

SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

July 2026

Submission deadline for the next edition: Tuesday 14 July

Archaeological Dig at East Park



The 2026 dig site. With thanks to Paul Heasman

For three weeks in June, East Park became the focus of archaeological activity as Durham University led a new excavation aimed at uncovering more about the area's Roman past. The dig forms part of an ongoing effort to better understand the settlement that once thrived alongside Cade's Road, a major Roman route connecting Brough-on-Humber, York, and Newcastle.

In particular, archaeologists are keen to understand how the enclosures lining Cade's Road were used and whether their purpose evolved over time, shedding new light on daily life, trade, and industry during the Roman era in this region.

As well as contributing valuable research, the excavation has provided an excellent hands-on training opportunity for university students, giving them direct experience in archaeological fieldwork.

Even in its early stages, the dig has uncovered a number of fascinating finds. Among the most notable are a denarius—a Roman silver coin—and an intact quern stone, the tool used to produce flour from grain.

This latest excavation builds on previous archaeological work in the area. East Park was explored in 2002 by Channel 4's Time Team (Series 10, Episode 12), followed by investigations in 2005 led by Durham County Council and Durham University, and in 2019 by DigVentures. Each has contributed to a growing understanding of the site's importance.

The current team continues to analyse its findings, and further insights are expected once post-excavation work is complete. Encouragingly, there are plans for the team to return in 2027, promising more discoveries and a deeper understanding of East Park's Roman heritage.

We look forward to bringing you further updates as this story unfolds.

Sedgefield Show Returns

Now in its 171st year, Sedgefield Show continues to celebrate the very best of agriculture, rural life and local talent, bringing together competitors, exhibitors, traders and visitors from across the North East for a fantastic family day out.

Both the website and competition entries are now open. Exhibitors can enter a wide range of classes, including livestock, equine, horticulture, home and handcraft, and more. Visitors can look forward to a packed programme of attractions throughout the day, alongside the traditional livestock and equine competitions that remain at the heart of the show. With trade stands, food vendors, family entertainment and plenty to see.



Advance tickets are available to purchase online, offering a discount compared with gate prices on the day.

For schedules, entries, tickets and the latest updates, visit www.sedgefieldshow.co.uk.

STOP PRESS: King's Birthday Honours

Sedgefield resident Geoff Hill has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the King's Birthday Honours, recognising his dedication to preserving the wartime history of RAF Middleton St George.

Geoff, whose passion for aviation history runs in his family, has been honoured for his voluntary work keeping the stories of the station's aircrew alive.

We'll be sharing the full story in our August edition.

SCHOOL NEWS

English Touring Opera

Last month, a group of Sedgefield Community College students had a fabulous opportunity to work with the English Touring Opera (ETO) as part of the school's commitment to giving our children opportunities to discover and develop their talents in the creative and performing arts.

ETO delivered a workshop in school and this was a chance to develop key skills including teamwork, creativity and problem-solving. The students were supported to plan, rehearse and perform their own piece and produced work that was incredibly impressive!

The focus throughout was on confidence and expression, with students encouraged to experiment with acting, composing and reworking elements of opera repertoire.

As well as the workshop in school, our students were then given the chance to attend Durham Gala Theatre to see the ETO's performance of Pagliacci. Watching the professional performance after their own workshop work helped bring everything together and gave real context to what they had been exploring in school.

The creative and performing arts are a central part of our school. During the summer term, there are chances for the local community to share in the brilliant work of our students. Our annual Art Exhibition takes place on Wednesday 1 July from 4.30pm to 6.30pm. The school year then ends with our annual school production – this year, we're performing 'High School Musical Jr'!



Debating skills

A group of Year 6 pupils from Sedgefield Hardwick impressed audiences this week during a visit to Newcastle Civic Centre, where they took part in a debate event alongside schools from across the Laidlaw Schools Trust.



The event, held inside the council chambers, gave pupils the opportunity to discuss and debate a range of important and thought-provoking topics. Among the issues raised were whether public transport should be made free for everyone and if too much money is currently being spent on space exploration. The children spoke confidently as they shared their opinions, listened carefully to opposing viewpoints and responded with thoughtful counter arguments. The debates encouraged the children to think critically about real-world issues while developing their speaking and listening skills.

