

# SEDGEFIELD NEWS

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

June 2026

Submission deadline for the next edition: Sunday 14 June

## Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year



Amelia Taylor and Michael King at the Annual Town Meeting

At the Annual Town Meeting, Sedgfield celebrated the remarkable contributions of two individuals who embody the very best of community spirit. Amelia Taylor was named Young Citizen of the Year 2025, while Michael King received the Citizen of the Year 2025 award.

At just 15, Amelia has already made a significant impact across the village. Her involvement spans Guiding—through Brownies, Guides and Rangers—where she also supports younger members as a youth leader. Alongside this, she is an active cricketer, a member of the Sedgfield Players Youth Section, and takes part in school productions. She also gives her time to local events, including volunteering at the Community College Open Evenings. Her enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to help others make her a truly deserving recipient and a fantastic role model for young people in the community.

Michael King's award recognises decades of dedication to Sedgfield life. Although he jokingly describes himself as a "newcomer" after 37 years in the village, he has become one of its most familiar and valued figures. As a lay minister at St Edmund's Church, Michael plays a central role—leading and assisting services, organising rotas, supporting pastoral care, and delivering much-loved events such as Carols on the Green. He is also known for conducting funerals with a deeply personal touch.

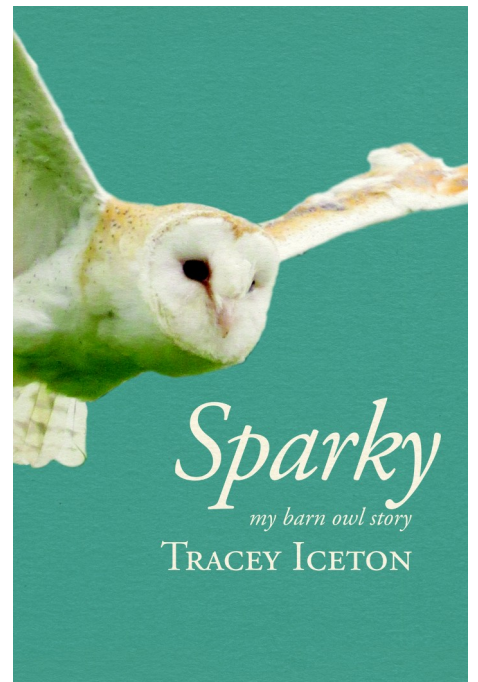
Beyond the church, Michael is equally committed at Ceddesfeld Hall, where he volunteers behind the bar, helps run events, and supports major community occasions including the Beer Festival and Mediaeval Fayre. Known for his friendliness and reliability, he is always ready to lend a hand—often stepping in wherever help is needed.

Together, Amelia and Michael represent the strength of Sedgfield's community. Their dedication and generosity of spirit highlight just how fortunate the village is to have so many people willing to give their time for others.

Congratulations to both on their well-deserved awards.

## Who is Sparky?

Who is Sparky the barn owl? Find out on page 3—and learn where to meet her in Sedgfield this month.



Published by



## SCHOOL NEWS

### Secondary School of the Year Nomination

When the nominations for the Tes Awards 2026 were announced, the entire team at Sedgefield Community College were delighted to find out that we have been shortlisted in the 'Secondary School of the Year' category. The Tes Awards are extremely prestigious national educational awards and are sometimes referred to as the 'Education Oscars'. The winners of the various categories will be announced during the awards ceremony that takes place in the Grosvenor Hotel in London on Friday 19 June 2026. The school's achievement in being shortlisted for this award is even more impressive due to the fact that it was only 2021 when we were last shortlisted for the award and actually won it on this occasion.

As a school, we're delighted that the fantastic efforts of our students, families, governors and staff have been recognised in this way. Our nomination focused on the efforts we make to ensure we are a truly inclusive school and our approach that is underpinned by having high expectations for every child in terms of their academic progress, but also in their development of wider skills and personal qualities. Thank you to every member of our school community who has contributed to this success.



### Celebrations

Pupils at Sedgefield Hardwick are celebrating a fantastic week as Year 6 children completed their SATs with determination, resilience and dedication in May.

