



# EXTRA SEDFIELD

PUBLISHED BY SEDGFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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**Disclaimer:** All information contained within this edition regarding events and dates are correct at the time of going to press. Any changes will be shared via our X (formerly Twitter) account @SedgefieldTC, the news page of our website at [www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk) and through the residents' database, our email group.

## COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2025/26



Over several years there have been significant changes in local government funding which has culminated in the removal of grant funding for this council, however, this has been offset to some extent by new housing in the town in recent years. We anticipate that further changes to local government funding will also be seen in the coming years. Every year, each town and parish council set a precept which is a charge that is determined locally and is added to, and collected along with, Council Tax. This precept money is then used to provide services and amenities within that Parish.

Sedgefield Town Council is all too aware of the pressures of the current economic climate and the cost of living. The town council has made a commitment for 2025/26 to continue to deliver its existing services and schedule of community events while also progressing the expansion of Butterwick Road Cemetery, undertaking a significant programme of tree works around the town and protecting areas of village green. The town council, like all businesses, will be impacted by the increased employer's national insurance contributions from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. There will be increases

to cemetery fees and allotment fees, but these will be in-line with the current rate of inflation. In addition, there are going to be changes to the way in which Parish Hall hire fees are structured and charged to work towards the hall being more sustainable whilst recognizing its importance as a community asset. The rise in Sedgefield Town Council's precept equates to an increase of 8% or £16.53 per Band D household per annum.

Financial support schemes operated by Durham County Council for those in financial hardship, or who could qualify for a reduction in Council Tax, can be found at: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/26603/Household-Support-Fund-HSF-> and <https://www.durham.gov.uk/counciltaxreduction>.

### NEWLY CO-OPTED TOWN COUNCILLOR CIARAN BUTTERWORTH

We're delighted to announce that Ciaran Butterworth has recently been co-opted onto the town council. Ciaran was born and raised in the town and took full advantage of the many community groups on offer as she grew up.

Ciaran added "Last year, I moved back to the village with my family because I wanted to make sure my daughter could have as many opportunities as I did. I look forward to making a full and active contribution to community events in the village and representing and bringing diversity to the council."



### 2025 PUBLICATION DATES: JULY EDITION

We usually publish the Sedgefield Extra in February, June, September and November around our key events and meetings. This year, with Local Elections taking place on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025, we have made the decision to push our June edition back to July. This will allow us the necessary time prior to our printing deadline to reflect any changes to our councillors in the Extra, in addition to the usual June articles.

## LOCAL ELECTIONS

THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2025



Elections for both Sedgefield Town Council and Durham County Council will be held on Thursday 1st May 2025.

The administration of elections is carried out by Durham County Council who will soon publish the timetable for both elections with accompanying publicity material and nomination papers.

A copy of the timetable will be shared on our website over at [sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk), our X account (@SedgefieldTC), through the Residents' Database email group plus displayed in our office and noticeboards.

When the official notice of an election is published by Durham County Council, this will trigger 'Purdah' which is the pre-election period specifically between the announcement of an election and declaration of the final election results. This period prevents local and principal councils from making announcements about any new or controversial initiatives which could be seen to be advantageous to any candidates or parties in the forthcoming election, or which may commit any incoming new administration to policies which it wouldn't support.

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## SEDFIELD YOUTH CLUB UPDATE



Hello 2025! We hope you've all had a lovely time over the Christmas holidays – we can't believe it's gone so quickly. We had a fantastic day at Sedgefield Snow Party, raising funds through our usual bake sale. Thank you everyone for your support. We couldn't hold our popular Breakfast with Santa or Halloween treats at the Fireworks Display, but we're looking forward to taking part in community events and fundraisers again this year. We finished our year with a Christmas party, sending off our Youth Worker Victoria to begin her maternity leave.

## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR & ANNUAL TOWN MEETING YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Do you know someone of any age who has made an exceptional contribution to Sedgefield? If so, why not nominate them for the Citizen of the Year 2024 or Young Citizen of the Year 2024 Award? Look out for information on how you can submit a nomination for either award in the upcoming editions of Sedgefield News.

Sedgefield Town Council's Annual Town Meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 13th May 2025 in Sedgefield Parish Hall. The meeting serves as an ideal opportunity to find out what we have been doing over the last year, along with our future plans. All residents are welcome to attend and ask questions.