Throughout the day, the pupils demonstrated maturity, respect and excellent teamwork, representing our school superbly. The experience also gave pupils the chance to meet and collaborate with children from other schools across the trust, creating an atmosphere of friendly competition and shared learning. A Year 6 pupil commented, "It was exciting to debate important topics in the actual council chambers. I was nervous at first, but I felt really proud to share my opinions and listen to ideas from other schools."

Early Years

At the heart of our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a nurturing environment where children feel safe, valued and excited to learn. Our team is passionate about creating joyful first experiences of school, where curiosity is encouraged and every child is supported to grow at their own pace. At the same time, children are challenged at their own level so they can develop new skills, build confidence and discover what they are capable of. Through carefully planned opportunities, children explore the world around them and develop a genuine love of learning that stays with them long after their time in EYFS.

We offer purposeful learning in a family feel environment that helps children develop the skills they need for life. These skills include listening to one another, sharing, showing kindness and working together. Whether they are building, imagining, investigating or creating, children learn through meaningful experiences that strengthen communication, resilience and independence. Our EYFS provision ensures that every child begins their school journey with strong foundations, happy memories and the belief that they can achieve anything.

If you wish to know more about our Reception and Nursery places for September '26 please contact our school office for more information. Limited places are still available.



Reception Places Available

Every day is an open day!

Visits Welcome

Please call 01740 620359
or email office@sedgefieldprimary.co.uk



Head Teacher: Mrs I. Collings | www.sedgefield-pri.durham.sch.uk
 Find us at Rectory Row, Sedgefield, TS21 2BJ.

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST PROJECTS



FARMERS MARKET
Sunday 5 July
8:30am to 12pm
Sedgefield Village Green

Farmers Market - looking for volunteers!

Our popular and successful Monthly Farmers market relies very much on the support of our volunteers in setting up and taking down the gazebos and tables. If you are able to help with one or both sessions on the first Sunday every month it would be much appreciated. Each activity takes approximately 30 minutes or less.

Set up is at 8am and take down is from 12pm. If you would like to help, just turn up on the day and you will be warmly welcomed!

Friendly Fixers

Saturday 4 July
10:30am to 12:30pm

Fishburn Youth & Community Centre

Contact us at repaircafe@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk
 or join our Facebook page - [Friendly Fixers - Repair Café](#).



SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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Advertising revenue keeps Sedgefield News free to read for over 3,250 homes and businesses in Sedgefield and the surrounding area. Our current advertising co-ordinator is stepping down after nearly four years. So, we are looking for a replacement!

It takes a few hours each month to correspond with new and existing advertisers, lay out the adverts and occasionally help with designing them, and set up the electronic invoicing. It is quite straightforward, if you are used to office-type software. For more information or if you are interested in stepping in, please e-mail adverts@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk. Help during handover will be available. Thanks!



Birthday Bird Song

To celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday the Woodland & Wildlife Project organised a dawn chorus walk at Skerne Wood @NETPark. The walk was led by Fred Milton our resident bird pro. He gave attendees an insight into how he carries out the annual bird survey for the project and helped us identify bird song from around the woodland. We heard many birds including black cap, whitethroat, willow warbler and blue tits. Following the walk we enjoyed breakfast and of course a birthday cake in the morning sun. A big thank you to Fred for leading the walk and sharing your extensive knowledge and for everyone who attended the event.



If you would like to know more or volunteer with us please contact Melissa – woodland@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk or join our Facebook page - 'Woodland & Wildlife -Sedgefield'.

Christian Aid Week appeal 2026

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



Good Friday Procession of Witness	£160
Methodist Church Coffee Morning	£695
Other donations	£655
Total	£1,510

Thank you to everyone for your support.

Margaret and David Glass

ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH UK FOR A CURE

The Happy Hippy Campus Hike

To mark Dementia Action Week, John Hirst, 73, completed a 70-mile hike in memory of his late wife Pat, who was diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia at 61 and died aged 66. The condition affects speech and behaviour.

Starting in Newcastle, John was joined on day one by his 3-year-old grandson Henry. He said Pat would have been proud of him.

Supported by politicians from all parties along the way, John also met Sedgefield's Memory Café organisers during the penultimate stage of his journey.

His original £1,000 fundraising target was more than doubled, and he thanked the generous County Durham communities. Donations can still be made at [JustGiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com) – search for "The Happy Hippy Campus Hike".



