at the hearing (statutory parties and other interested parties identified by the inspector).

In the build up to that, key local stakeholders are working together to agree a collective community response. Those involved in this effort include Bishop Middleham Parish Council (the only confirmed local statutory party at this time), Sedgefield Town Council, Fishburn Parish Council, Durham County Councillors Chris Lines and Ian Catchpole, and local businesses such as Knotty Hill Golf Centre. All are working together to ensure that our community is able to robustly and effectively contribute to the appeal process. Once there is clarity on timescales and arrangements for the hearing, those details will be shared through all available networks.

In the meantime, residents can still submit comments about the proposals, direct to the Planning Inspectorate. If you have already submitted comments, there is no need to re-submit them. Those have been forwarded in full to the Planning Inspectorate by Durham County Council and will still carry weight.

If you have not commented on the proposals, but would like to, you can do so at <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> (the appeal case reference is 3365616).

If you have already submitted comments, but would like to lodge an additional contribution that covers new ground you should use the same link. For example, local stakeholders believe that it is important to urge the inspector to do the following:

- Include a site visit to Sprucely Farm as part of the hearing
- Commit to allowing interested parties (as well as statutory parties) to speak during the hearing itself.

Remember, the deadline for getting those comments to the Planning Inspectorate is 1st July (to be safe, do so as soon as possible).

*Councillor Chris Lines*

### Christian Aid Week Appeal 2025

We are delighted to report the total amounts raised by the two events in support of this year's Christian Aid Week appeal were:



Good Friday Procession of Witness	£176
Coffee Morning at Methodist Church	£870
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1046</b>

Thank you to everyone for your support.

*Margaret and David Glass*

### POTUS 20th anniversary celebrations

As part of the ongoing celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Parish of the Upper Skerne, we are delighted to have a famous organist visiting to give an organ recital which will allow us to hear something different from the more usual hymns and accompaniments during services.

On 12 July, Mark Spalding gives a recital of music including Bach, Mendelssohn and Langlais. In addition, mark will be playing music composed by local organist Janet Deane. Mark is an organist and pianist based in North East Scotland. Formerly an organ scholar at St Andrew's University, he is a regular performer at the Edinburgh Fringe and this year will see him perform a short tour in Shetland.

St Edmund's Church, doors open at 6:30pm, the recital will start at 7pm, entry £8, pay at the door.



*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.*

## MAYOR'S CORNER

Myself, Peter Hinde, and my wife Jamie Hinde were re-elected as Mayor and Consort at the Town Council AGM. This will be our second year and, after



awarding donations to 16 organisations at the Annual Town Meeting, we are looking forward to a even busier year.

I was proud to be invited to the installation ceremony for the historic gates of Hardwick Park which were unveiled by our MP Alan Strickland and John Adamson, owner of Hardwick Hall.

On Saturday 7 June, I was invited to the Fun Day organised by Sedgefield Rugby Club, which was a showcase for the club's social and playing side. They meet and play at Sedgefield Cricket Club and are always looking for new members of all abilities - just pop along on a Monday evening.

The events we have planned between now and end of the year are listed below - as always, all tickets are available from the Town Council Offices - many thanks to the team there.

**16 August** Mayor's Quiz, Ceddesfeld Hall £5

**23 August** Pitlington Brass Band and John Wrightson Band, Parish Hall £10

**12th September** Coffee Morning, Parish Hall, 10am

**20 September** Ceilidh, Parish Hall £12.50

**25 October** Mayor's Quiz, Ceddesfeld Hall £5

**30 October** Fashion show by Betty's Boudoir, Parish Hall 7pm, £7

**12 December** Coffee Morning with entertainment provided by children's choir, Parish Hall, 10am

**31 December** New Year's Eve Dance with live band, Parish Hall £12.50

### Colin Richmond

Colin Richmond passed peacefully on 17 May 2025 at the grand old age of 91. He will be much missed by his wife Geraldine and 2 sons, Julian and Adrian.

He was involved in the local community in several ways, including the Community Empowerment Network, the Local History Society at Ceddesfeld Hall (being the driver for many an outing) and the treasurer of the Cleveland St Johns Ambulance. He mentored younger people in business, he ran the local sunflower growing competition for the community around Spring Lane and for many years he had a great regular team with whom he put the world to rights in the Dun Cow.

*Adrian Richmond*



## ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

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

### Sedgefield Players Update

Based on the fairy tale by Hans Christian Anderson and adapted for the stage by Andrew Biliter. The SPYS, over fifty of them now, are really looking forward to presenting this magical show. "The Snow Queen" (Danish: Snedronningen) is an 1844 original fairy tale by first published 21 December 1844 in New Fairy Tales. The story centres on the struggle between good and evil as experienced by friends Gerda and Kai. In a small Nordic city, Kai and Gerda's childhoods are abruptly altered when a piece of cursed glass from a magic mirror infects Kai and leaves him susceptible to the Snow Queen's enticements. Gerda's epic quest to rescue her best friend from the Snow Queen's palace leads her to encounter witches, snow wolves, talking flowers and animals, man-eating bandits, and a castle made of dreams. Andrew Biliter's adaptation for the stage is truly delightful and was written specifically for a youth group. It preserves the ethereal wonder and dark undertones of the original tale, tempering it with warmth, humour, and heart.

The Snow Queen has been made into many films - including Disney's 'Frozen' - television series, two novels two video games, and six operas, as well as stage plays and musicals, dance and ballet productions. It is a truly enduring tale written by one of the true masters of the fairy tale genre.

You won't want to miss this show on 11 and 12 July 2025 at 7pm in Sedgefield Parish Hall. Tickets available now from Tickety-Boo (cash only) or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk).

By Sedgefield Players



### Sedgefield Lyric Singers

There are only a few tickets left for Like A Singing Bird, your three choirs' summer concert. Buy yours now to avoid disappointment and celebrate summer in musical bliss with The Lyrics, SLYC and Lirica.

Dates: Friday 4 & Saturday 5 July  
Venue: St. Edmund's Church, Sedgefield. Start: 7:30pm  
Tickets: £8 and £6 - U16s  
Get your tickets from members of your choirs, by contacting [Sedgefieldlyricsingers@gmail.com](mailto:Sedgefieldlyricsingers@gmail.com) or from TicketyBoo.

Looking forward to seeing you there!  
By Sedgefield Lyric Singers



### Durham Fringe Festival

From 23 to 27 July, this dynamic five-day celebration takes over nine vibrant venues across Durham's medieval heart.



Over 100 shows across theatre, stand-up, music, spoken word, magic, dance, cabaret, and more.

Many of the performances are child-friendly and some are completely free. In fact, tickets are capped at £10 each with bigger discounts still for family tickets and many other concession ticket types. 70% of all sales go straight to the artists.

The event atmosphere is famously family-friendly and very welcoming. For a full calendar of events, and to buy tickets visit : [durhamfringe.co.uk](http://durhamfringe.co.uk).

### More local events:



Durham shimmers with bold brass brilliance as the Brass Festival returns to the city, and towns and villages. Join Bill Ryder-Jones, Barry Hyde, Simon Armitage & many more - with street bands, boat cruises and creative "Brassed On" collaborations between old & new. 13-20 July, £10 [brassfestival.co.uk](http://brassfestival.co.uk)



### Step into Storytime: The Three Little Pigs - Hardwick Park

Hardwick Park invites under-fives (with an adult) to Step into Storytime: The Three Little Pigs — outdoor storytelling, crafts, interactive trails, woodland play  
Saturday 5 July, 10am £7

### Durham Miners' Gala 2025

Durham's "Big Meeting" transforms the city into a sea of vibrant banners and brass bands, celebrating community, solidarity, and working-class heritage—attended by over 200,000 people.  
Saturday 5 July



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

The sun has been cracking the flags recently, so the sound of willow on leather has been frequently heard. It's a sharp contrast to the first half of last year's cricket season, which was badly affected by wet weather. The senior and junior teams at Sedgefield Cricket Club have been making the most of the fine conditions and there's action to enjoy at the end of Station Road most days. With summer athletics in all forms also in full swing, this is a reminder that we have a thriving grass roots sports scene in Sedgefield all year long.

### Cricket

By the start of July, the 2025 cricket season reaches its halfway point. Sedgefield Cricket Club's 1st and 2nd XI teams are holding their own in their league divisions, with the 3rd XI providing valuable development opportunities for many of the juniors in their Sunday league.



The junior teams are all performing well, with perhaps the boys' U13 side standing out the most, having won all their league fixtures up to the third week of June, and maybe showing early signs of emulating the hugely successful U17 team from a couple of years back. The production line of great junior sides does not happen by chance, and planning is constantly underway to develop the next crop of youngsters, beginning with the 5-8 year-old All Stars now training on Friday evenings. But each season sees new age group sides who need support and the club would love to hear from any parents who'd consider helping out with running those teams from next season.

The cricket club is a great place to socialise, whether with the family or friends, to watch the cricket or televised sport, have a game of darts, enjoy a wide choice of drinks at the bar, or however else you want to make the most of the good weather.

### Rugby Union

Sedgefield District Rugby Club has celebrated the end of another season in the Counties 2 division of the Durham and Northumberland League, with a family fun day, followed by the annual awards presentation. The event was held on the pitch and in the cricket clubhouse and the winners were:



Ted Wood Award - Iwan Edwards  
Young Player of the Year - Jaimie Walsh  
Most Improved Player - Jack Wiffen  
Coach's Player - Jack Wiffen  
Player of the Year - Tom Ducker  
Players' Player - Gareth Pratt.

Preparation for the new season is already underway, with the club running touch rugby sessions for all genders (ages 14+) on Mondays at 7pm and full training on Thursdays at 7pm. Anyone wanting to get involved should get in touch. Keep an eye out on the club's social media channels for further updates.

### Squash

For the first time in its history, Sedgefield Squash Club has introduced an Honorary Lifetime Member award and this has gone to Kevin Heyhurst, who has recently resigned as treasurer after many years involvement with the club. Kevin started to play when the building was situated at Sands Hall back in the mid 1970s and has had an active involvement as a player and on the committee ever since. The club thanks him for all his loyal service - he will be a big miss.



Normally, the summer would mean a rest from competitive squash for most players, but the introduction of the new Match Point series has meant that the club has players in action throughout the closed season. Sedgefield 1st Team player and junior coach, Oliver Walls, won the recent A Event tournament hosted by the Northern Club in Newcastle. Other events are taking place in Yarm, Sunderland and Pontefract during the summer and the club wishes its players the best of luck at these upcoming competitions.

The club hosted some taster sessions for Northfield School and Sports College at the beginning of June. Sedgefield was approached by the school to provide some enrichment days for its Year 10 pupils. The club provided courts, equipment and an England Squash qualified coach for the sessions, which were very well received. The club hopes to do more of this type of work in the future, to introduce juniors to the sport.

Sedgefield Squash Club is currently planning for a summer family fun day for members and friends of the club on the afternoon of 2 August, in Ceddesfeld Hall and grounds. This will include a bouncy castle, face painting and various physical activities. The bar will be open; bring your own food along. More details will be available on the club's social media in the coming weeks.

Anyone wishing to join Sedgefield Squash Club should send an email to [info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk).

## Athletics



Sedgefield Harriers will host the Summer Handicap for the Gerry Kearsley Memorial Trophy on Thursday 24 July. Starting and finishing at Bishop Middleham Village Hall, the race is about six miles long and follows a well-marked, two-lap, multi-terrain route on trails and old railway routes. Marshals will be out around the course to keep everyone right. Entry is on the night only, with registration opening at 5:15pm and the first runners setting off at 6:30pm.

Each participant's handicap is based on their fastest 10K time from the previous 12 months, working back from 60 minutes. A runner who has a 10K time of 60 minutes will have no handicap and will start at 6:30pm. A runner who has a 10K time of 45 minutes will have a handicap of 15 minutes and will start at 6:45pm. This format leads to some exciting racing, with most athletes finishing within a few minutes of each other. The overall trophy will be awarded to the first runner back, not the fastest, though there will be other category prizes.

Entry is free for those who are members of affiliated clubs and £2 for everyone else. The minimum age to take part is 15. Find out more about the event at [facebook.com/sedgefieldharriers](https://facebook.com/sedgefieldharriers) or [www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk).

## Taekwondo



Blade Taekwondo GBR is based just along the road from Sedgefield in Bishop Middleham Village Hall, and recently hosted a Kup Grading Promotion Test for students to gain their next belts. In total, 12 students took part in the grading, with the rest working towards the next one later this year, as well as a Black Belt Dan grading in Bradford in November.

All students passed the grading exam and the club now has plenty of higher grades, including those getting closer to black belt level. Darcee Brown, who has been with Blade since last year, also achieved the best of grade trophy for her amazing efforts. She was very pleased with her belt, trophy, and herself!

Blade runs classes every Monday at 7pm and Saturday at 10am, in Bishop Middleham Village Hall, and accepts members from the age of six. If you are interested in taking up taekwondo, please contact lead instructor and GB athlete Corey on 07923 951681 or [bladetaekwondogbr@gmail.com](mailto:bladetaekwondogbr@gmail.com).

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



## CEDDESFELD HALL



**Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre 2025** was a very special event, which highlighted yet again, the large number of local people who continue to engage and invest in community life with such fantastic enthusiasm. There was indeed, a truly impressive 'army' of volunteers on the day.

Huge thanks must go to the town's businesses, shops and pubs for their generous business community sponsorship and fabulous donations towards the SCA tombola; to the children and staff of Sedgefield Primary, Sedgefield Hardwick Primary and Fishburn Chi Taekwondo group, for their enthusiasm, creativity and vitality; to the various clubs and organisations - Sedgefield Development Trust, Sedgefield in Bloom, Sedgefield Primary and Sedgefield Harwick PTFAs, Sedgefield Scouts, Sedgefield Mayor's Charity Fund, Sedgefield Ploggers, Sedgefield Town Council, Sedgefield Manor House, St Edmund's Church, Sedgefield Community Association members and friends, hobby and craft stall holders, specialist attractions and showmen, and to Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen. Special thanks to Sedgefield Players for providing a breakfast buffet and to Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group for their afternoon tea café in the main hall, to Mayor Peter Hinde (who was MC all day), Ceddesfeld Hall bar (committee and helpers), SCA Trustees to the Mediaeval Fayre Planning Committee, and finally, to everyone who came along to support a community event and enjoy the day. It was a super day.

## Dates for your Diary!

### Ceddesfeld Beer Festival - Friday 11 & Saturday 12 July starting at 6pm

SCA is pleased to support North East breweries, and there will be a wide selection (up to 14 beers) of new and established ales and four ciders. Tokens will be £2 each for a half pint. The community bar will also be open and a BBQ for burgers and hot sausage buns on both nights. The entertainment starting at 8 pm on Saturday night is provided by popular local band, Mamma Said.

Anyone wishing to help serve on the festival bar, collecting/washing glasses, or helping with the BBQ, please contact Tony on 07484 279427 or email

[info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk).


### Family Fun Afternoon – Sunday 24 August from 1pm to 4 pm

An afternoon for families with younger children (up to age 12). There will be a range of garden games and play/sports equipment available and the bar will be open. Bring along a family picnic.

SCA would like to congratulate Sedgefield Lyric Youth Choir, in this their 40th year – what a fantastic achievement.

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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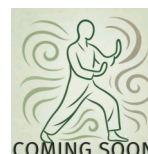
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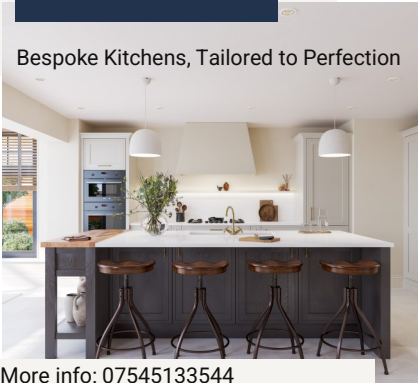




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## DIARY & EVENTS

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

### July 2025

- Wednesday 2** **Sedgefield WI**, please note the change of venue to Sedgefield Methodist Church Hall, 7pm. Monthly meeting followed by entertainment from "The Auckland Shanty Singers". The competition is "a musical box". New members are always welcome.
- Exhibition of Fine Art and Photography**, Sedgefield Community College, 4:30-6:30pm. Join us in celebrating the amazing work by our year 7-11 students.
- Saturday 5** **Annual Summer Picnic and Sports Day**, Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall, from 5pm. All the usual shenanigans with quoits, live music, family sports, catch up with friends.
- Friendly Fixers**, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Repair café.
- Sedgefield Youth Club Carnival Fun Day**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 12:30-3:30pm. Face painting, games, raffle, refreshments and more. Free entry. Everyone welcome.
- Sunday 6** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30-12:15pm.
- Monday 7** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:45pm. Aspects of our archive, a selection of items from our extensive collection.
- Tuesday 8** **Open Mic Night**, Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall, 7:30-10pm. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. £3 performers, £5 non-performers.
- Friday 11** **Beer Festival**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 6-11pm. 14 real ales, 4 ciders and a BBQ. All beers brewed in the North East. Free entry.
- Saturday 12** **Organ Recital with Mark Spalding**, St. Edmund's Church, 7pm. Part of the ongoing celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Parish of the Upper Skerne. Entry is £8 on the door.
- Beer Festival**, see Friday entry; with live music.
- Tuesday 15** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am to 12pm. For those living with dementia and carers.
- Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm. Members night, workshop with Val Guest.
- Friday 25** **Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group coffee morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.

For more details about these events, go to [sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://sedgefieldweb.co.uk).

**Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group**  
Methodist Church on Mondays from 9:30am to 11am.

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

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

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

**Sedgefield Carpet Bowls**  
Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm in Ceddesfeld Hall.

**Pop-in Club at Ceddesfeld Hall**  
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).  
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**Move County Durham**  
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**parkrun junior parkrun**

### parkrun & junior parkrun

Every Saturday at 9am there is a free, 5k timed run at Hardwick Park. All welcome as volunteers, walkers or runners.

Every Sunday at 9am, there is a free 2k run for 4-14 year olds at Hardwick Park. We welcome volunteers including those doing their Duke of Edinburgh awards.

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

### Sedgefield Library

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

### One Step Forward

A bereavement support group runs every Thursday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm at St. Edmund's Church. Everyone is welcome - of all faiths or none. For details contact Sue on 07779 093386.