The cohort approached each test with confidence and maturity, demonstrating not only their academic abilities but also the character virtues they have developed over their time at the school. Staff were incredibly proud of the way every pupil conducted themselves, supporting one another and giving their very best effort in every paper.



At the end of the week, Year 6 pupils were delighted to receive their special leavers' hoodies. Kindly funded by the school's PTA, the hoodies were presented as a keepsake to commemorate their time at primary school. The children wore them with pride and will look forward to wearing them for the remainder of the Summer term.

The celebrations didn't stop there. Once the tests were completed, the PTA treated every Year 6 pupil to a well-deserved pizza lunch. This provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to relax, unwind and enjoy time together after a busy and challenging week.

The school extends its sincere thanks to the PTA for their ongoing generosity and support, which helped make the end of SATs week so special for the children.

Well done to all Year 6 pupils - you have shown incredible effort, determination and spirit. Everyone at Sedgefield Hardwick is extremely proud of everything they have achieved.

### Blending old and new traditions

Pupils at Sedgefield Primary aim to blend cherished old traditions with plenty of new innovative ideas throughout their school life. We offer an education experience that is both nostalgic and innovative for everyone involved. Our goal is to bring elements of the classroom to spark everyone's curiosity and interest.

Every May, the Mediaeval Fayre offers this opportunity to endorse our school values of community spirit by these blended traditions, combined with new ideas. This year the Mediaeval Fayre's theme of 'Dancing Dinosaurs' has certainly achieved this.

Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed preparing for this community event. Pupils created an array of colourful dinosaurs to complete our shared procession with Sedgefield Hardwick.

We look forward to embracing next year's theme as we move forward and plan ahead in our shared vision of a brighter future as a school. Mrs Collings, our new Head Teacher, is enthusiastic in leading many new school developments.



## Reception Places Available

Every day is an open day!

Sedgefield Primary School

Together we can make a better future

Please call 01740 620359  
or email [office@sedgefieldprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@sedgefieldprimary.co.uk)

Visits Welcome



Head Teacher: Mrs L Collings | [www.sedgefield-pri.durham.sch.uk](http://www.sedgefield-pri.durham.sch.uk)  
Find us at Rectory Row, Sedgefield, TS21 2BJ.

## SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST *PROJECTS*



**FARMERS MARKET**  
**Sunday 7 June**  
**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 6 June**  
**10:30am to 12:30pm**  
**Fishburn Youth & Community Centre**

### Future Fixers?

Some of the volunteers at Friendly Fixers had a great session with the 1st Sedgefield Brownies and Guides recently, when we talked about why we run the Repair Cafe, what sort of things we try to fix, and the skills needed to do so.

We had a practical session, where everyone had the opportunity to sew on a button, and wire a plug. We were so impressed with the enthusiasm, knowledge and skills shown by the Brownies and Guides, and we hope to see some of them again in future, as new recruits to the Friendly Fixers!



Our thanks to the leaders and volunteers, for a very enjoyable and productive session.

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

### Who is Sparky?

This June Sedgefield Farmers Market hosts a bookstall with a twist. The stall will be run by the author and, unusually, the book's main character – Sparky the barn owl.

The book, *Sparky – My Barn Owl Story*, is the work of local author Tracey Iceton. Part memoir-part novel, it tells of how Tracey adopted Sparky, a captive-bred barn owl, and follows them on their journey together as they learn each other's ways. The book also includes imagined scenes from Sparky's life before she and Tracey met and offers Sparky's owl's-eye-view of her life lived with humans.

Tracey explains, "I was volunteering at an animal centre that Sparky happened to be brought into. Wanting to enrich her quality of life, I sought advice from a local bird of prey expert and began flying Sparky at the centre. After a while I realised the centre couldn't provide for Sparky properly and, for her wellbeing, I adopted her. Thankfully I had the support of the bird of prey expert as these animals need specialist care."