## MAYOR'S UPDATE: COUNCILLOR PETER HINDE

It was an honour to set off the Fireworks back in November. I had a great night judging all the Halloween Howler competition entries – you can see the recap of the whole event and all images on the council's website. The Snow Party quickly followed, another fantastic event drawing in a large crowd that I had the pleasure of talking to prior to the light switch on.



December was a very busy month with carol services up and down the county. It was very sad that we had to cancel my New Year's Eve Dance with such short notice, due to the hospitalisation of one of the band members who thankfully is now home and recovering. We appreciate your understanding, and we wish Lol well.

2025 is already looking busy. By the time you read this, I will have held a coffee morning and look forward to holding another Ceilidh on 1<sup>st</sup> March. This time we are aware of the constraints and limited numbers to make sure we can all be up dancing together. We hope to see you there!

## HEADSTONE SAFETY TESTING 2024/25: COMPLETE

Our annual headstone safety testing work for 2024/25 has been completed. Unfortunately, we have identified a small number of headstones that require urgent attention and these have been marked with warning tape. We have contacted next of kin, where details are known. (continued on page 4)

## THE SNOW PARTY RECAP



What a magical day we had at the Snow Party! Santa's Grotto had a little revamp and we're delighted with the feedback. Santa welcomed over 90 children over the course of 3.5 hours, listening to requests (Barbie Dreamhouse was a popular one), taking pictures and even telling jokes: *Mrs Claus got me a Kangaroo for Christmas last year... I asked her what for and she replied, "Well it's a Christmas Jumper!"*

In the main hall we had free activities including face painting and a bouncy castle – it was bustling all afternoon! Sedgefield Youth Club manned the kitchen for a fundraising Christmas bake sale with treats baked by members and staff the night before.

At the same time, over in Ceddesfeld Hall, the craft fayre was a big success. With 6 stalls, the SCA bran tub and refreshments & cakes by Sedgefield Uniformed District Services Group, there was a lovely atmosphere all afternoon.

With his sack of gifts now empty, Santa made his way over to St Edmund's Church with Head Elf in tow. The carol service, led by Lay Reader Michael King and Revd. David Lucas, had musical accompaniment from Sedgefield's Ukulele Group. The Church was packed for a joyful service of prayers, talks and carols.

Santa, the Mayor and the illuminated snowmen led the way out of Church and the crowd headed down to the turning circle for the light switch-on. After a short parade to 'Walking in the Air' (as always), the Mayor revved up the crowd for the draw of the annual glow-affle. The winner was awarded the honour of switching on the town's Christmas lights and received a selection box and Beamish Unlimited Family Voucher to redeem and enjoy all year round.



Congratulations to Aurora, age 3, for owning the lucky ticket and illuminating Sedgefield for us this year. With help from mum and dad, Aurora pressed the big button at the end of the countdown and was awarded her prize.

Thank you to all staff, volunteers, special helpers and community groups that participated in our 2024 event. Special thanks also to Paul Heasman for capturing some fantastic aerial shots of the switch-on with his drone (left). You can see lots more images over at [sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/snow-party-2024-recap](https://sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/snow-party-2024-recap).

### SNOW PARTY CRAFT ACTIVITY 2024



Each year we set pupils at Sedgefield Primary School and Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School a festive task leading up to the Snow Party. This year, children turned a toilet roll tube into a magical snowman.

The Mayor, Councillor Peter Hinde, visited each school on Wednesday 27th November 2024 to take a look at the creations and award some prizes. Well done to all pupils that took part and a big congratulations to the following winners who each won a selection box:

Sedgefield Primary Year 2: Gabriel      Sedgefield Primary Year 1: Georgina  
Hardwick Primary Year 3: Isabelle      Hardwick Primary Year 2: Zoe

Some of the snowmen even made it into Santa's Grotto, decorating the winter wonderland seating area where children waited in anticipation. Thank you to the staff at both schools for helping us co-ordinate this lovely activity. You can view more photos on our website [www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](https://www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk).

## HEADSTONE SAFETY TESTING: CONTINUED

If you are visiting the cemetery and find a headstone marked with warning tape, please contact us so that we can provide you with the necessary advice on the next steps. If repair work is not undertaken by Friday 28th March 2025, the council will oversee a programme of work to lay down these headstones.