John Hirst, Fiona Burrell and the Sedgefield Memory Café team

u3a update



Our speaker this month gave a fascinating talk on the construction of the Panama Canal. As America's population grew in the mid-19th century and settlements expanded west during the Gold Rush, faster transport became essential in a country without developed roads or railways. A canal through Central America promised to shorten sea journeys by weeks. French engineers began construction in Panama (then part of Colombia), but difficulties and disease led to the US, under President Roosevelt, taking over. The canal was completed in 1914, with full control transferred to Panama in 1999.

Redhills Durham Miners' Hall has recently been re-established as a focal point for the living heritage and culture of the county's coalfield communities. A small party from our Science and Industry group visited in mid-May and were given a tour of the Grade II listed building, along with a short talk on the history of the Durham Miners' Association. A highlight of the tour was a visit to the 'Pitman's Parliament', an impressive hall which held around 300 delegates, one from every pit in the region.



The union was not a hotbed of left-wing activists but a group of moderate Methodists who did a huge amount of good work for poorer people in the region, creating playgrounds for children, supporting miners' widows when they lost their homes, and helping to reduce the number of hours children were allowed to work in the mines.

Our new Health and Wellbeing Group has proved popular, featuring a talk on ultra-processed foods (UPFs) and their impact on health. These include preservatives, emulsifiers, flavours, and colours, and are now an intrinsic part of much of the food we eat. Some are being found to be carcinogenic.

The Lunch Group enjoyed a social meeting at Wynyard Golf Club.

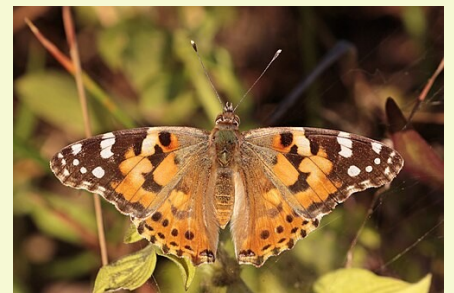
STEVE'S NATURE DIARY JULY 2026

Even though June is quite often called the "June gap" – a gap between spring and summer butterflies – it has been a time of plenty for a particular migrant species: the Painted Lady.

The Painted Lady is a large, fast-flying butterfly with beautifully patterned black, white and pink-orange wings. It is not a year-round resident here in the UK, but rather one of our regular migrants, arriving on our shores mainly in late spring and summer.

The Painted Lady carries out one of the longest migratory journeys in the animal kingdom – a multi-generational, 9,000-mile trip from tropical Africa to the Arctic Circle, even crossing the hostile terrain of the Sahara Desert. They often travel hundreds of metres above the ground to take advantage of favourable tailwinds that enable them to reach speeds of 50km/h – far faster than they can fly under their own power. Overall, their annual journey is almost double the length of the famous migrations undertaken by Monarch butterflies in North America. No individual Painted Lady makes the round trip; instead, a succession of up to 10 generations each completes a leg of the journey.

So far this year, they have arrived here in large numbers, and I have had several in the garden. Have you seen any? It is a frequent visitor to gardens and feeds on buddleia and other flowers. The caterpillars feed on thistles, mallows and viper's-bugloss, as well as various cultivated plants. Heatwaves in southern Europe and benign southerly winds have created ideal migration conditions, pushing huge numbers northwards into Britain. It is thought that 2026 will see the largest Painted Lady arrival since 2009, when around 11 million reached the UK.



Painted Lady

BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT

It will probably be one of the butterflies to make an appearance in 'The Big Butterfly Count', which returns from 17 July to 9 August, gathering vital data to help Butterfly Conservation support butterflies and moths. You can find more details and take part in the count at:

campaigns.butterfly-conservation.org/big-butterfly-count-2026-pre-register

A new Conversational Spanish group will begin in September, with strong member interest. Anyone wishing to share a skill or hobby is encouraged to get in touch to help start new groups.

We are an organisation for retired and semi-retired people who share knowledge and learn from one another. Visit our website for details of upcoming meetings, visits, trips, and events.

Our next meeting is on Friday 3 July for our AGM and cream tea. We do not meet in August, returning to the Parish Hall (2–4pm) on 4 September, when Denis Fox will share more stories of local people's involvement in World War II. We hope you can join us.

Chris Balfour



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CEDDESFIELD HALL

Mediaeval Fayre 2026

Another busy and successful event, enjoyed by a large number of local people who continue to engage in and invest in community life with such fantastic enthusiasm. A truly impressive 'army' of volunteers on the day!

Huge thanks must go to the town's businesses, shops and pubs for their generous support and fabulous donations towards the SCA tombola; to the children and staff of Sedgefield Primary, Sedgefield Hardwick Academy and the Fishburn Chi Taekwondo group for their enthusiasm, creativity and vitality; and to the various clubs and organisations – SDT, SIB, Sedgefield Cricket Club, Sedgefield Scouts, Sedgefield Mayor's Charity Fund, Sedgefield Ploggers, STC (Community Chest Fund), Sedgefield Manor House, St Edmund's Church, SCA members and friends, hobby and craft stall holders, and funfair showmen – as well as Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen.

Thanks also to Walworth Birds of Prey, ACLE, Durham Rams, Escafeld, Black Sheep Morris Men, and Pitlington Brass Band. Special thanks go to Sedgefield Players for providing a breakfast buffet; to Wendy Rowley and Pop In for their afternoon tea café in the main hall; to Mayor Peter Hinde, who compèred the event throughout the day; to Ceddesfeld Bar (committee and helpers); and to the SCA Trustees and the Mediaeval Fayre planning committee.

Finally, thank you to everyone who came along to support and enjoy the day. It was FAB!

Ceddesfeld Hall Beer Festival – Friday 10 July (6pm) & Saturday 11 July (6pm) – Free Entrance

SCA is delighted to continue hosting this popular annual event, supporting local Northeast breweries with up to 14 beers and four ciders available (tokens £2 per half pint). The community bar will also be open, with a BBQ serving burgers and hot sausage buns on both nights.

Entertainment on Saturday (from 8pm) will be provided by popular local band Mamma Said.

If you can help on the bar or the BBQ, please contact Tony on 07484 279427 or email

info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk.

Save the date: Family Fun Afternoon – Sunday 23 August, 1pm to 4pm

For more information on Ceddesfeld Hall events, regular activities, room hire and bar opening times, visit our website www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk. Follow us on Facebook.



Sedgefield Charities

Many local charities have their roots in charitable endowments—funds or assets given long ago to provide lasting support. In Sedgefield, a number of smaller endowments dating back to the 18th century have been brought together and continue to benefit the community today.

The income from these endowments funds two local grant-giving charities, each with a clear purpose and a strong local focus.

Sedgefield District Relief in Need

This charity provides practical support to people facing hardship across Sedgefield and surrounding villages.

Grants can help with everyday essentials such as household items, medical equipment, or living costs, as well as support for training and wellbeing. Funding is also given to local organisations that assist vulnerable residents such as Sedgefield Pop In Club and the Marie Curie Cancer Centre.

Organisations who provide support for those in need in our local area can apply to Sedgefield Charities for specific projects.

Applications for funding for individuals must be made via a third-party such as a referral from a social worker, health visitor or community organisation.

Sedgefield Educational Foundation

This charity focuses on helping young people from lower-income families access higher education.

It provides grants to students studying beyond A-levels, including university or vocational courses, helping them manage the cost of learning and living. See the adjacent advert on how to apply.

Together, these charities show how historic endowments continue to make a real difference. Income generated from past gifts is carefully managed by trustees and distributed as grants, supporting individuals, families and community organisations today whilst also preserving funds for future generations.



Sedgefield Charities: Education grants for students



The Sedgefield 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, 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.

Closing date for applications:

30 September 2026

ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

Contact Geoff at sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com

Sedgefield Players Update

The June production was *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which audiences enjoyed over three nights in the Parish Hall. With a set full of flowers and colourful costumes, the cast brought this wonderful Oscar Wilde play to life. Director Sarah Atkinson said, "We have loved doing this play, and rehearsals have been great fun, which I think showed in the performances."



Pictured (L-R): Lucy Atkinson, Amy Henery, Tom Guest, Nathan Cox, Rosemary Jones, Peter Hook

The play may be over, but the group will not be getting much rest, as they go straight into rehearsals for the One Act Festival in September. Tom Guest and Sarah Atkinson will each direct a play for the Players, while Lucy Atkinson and Kelsey White are directing the older SPYS play, *A Wrinkle in Time*.

The Festival starts on Monday 7 September and will run until Saturday 12 September, featuring groups from Richmond, Scarborough, Bishop Auckland and Durham. It will be adjudicated by Chris Jeager, making his first visit to Sedgefield, and we look forward to welcoming him. Please look out for further ticket information.

Sedgefield Players

Durham County Show

The countryside comes to town this summer as the Durham County Show returns to Thornley Hall Farm on 4 and 5 July 2026, offering a packed weekend of family entertainment, rural traditions and agricultural excellence.

One of the biggest events in the county, it features livestock displays, horse classes and British Showjumping, alongside craft stalls, trade stands, local producers and plenty of family attractions. Highlights this year include monster truck rides, Shetland pony racing, dog shows and arena displays.

Whether you're a farming enthusiast or simply looking for a great day out, the show celebrates the best of County Durham's rural heritage, with something for all ages. With more attractions still to be announced, organisers promise a fantastic summer outing for the whole family.

Bishop Auckland Music Society

Classical music lovers are in for a treat this July as Bishop Auckland Music Society welcomes award-winning double bassist Strahinja Mitrović.

Taking place, as usual, in Bishop Auckland Methodist Church on Friday 10 July, the concert will showcase one of the most exciting young musicians on the classical scene. Currently pursuing postgraduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Mitrović made history in 2024 by becoming the first double bassist to win the Guildhall School's prestigious Gold Medal since the award was established over a century ago.

Joining him on piano is Chloé Dumoulin, for a programme spanning Mozart, Schumann, Fauré and Lowell Liebermann.

Audiences can expect a rich and varied evening, demonstrating the remarkable expressive range of an instrument more often found at the back of the orchestra than centre stage.

The concert forms part of BAMS' long-running programme of high-quality chamber music, which resumes in September and brings internationally acclaimed performers to Bishop Auckland.

Whether you're a seasoned concert-goer or simply curious to hear a world-class musician in an intimate setting, this promises to be a memorable summer evening of exceptional music-making. Ticket details are available at bvemv.orpheusweb.co.uk/BAMSWeb/bams.html, with free admission for under-18s.



SPORTS UPDATE with Chris Lines

As I write this, men's football World Cup fever is starting to build, but there's a long way to go before fans of the two home nations that are competing should get too giddy. Regardless of what's happening across the Atlantic, the grass roots sports action back here in Sedgefield isn't letting up...

Athletics

Sedgefield Harrier Gary Thwaites is celebrating after winning the mammoth Hardmoors 200 ultra marathon, on a course from Hull to Helmsley. Readers of these updates may remember that Gary is a seasoned ultra runner, with an impressive track record, including a high placed finish in the legendary Dragon's Back Race.

The Hardmoors 200 started in Kingston upon Hull and followed a route alongside the River Humber, following the Transpennine Trail, to the start of the Wolds Way National Trail. Competitors then followed the Yorkshire Wolds Way for 79 miles along wooded slopes, over hills and through valleys, eventually descending from the northern escarpment to the dramatic headland of Filey Brigg. Then runners were faced with the full 112 miles of the Cleveland Way, along the stunning coastline and passing through Scarborough, Robin Hood's Bay, Whitby, Staithes, Runswick Bay and Saltburn, before heading through the Cleveland Hills and the North York Moors to the race finish in Helmsley.

Competitors were allowed 60 hours to finish the race, and had 24 hours to complete the first 88 miles. As well as the tough terrain, cut off times were very challenging. However, Gary ran incredibly well to win the event in a time of 50 hours, 22 minutes and 57 seconds, an hour and 20 minutes ahead of the second and third placed runners, who finished together. Simply completing the Hardmoors 200 is a major achievement – winning the race outright was a phenomenal result. A couple of weeks later, clubmates gave Gary a guard of honour as he undertook tail walker volunteer duties at Sedgefield parkrun. While he has been giving his legs a well deserved break after his epic run, Gary will no doubt be eyeing up another ultra challenge soon, while also continuing his work as co-host of the popular Tea & Trails podcast.



Sedgefield Harriers will stage its summer handicap race for the Gerry Kearsley Memorial Trophy on Thursday 23rd July. The event is over a distance of around 10km on a two-lap multi-terrain route that starts and finishes at Bishop Middleham Village Hall. The event welcomes all runners and is free for members of affiliated clubs, with a nominal fee of £2 for others. Handicaps are based on each participant's best 10km time over the previous 12 months, and the trophy is awarded to the first runner back (not the person with the fastest time). Entries are on the day only, with registration opening at 5:15pm and the first runner setting off at 6:30pm.

Football

The junior section of Fishburn Community FC held its presentation event in early June, with awards presented to all players in the U11 and U14 teams, along with some additional trophies for a range of categories. The event was organised by club manager Dan Dowson, who recently found out that he's been nominated for a BBC Radio Tees Make a Difference Award for 2026. The awards recognise individuals and groups who make life better for people in communities across Teesside, County Durham and North Yorkshire. Meanwhile, the following awards were presented to the young Fishburn players.

U11s:

- Most Improved Player – Ava Lowther
- Players' Player of the Year – Archie Phillips
- Parents' Player and Gaffer's Player of the Year – Alexander (Panda) Philipson
- Captain's Player of the Year – Charlie Hampson

U14s:

- Most Improved Player – Theo Bird
- Parents' Player and Players' Player of the Year – Ryan Harvey
- Captain's Player of the Year – Sam Fenwick.
- Gaffer's Player of the Year – James Watt
- Founder's Commemorative Award – Lewis Amer.



Taekwondo



At the end of May, two students from Chi Taekwondo attended a Dan grading event at Warcop in Cumbria, hosted by Koryo Taekwondo. The two candidates were Jack Craggs from Bishop Middleham, who attained his 1st Dan Black Belt, and instructor Paul Metcalfe from Ferryhill, who was promoted to 3rd Dan. Both performed brilliantly on the day and were awarded their new ranks by Grand Master and 8th Dan Ian Leaf.



Chi Taekwondo has local clubs based at Fishburn, Chilton and Bishop Middleham, and covers all aspects of the martial arts. The sport is ideal for anyone wanting to improve their health, fitness and confidence, while learning how to defend themselves. It's open to anyone wishing to give it a try and the club currently has members aged from five to 77 who all train to the best of their ability. For more information about Chi Taekwondo, please call 07743 455065 or 07368 818372.

Cricket



July marks the midway point in the cricket season and Sedgefield's 1st XI have put themselves in a position where a very successful campaign is a real possibility. The team has reached the final of both the Haith and Brunton Cups - but for weather postponements both finals would have taken place in mid-June – and in the league, Sedgefield are (at the time of writing this) just two points behind the leaders with a game in hand, putting them in contention to challenge for promotion.

The junior teams are also showing promising signs. All of the U11, U12, U13 and U15 sides lie in the top few places in their leagues and the girls' hardball and softball teams have performed very encouragingly in their outings so far.

I will update you on all of the teams' progress next month.

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

SEDGEFIELD SPEAKS



A conversation between our new contributor, Dhruba, and Sedgefield resident, Colin Reid.

Dhruba: Colin, thank you for sitting with me today. You've lived in Sedgefield for several years now. When you look at the village today, does it still feel like the place you first moved into?

Colin: When we arrived in 2019, we were among the first on the estate. We'd moved from Hartlepool because we wanted a quieter, village atmosphere. We loved being able to walk into the village on a summer evening, have a drink or a meal, walk the dogs, and stroll back. Even with the expansion, it still feels like the village we hoped for.

Dhruba: Has that feeling changed with the new developments?

Colin: Not really. Yes, it's grown, especially this side of Sedgefield, but the heart of the village remains the same. The pubs, restaurants, tea rooms, and small shops still give it that village charm. The centre still feels like the Sedgefield we first knew.

Dhruba: And what about the community groups and events?

Colin: They're brilliant. My grandson loves the Mediaeval Fayre. Sedgefield in Bloom keeps the village looking beautiful. There's always something happening—Hardwick Festival, the Show, all sorts of things. It's a lively place. I still volunteer in Hartlepool, but living here gives us the best of both worlds.

Dhruba: Sedgefield is also quite self-contained—shops, GP surgery, hospital. How do you see that?

Colin: It's very convenient. I rarely need to shop elsewhere. The hospital and GP surgery have been excellent. You don't have to go far for anything essential.

Dhruba: Finally, any advice for the next generation growing up here?

Colin: Enjoy what the village offers. It's not a big city, but it has everything you need—good facilities, friendly people, and a strong sense of community. Get involved - embrace it!

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