*Tracey Iceton with Sparky*

Nearly four years later, Sparky is thriving and the subject of Tracey's latest book (her fifth full length publication) which is released in May. Keen to share their story with people Tracey and Sparky are excited to be attending the Sedgefield Farmers Market on 7 June. Signed copies of the book will be available and, weather permitting, Sparky will entertain shoppers with a flying display. Afterwards, Tracey is giving a talk at Sedgefield's wonderful Back of Beyond Books so join her there at 2pm for cake, a cuppa and the low-down on the book.

For more information about the book visit [www.traceyiceton.co.uk](http://www.traceyiceton.co.uk).

### Sedgefield Area Men's Social (SAMS) group

We reported in April on a new initiative to create a men's social group for the wider Sedgefield area. At that time, plans were underway to launch the group and consult with interested men and their supporters.



We can now confirm the success of the first meeting, which attracted a strong turnout and lively discussion about how the group should develop and the activities it might offer. Graham from the group said, "We not only had participants for our developing calendar but also men willing to lead groups." While organisers prepare a full programme, two early sessions have already taken place. A mid-May walking group followed the Sedgefield Heritage Trail, sparking shared memories and experiences. This will be followed by a social and competitive ten-pin bowling event in early June.

Suggested activities range from walking and walking football to gardening, music evenings, and talks on topics relevant to men. These will form part of a broader and more varied programme in future.

The group also aims to link with other complementary local initiatives. Graham added, "Amongst the great support we've received is a financial contribution from the Town Mayor, which is greatly appreciated."

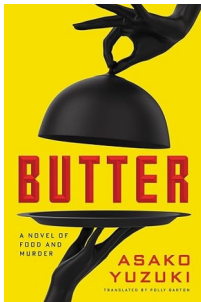
Anyone interested in joining (we are very inclusive) can email [sams@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:sams@sedgefielddevelopmenttrust.co.uk) or join the WhatsApp group by texting 07501 467487 with your name. Hard copies of the calendar are also available on request.

## u3a update



Members enjoyed another fascinating and informative afternoon at May's monthly meeting, when Keith Simpson spoke about the many castles and fortifications in County Durham. From medieval manor houses to Georgian castles, and from Roman fortresses to Victorian extensions, he had a story to tell—featuring swashbuckling derring-do, the occasional ghost, and the religious or wealthy families who built these wonderful structures. As always, a great speaker.

Twenty-four members of the Homes and Gardens Group visited the beautiful moated manor house of Markenfield Hall near Ripon, which dates from 1310. We were treated to delicious coffee and cake in the historic undercroft, before being escorted on a fascinating journey through time, exploring the ups and downs of the Hall and its owners. The house is remarkably well preserved and still lived in; its current owner is over 90 and still driving! We were even told that the two toilets were extraordinary—one was formerly a prison cell. We then travelled to Ripon for lunch, followed by time to explore the city and its lovely cathedral. Everyone, including our two drivers, said how much they had enjoyed the day.



The Book Group discussed *Butter* by Asaka Yuzuki, a highly acclaimed Japanese novel (translated into English in 2024) inspired by a real-life serial killer case. It is a slow-burn, character-driven story that explores themes of fatphobia, misogyny, and toxic femininity in Japan. Centred on a journalist's obsession with a gourmet-cooking convict, it offers rich food descriptions alongside sharp social commentary. If you'd like to broaden your reading with new titles, styles, and genres, do come along and join us on the second Thursday of each month in Ceddesfeld Hall.

## STEVE'S NATURE DIARY JUNE 2026

I am writing this just after a very successful long weekend in the Highlands of Scotland, spent in splendid scenery searching for birds that are Scottish specialities. Highlights of the trip included seeing crossbills feeding in Scots pines, enjoying good views of the crested tit, and visiting the well-known osprey nest at Loch Garten.

A little closer to home, I have made several visits to Seaton Carew to see its speciality—the little tern. These diminutive seabirds migrate from West Africa (a journey of over 3,000 miles) to spend the summer on the beach at Seaton Carew. They arrive in May and pair up, with males putting on an impressive display to attract a mate.



*Little Tern*

The female then lays two to three eggs in a shallow scrape on the ground.

Once hatched, the chicks are well camouflaged and remain close to the scrape, with adult birds providing food. The Tees Valley Wildlife Trust organises monitoring of the site, supported by paid wardens and around 15 volunteers. Their role is to protect the colony from predators and other threats.

Most visitors are delighted to see the little terns, but occasionally people ignore the signs and enter the fenced-off area, causing disturbance. This can lead to the adults leaving the nest, leaving eggs or chicks vulnerable to the elements and predators. Disturbance can also occur when dogs, especially those off the lead, approach the nesting area.

This important project relies heavily on volunteers, so if you are interested, do check the Trust's website [www.teeswildlife.org/little-terns-seaton-carew](http://www.teeswildlife.org/little-terns-seaton-carew).

It's that time of year again when you can sign up for a national project—30 Days Wild, which takes place every June. This is The Wildlife Trusts' mass engagement campaign, supported by all local Trusts, encouraging people to take part in nature-based activities throughout the month. The aim is to connect (or reconnect) people with wildlife and the natural world.

This year's weekly themes are: Help nature where you live, Discover wildlife with your senses, Learn about wildlife, and Get creative with nature and celebrate. You can find out more and sign up (and order your pack) here: [www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild#sign](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild#sign).

The Lunch Group had a rather disappointing visit to the Spotted Cow pub at Elwick. While the setting was beautiful and the staff were friendly, despite booking ahead the service was poor and food standards were very mixed.



However, later that week we enjoyed an exceptional Wine Appreciation Group meeting, where we sampled five European wines selected on the premise that they were entirely new to us. Complemented by delicious English nibbles (it was St George's Day, after all), we were very reluctant to make our way home at the end of a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The local NHS Coordinator for Wellbeing Services attended the Health and Wellbeing Group's first formal meeting and outlined the various services and support available for both mental and physical wellbeing. It was a very positive visit, with several members already interested in following up and accessing these services.

We are an organisation for retired or semi-retired people who wish to share knowledge, learn from their peers, and lead a lively, active, and engaged life. Do check our website for details of forthcoming meetings, visits, trips, and events.

Our next main meeting is on Friday, 5 June, from 2–4pm in the Parish Hall, when Clive Fennessey will be telling us the story of the Panama Canal. Do join us then.

*Chris Balfour*

## Three Peaks for Prostate Cancer Awareness



On 20 June, I'll be marking my 40th birthday by taking on the National Three Peaks Challenge to raise funds for Prostate Cancer UK.

This cause is very close to my heart, as my dad has been living with prostate cancer for several years. Seeing his journey has shown me how vital support, research and awareness are for families facing this illness.

The challenge involves climbing the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales within 24 hours. Every step I take will be in support of the important work carried out by Prostate Cancer UK.



I'd be grateful for any support from the local community—whether through a donation or by sharing my fundraising effort. To contribute, visit: [GoFundMe.com/lee3peaks](https://GoFundMe.com/lee3peaks)

This challenge is for my dad, and for all the families who are navigating life with prostate cancer. With your support, we can help make a difference.

Lee Gavin

## Open Farm Sunday

On Sunday 7 June we will be opening the farm to the public as part of the national Open Farm Sunday initiative.

Visitors will be able to see the cows being milked by our four robotic milking machines, see the slurry being moved by our new robotic slurry scrapers and also the robotic silage pusher. The calf shed will be open and there will be a display of farm tractors and machinery. Our taproom will be open serving a range of real ales brewed on site.

There will be a bouncy castle, pony rides, a treasure hunt and a tombola/raffle.

We sell our milk to ARLA and they will be at the event with samples of products made with the milk we provide. Entry will be a nominal £1 to raise funds for project Nakuru a charity supporting children living in poverty in Kenya.

Sharon Brown



## Sports Page overflow - Cricket

A squad of 12 players who are new to cricket entered a softball tournament on Sunday 10 May at Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club. They were competing against teams from Rockcliffe, Billingham and Newton Aycliffe.

The team won both their games and were overall winners, narrowly beating Billingham, based on overall runs scored. They are part of a big cohort of U11s at Sedgfield Cricket Club, who have been benefitting from coaching by the club's overseas player Harry Flynn on Friday evenings, which is helping them a lot.



## PACT meetings



Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings are a chance for the public to meet their local neighbourhood team and talk about the priorities they feel the police should be looking at in their area. The next meeting dates are:

### Sedgefield PACT meetings at the Fletcher Room at the Parish Hall.

Thursday 16 July 6pm-7pm

Friday 18 September 6pm-7pm

Thursday 5 November 6pm-7pm

### Fishburn PACT meetings at Fishburn Youth & Community Centre

Thursday 18 June 6:30pm-7:30pm

Thursday 13 August 6:30pm-7:30pm

Thursday 8 October 6:30pm-7:30pm

Thursday 3 December 6:30pm-7:30pm



**Sedgefield Business Network**  
Connecting local companies

SEDGEBFIELD BUSINESS NETWORK  
**BUSINESS BREAKFAST**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 7:45-9:30am  
Orbit Innovation Space, NETPark

Join us for a **FREE** and informal networking event!

Hear from:

- Business Durham Managing Director Kerry Walker on the organisation's recent work and future ambitions
- Orbit Business Development Manager Joanne Rout about how businesses can work with Durham University

Opportunities to tour the Orbit Business incubation facility and Centre for Advanced Instrumentation Facility

Enjoy a tasty breakfast and network with local businesses

Email [sedgefieldbn@gmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldbn@gmail.com) to confirm your place or use the QR code

Kindly supported and sponsored by:

Business Durham | NETPARK | Orbit | Durham University

## ARTS UPDATE with Geoff Millichap

Contact Geoff at [sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com](mailto:sedgefieldartsandevents@outlook.com)

### St Edmund's Evensong & Concert

Those who attended a wonderful choral concert at St. Edmund's in May of last year by the Chapel Choir of University College, Durham will no doubt be thrilled to hear that the choir will be making a return visit this year on Sunday 21 June. They liked the church and its acoustic, and particularly appreciated the fact that they had an audience, where normally they sing Evensong in Durham chapels with just a handful of people in the congregation.

As well as Evensong, the choir has offered to treat us to a short concert afterwards. The service, with music by Bairstow, Smith of Durham, Dyson and Howells, will begin at 6pm and will be followed by an interval during which light refreshments will be available.

St. Edmund's Church, Sedgefield  
**CHORAL EVENSONG  
AND CONCERT**  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June  
Evensong 6 pm, followed by light  
refreshments; short concert starts 7.30 pm  
Chapel Choir of  
University College, Durham

Programme information: [sedgefieldact@gmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldact@gmail.com)

The concert will start at 7:30pm and will last approximately 45 minutes. It will include music by Stanford, Ireland, Wesley, Elgar, Stainer and Bullock. Some of these composers may not be familiar to all of us, but most will be well-known to choral evensong enthusiasts. I, for one, am looking forward to hearing music by a Durham composer of the 17th Century, William Smith, who is chiefly known for the Choral Preces and Responses which we will hear in the course of the service.

The key information is:

Sunday 21 June, 6pm Evensong followed by light refreshments and then 7:30pm concert, both with the Chapel Choir of University College, Durham. There are no tickets - just come along.

*Sedgefield Area Churches Together*

### Charity Concert With Lirica And Friends

Lirica presents a charity concert in aid of CoppaFeel! The Breast Cancer Awareness Charity. A night of varied music featuring Lirica and soloists, raising money for a fantastic cause.

Join us for an evening of live entertainment from [www.ticketsource.com/liricacharityconcert/lirica-friends-charity-concert-for-coppafeel/e-emvazy](http://www.ticketsource.com/liricacharityconcert/lirica-friends-charity-concert-for-coppafeel/e-emvazy)

*Sedgefield Lyric Singers*

Lirica and Friends  
present a  
**CHARITY  
CONCERT**  
In aid of **CF!** Breast Cancer Awareness!  
Saturday 6 June 2026, 7.30pm  
(Doors at 7pm)  
Ceddesfeld Hall, Rectory Row, Sedgefield  
To book tickets  
Adults - £8  
Under 16s - £5  
Raffle Available!

### Sound Space

A new creative venture launches at ARC Stockton as Obi Studios presents Sound Space, a relaxed vinyl listening experience by Mark from Obi Studios North End.



Designed for neurodivergent adults, it offers a low-pressure environment with no expectation to socialise. Join us on 12 June, 7pm-9pm. Free tickets are available via Eventbrite [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) (search "Sound Space").

### Sedgefield Players Update

The Sedgefield Players Youth Section recently performed Alice in Wonderland. Playing to full houses over two nights, the audience were taken to a magical land of rabbits, mad hatters, hares, a mock turtle and a Cheshire cat. With a plethora of other animals the whole company brought wonder and joy. Praise must also go to Neo Hook who made the fabulous puppets that were used throughout the play. Vic Jacobs, Chairman, said, 'We are all so immensely proud of these young players. Their enjoyment shone through and they all performed so well.'

The Players are also well into rehearsals for The Importance of Being Earnest. This well known Oscar Wilde play brings together two men about town and their complicated double lives they lead leading to confusion as to who actually is Ernest. Playing the main roles is Nathan Cox and Tom Guest with Lucy Atkinson and Amy Henery as their prospective loves. Playing the eponymous Lady Bracknell, is Jean Hewling, who gets to say one of the most recognised lines in theatre. With Peter Hook and Rosemary Jones as Dr Chasuble and Rosemary Jones as Miss Prism and Charlie Lines and newcomer Kieron Brown as the two household butlers making up the cast. This is a most enjoyable farce, one not to be missed.

*Sedgefield Players*

Sedgefield Lyric Singers, SLYC and Lirica present  
**THREE  
CHOIRS  
TOGETHER**  
And All That Jazz  
7.30pm, Friday 3rd &  
Saturday 4th July 2026  
St. Edmund's Church, Sedgefield  
£8  
£6 U16  
Available from Tickety Boo, from  
members of the choirs or online  
LYRICA Lirica

## SPORTS UPDATE with Chris Lines

As promised last month, this update includes part two of a squash season wrap-up, along with end of term reports from football and rugby. See also the overflow on Page 5! There's a lot to get through, so I'd better get on with it...

### Football

Overall, St. Edmund's FC completed a very good season in the league, finishing third in the Durham Sunday League Premier Division. The club also had a couple of good cup runs. Reflecting a fairly good season for St. Edmund's, Kieran Parnaby was the Premier League's leading goal scorer and Calum Johnston won the most man of the match awards, which are chosen by the opponents. The club hopes to build and go even better next season.

Off the pitch, St. Edmund's FC is now the owner of a mobile defibrillator. This could benefit not just the club's own players and supporters but opposing teams and any others in the area. The club recently hosted its third annual race night in the Hardwick Arms, which was a huge success. The event was first held in 2024 to raise funds to allow the club to continue, and each year a chosen charity receives half of the money raised. This year, the plan was to split the funds in three ways - a third to the club, a third to Red Sky Foundation and a third towards a defibrillator (total cost £1,400). While looking for race sponsors, Gerard May, one of the owners of HMH Civils, kindly offered to pay the entire cost of the defibrillator - everyone at St. Edmund's FC was over the moon at his generosity.

This also meant that the club could revert to halving the fundraising from the race night. The defibrillator was presented to club chairman Gary Soppitt on the night by HMH Civils Commercial Director Tim Mekins. The race night could not go ahead without the continued backing of the local community, with many raffle prizes donated. Over 80 people attended on the night and many more sponsored races, horses and purchased raffle tickets. The continued support from the Hardwick Arms, providing the venue each year, is also greatly appreciated by the club.

In other football news, Grace Dobson from Sedgefield has been selected to represent England at the International School Sport Federation Football World Cup in China later this year. Grace is a student at the Park View Academy of Sport in Chester-le-Street and, along with three schoolmates, she will be part of an 18 player squad for the tournament in October.

Being selected is a huge achievement and a reflection of Grace's hard work, dedication and footballing ability. I look forward to finding out how Grace gets on in China, and will report on that later in the year.

### Squash

Saturday 16 May saw the Durham & Cleveland Squash County Awards ceremony at Norton Sports Club. At this event, Sedgefield Squash Club was thrilled to be the recipient of Club of the Year. This is based on criteria such as team achievements, junior programmes, coaching, facilities, working with the community and schools, social events, and competitions.

Also at this event, one of the club's members, Ian Williams, won the Ian Kirton Trophy for inter-county Masters performance, on his debut playing for the county over 65s team.

The recent end of season Sedgefield Squash Club Championships saw Karen Naunton and Rob Pearce crowned Club Champions, defeating Marie Priest and Stephen Rowsby respectively. Rising star Huey Lamb was crowned Junior Champion defeating Gideon Welsh in the final. The Under 15s category was won by Gideon Welsh, defeating Samuel Lines. The Under 11s trophy was won by Oscar Barton, defeating Oscar Allen. Oscar Barton won all three of his games at the recent Under 11s Northern Cup in Manchester, where Durham & Cleveland finished runners up.

The ladder competition is running over the summer to ensure everyone is fit and fine for the new season starting in September. If you are interested in joining Sedgefield Squash Club, please contact [membership@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk](mailto:membership@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk).

### Rugby Union



Sedgefield & District Rugby Club has completed its playing season, with the team finishing seventh in the Durham & Northumberland Counties League 2. This represents Sedgefield's best league positions in memory, thanks to a formidable home record. The club celebrated the season with its annual awards presentation dinner at Hardwick Hall. This year's prize winners were:

- Young Player - Freddie McCormack
- Most Improved Player - Ciaran Lines
- Coach's Player - Massimo Impagliazzo
- Saxons Player - James Walker
- Ted Wood Award - Steve Nuttall
- The Nutts Award - James Watson
- Players' Player - Mitch Corney
- Player of the Year - Mitch Corney

The club also came together recently to remember members who are sadly no longer with us, but will always be part of Sedgefield Rugby Club. A commemorative tree and plaque now stand as a lasting tribute to their contribution, friendship and memories. The club would like to thank all their followers and sponsors for their support this season. Keep an eye on the club's social media accounts for updates over the close season.

### Athletics



Almost 500 runners descended on Hardwick Park recently, when 118 teams took part in Sedgefield Harriers' four-leg Neptune Relays event. Each participant completed a 1.7 mile route, starting and finishing in the field below the park's temple to Minerva. The event attracted leading club athletes, and runners of every ability and age, competing in numerous senior and junior categories. The 2026 event attracted nearly 20 more teams than in 2025.

Sedgefield Harriers is only able to host the Neptune Relays with the support of a large number of volunteers, the team at Hardwick Park, and Durham County Council, which allowed the club to stage the event in the park. For more information about Sedgefield Harriers and its events, visit [www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk) or find them on Facebook.

As always, please send any sports news to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com).

## CEDDSFELD HALL



### Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre 2026 – THANK YOU!

There will be a further write up about the Mediaeval Fayre in next month's article, but SCA would like to take this opportunity to very sincerely thank Sedgefield's wonderful local shops, companies and businesses who have very generously sponsored the many attractions and donated tombola prizes for this year's event. Their support is important and much appreciated and their help means that the event can grow, with new attractions and activities, for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you also to the organisations, groups, members and residents who volunteered their time to help throughout the day, from set up, to take down. The Fayre is most definitely a huge community effort!

### Lirica and Friends Charity Night - Saturday 6 June at 7:30pm

Ceddesfeld Hall is looking forward to hosting a concert featuring 'Lirica and Friends'. All proceeds go to CoppaFeel, the UK's only youth-focused breast cancer awareness charity. The bar will be open from 7pm. Tickets (Adults £8 and under 16s, £5) can be purchased on the door as well as through the QR code reader on the event poster.

### Dates for your Diary!

#### SCA AGM – Thursday 18 June at 8pm – Main Hall

SCA members and non-members are most welcome. Come along and get involved with Sedgefield Community Association. The organisation is at the heart of community life here in Sedgefield and being involved as a volunteer is beneficial in so many ways, with proven health benefits by keeping active and engaged – it can be great fun, very interesting and rewarding.

#### Ceddesfeld Beer Festival – Friday 10 & Saturday 11 July

Look out for information nearer the time, on the website, social media, and posters around town. Any willing volunteers to set up, take down, serve, collect glasses etc., please contact Tony via email [info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldsca.org.uk).

#### Family Fun event for Families with Younger Children – Sunday 23 August

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 on [www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsca.org.uk). Follow us on Facebook.

## Happy 60th birthday

Harry Smith, a well-known and much-loved figure in the village, celebrated his milestone birthday on 30 April.

To mark the occasion, a special birthday party was organised at the Hardwick Arms.

What made the celebration particularly remarkable was the overwhelming generosity and support shown by local residents. Contributions poured in from across the community to help organise the event and provide Harry with some wonderful gifts.

Support was not limited to current residents, either. Former villagers also joined in, sending donations and even travelling back to Sedgefield to attend the celebration in person and wish Harry a happy birthday.

Thank you to everyone involved.  
*Carrie Mekins and Ruth Young*



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## DIARY & EVENTS

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

### June 2026

- Monday 1** **Sedgefield Local History Society**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm.  
Chris Lloyd: The railway that got the railway on track.
- Wednesday 3** **Sedgefield WI**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 7:15pm. 'How your brain works' with Robert Pullen. Member's competition: three flowers from a garden.  
Visitors welcome (Fee £4 – includes refreshments).
- Thursday 4** **Sedgefield Parkinson's Group**, 11am, The Cafe at NetPark.  
For more information, contact Cara Connolly on 020 7963 3693 or [cconnolly@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:cconnolly@parkinsons.org.uk).
- Friday 5** **u3a Meeting**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 2pm-4pm. Clive Fennessey talking on the Panama Canal.
- Saturday 6** **Friendly Fixers** repair cafe, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 10:30am-12:30pm.  
**Charity Concert with Lirica and Friends**, Ceddesfeld Hall, 7:30pm. Details on page 6.
- Sunday 7** **Sedgefield Farmers Market**, Village Green, 8:30am-12pm.
- Friday 12** **Sedgefield WI Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am-11:30am. Homemade cakes, raffle, everyone welcome!
- Tuesday 16** **Sedgefield Memory Café**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10:30am-12pm. For those living with dementia and carers. Clients must be accompanied.  
**Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7:15pm. John Thraxton: This, That and T'Other.
- Thursday 18** **Fishburn Police and Communities Together (PACT)**, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, 6:30pm-7:30pm.
- Saturday 20** **Charity Coffee Morning for Butterwick Hospice**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10am-12pm. Coffee morning with an exhibition/sale of arts and crafts. Everyone is welcome.
- Sunday 21** **Choral Evensong and Concert** sung by the Chapel Choir of University College, Durham. St. Edmund's Church, 6pm. Details on page 6.
- Friday 26** **Sedgefield District Uniformed Service Group Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Parish Hall, 10am.
- Saturday 27** **Sedgefield Area Churches Together Coffee Morning**, Sedgefield Methodist Hall, 10am-11:30am. All welcome.

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-11am.

#### Little Movers

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

#### Railway Society

Every Wednesday evening from 7:30pm-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-4pm, Ceddesfeld Hall.

#### Pop-in Club at Ceddesfeld Hall

Tuesdays 9:30am-12pm  
Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm  
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#### Speed Quiz at Hardwick Arms

Every Thursday at 8pm in the Hardwick Lounge Bar.

#### Quiz at The Dun Cow

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

#### From Loft to Loved Craft Groups

Every Wednesday (10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm, 5pm-7pm, 7pm-9pm).  
Sewing groups every Thursday (10am-12pm, 12:30pm-2:30pm).  
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#### Move County Durham

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

#### Sedgefield Library

Wednesday 9:30am-12:30pm  
Thursday 10am-6pm  
Friday 1pm-7pm

Saturday 9:30am-12:30pm

[durham.gov.uk/sedgefieldlibrary](http://durham.gov.uk/sedgefieldlibrary).

#### One Step Forward

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

#### parkrun & junior parkrun

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

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

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