## CONTACTING SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

### SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL COUNCILLORS:

	<i>Addresses (all Sedgefield)</i>	<i>Tel. no.</i>
Cllr <b>Ciaran Butterworth</b>	via Town Council Offices	07837 647158
Cllr <b>Allan Blakemore</b>	32 Beacon Avenue TS21 3AB	01740 621820
Cllr <b>David Brown</b>	Town Farm House, 3 West End TS21 3BW	01740 622894
Cllr <b>Mark Cant</b>	Mordon Moor Farm TS21 2HN	07818 243774
Cllr <b>Ann Carr</b>	3 The Square TS21 2AB	01740 629070
Cllr <b>Melvyn Carr</b>	3 The Square TS21 2AB	629070 / 07530 315331
Cllr <b>Kelly Dickerson</b>	30 Beaumont Court TS21 3AH	07720 080497
Cllr <b>John Finlayson</b>	5 Pine Ridge Avenue TS21 3EF	01740 622313
Cllr <b>Elizabeth Flanagan</b>	33 Hamminkeln Place TS21 3FN	07760 640059
Cllr <b>Catherine Hart</b>	Foxtan Farm, Foxtan TS21 2HX	07837 126472
Cllr <b>Jenny Haworth</b>	27 Station Rd TS21 2BY	07946 569178
Cllr <b>Peter Hinde</b>	44 West End TS21 2BT	01740 621709
Cllr <b>Dave Jasper</b>	The Mews, 1 Rosedale Close TS21 3EQ	07791 030886
Cllr <b>Julie Towler</b>	6 Mitford Court TS21 2JE	07979 376997
Cllr <b>Mavis Wayman</b>	32 White House Drive TS21 3BX	01740 620337

### DURHAM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr <b>David Brown</b>	Town Farm House, 3 West End TS21 3BW <a href="mailto:david.brown2@durham.gov.uk">david.brown2@durham.gov.uk</a>	01740 622894
Cllr <b>Chris Lines</b>	41 Whitehouse Drive, TS21 3BX <a href="mailto:chris.lines@durham.gov.uk">chris.lines@durham.gov.uk</a>	07971868329

### MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

**Alan Strickland MP** [alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk)

### TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 3AT, 01740 621273

Town Clerk:	<b>Dr. Jane Ayre</b>	<a href="mailto:town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk">town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Admin. Officer:	<b>Jane Tate</b>	<a href="mailto:jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk">jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Financial Assistant:	<b>Julia Rowsby</b>	<a href="mailto:julia@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk">julia@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Projects & Media Coordinator:	<b>Natalie Chowns-Traynor</b>	<a href="mailto:natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk">natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Receptionist & Parish Hall Support Assistant:	<b>Adam Heath</b>	<a href="mailto:adam@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk">adam@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk</a>

## CONTACTING DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

CONCERN	WHO TO CONTACT	CONTACT INFORMATION
General Enquiries	Customer Services	03000 26 0000
Refuse / street lights / pest control / dog fouling / stray dogs / grass cutting / litter / graffiti / roads and footpaths	Highways / Streetscene	03000 26 1000
Planning Applications	Planning	03000 26 1060 / <a href="http://www.durham.gov.uk/planning">www.durham.gov.uk/planning</a>
Benefits	Revenues & Benefits	03000 26 2000
Council Tax	Council Tax	03000 26 4000
Apply / Renew Bus Pass	Sustainable Transport	03000 26 8667
Apply / Renew Blue Badge	Blue Badge Scheme	03000 26 9425
Council Housing	Livin	0845 50 55 500

Alternatively, Durham County Council concerns can be placed via text on 07786 027280 starting with the word INFO or via [www.doitonline.gov.uk](http://www.doitonline.gov.uk). It is very important that you register your views with Durham County Council. Your voice matters and could make a difference for all local residents!

## SAVE THE DATE

### Mayor's Ceilidh

1<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Parish Hall

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

### Council Elections

1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

### Annual Town Meeting

13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Parish Hall

### Keswick Coach Trip

TBD June 2025

### Tub Planting

26<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### Summer Coach Trip

Location TBD

TBD August 2025

### Mayor's Quiz

24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### Fireworks Display

31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Ceddesfield Hall Grounds

Tickets on sale 19<sup>th</sup> Sept

### Remembrance Service

9<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Turning Circle

### York Coach Trip

TBD November 2025

### Snow Party

29<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Various Locations

All dates advertised are accurate at the time of printing. Dates are subject to change and events may be cancelled.

We will do our best to keep you updated through our X account (@SedgefieldTC) and website [sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk).