



EXTRA SEDGEFIELD

PUBLISHED BY SEDGEFIELD 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 and through the residents' database, our email group.

COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2026/27

Changes to local government funding, high inflation, an expanding town and increased demand for services has been a steady trend over the last couple of years and these are set to continue as we look towards 2026/27. The Town Council is all too aware of the pressures of the current economic climate and the cost of living. The Town Council is committed to maintaining its existing services while also completing the new area of Butterwick Road cemetery; responding to and dealing with pressures due to changes in the national planning systems and challenges to The Sedgefield Plan; inspecting all trees on Town Council owned land; to strive towards increased aspirations for environmental improvements around the central village greens area plus the pond areas in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall; and complying with all legislative requirements placed upon us.

Every year, each Town and Parish Council sets 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 the Parish. There will be 2% inflationary increases in our cemetery and allotments charges with our photocopying

services and dog bags charges being frozen as per the current 2025/26 prices. In relation to our Parish Hall hire fees, in 2025/26 the Town Council introduced the first year of a three-year programme of hire fee increases. The second year of those agreed hire fee increases will come into effect on 1st April 2026. This three-year programme sees the Parish Hall being more sustainable while recognising its importance as a community asset.

For 2026/27 there will be a 5% increase in Sedgefield Town Council's precept, an increase of £11.12 per Band D household.

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:

www.durham.gov.uk/counciltaxreduction

www.durham.gov.uk/article/26603/Household-Support-Fund-HSF



FOND FAREWELL TO STAFF MEMBER ADAM HEATH

With a heavy heart we say bon voyage to Adam Heath. Adam has been an integral part of our small team for many years now, manning the reception desk in the council office on weekday mornings and overseeing all things Parish Hall on afternoons and evenings.

Adam will soon be moving Stateside to reside with his wife Michelle, who we have been very lucky to get to know over the last few years and quickly became part of our work family. We will miss you (both!) deeply... make sure you remember to spare us a thought while lounging in the California sun!



SEDGEFIELD YOUTH CLUB CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES & LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026



Sedgefield Youth Club rounded off 2025 with a wonderful programme of Christmas celebrations.

We partnered with Sedgefield Town Council to support the Fireworks Display held on Halloween and also ran a bake sale alongside Santa's Grotto in the Parish Hall during Sedgefield Snow Party, contributing to the Christmas magic once again. Our festive highlight was our annual Christmas disco filled with music, party games and seasonal treats, together with creative workshops.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our various fundraising efforts throughout the year. We were very lucky to receive donations recently from local groups SDUSG & DIDO, and local business Identitag, which will help fund our non-term time activities. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity and continued support.

As we move into 2026, we're delighted to continue offering a safe, welcoming space for young people to learn, socialise and grow. Plans are already underway for skills workshops focused on creativity, teamwork, and wellbeing plus a small programme of activities during the February Half Term.



Mondays @ Sedgefield Parish Hall
50p entry - first session free!

6-7:15pm Juniors (school yrs 3-5)
NOW ACCEPTING 7 YEAR OLDS

7:15-8:30pm Seniors (school yrs 6+)

MAYOR OF SEDGEFIELD'S FINAL WORD: CLLR PETER HINDE

It's been a busy couple of months for us. We held a Christmas Coffee Morning on Friday 12th December, with one of the highlights of our festive period: a performance by the choir of Hardwick Primary School, led and accompanied by Sarah Guest. We all had a lovely singalong as we warmed up with a cuppa and some treats.

Christmas in Sedgefield is always a magical experience. Between Sedgefield Snow Party, St Edmund's Church Christmas Tree Festival, the carols on the green and all the events, lunches and festivities held by local groups, we really do feel a sense of warmth and community even on the coldest of days. It's been a privilege to attend many of these events in both my capacity as Mayor and as a resident. Unfortunately, my Christmas Tree didn't win any awards at the tree festival, but what a great effort from pupils at Sedgefield Primary and Hardwick Primary schools for creating the fantastic decorations for me (more details



on our website).

My final event of the year was the sell-out NYE Dance. It was an amazing night of entertainment by Mamma Said covering a range of styles and eras. We celebrated until the year was over and of course rounded off the night dancing to Auld Lang Syne.



Looking ahead to the last stretch

of my Mayoral term, I'm holding my final coffee morning on Friday 20th February and planning a St Patrick's Dance on Saturday 21st March, both in Sedgefield Parish Hall. My St Patrick's Dance will be £12 a ticket and feature music once again (by popular demand) from the incredible Mamma Said. Keep an eye on the council's website and town noticeboard for more details.

As the end of this Mayoral year draws to a close, I'd like to offer my sincere thanks to all who have helped Jaime and I by assisting, planning, baking, performing or attending the events to help us fundraise for the community. I also share my thanks to the team of council staff who pull it all together.

We wish you all a healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2026.

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 2025 or Young Citizen of the Year 2025 Award? Look out for information on how you can submit a nomination for either award in the upcoming editions of Sedgefield News and on our website.

Sedgefield Town Council's Annual Town Meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 5th May 2026 in Sedgefield Parish Hall. The meeting serves as an ideal opportunity to find out what we've been doing over the last year, along with our future plans. Our Annual Report 25/26 will also be available to read. All residents are welcome to attend.

SEDGEFIELD SNOW PARTY RECAP

Despite the cold and rain, our annual Snow Party event was as big as ever. Our day started in St Edmund's Church at the biennial Christmas Tree Festival. The church came alive with 35 lit trees decorated beautifully by organisations and businesses, each telling their own festive story.

Santa's Grotto in Sedgefield Parish Hall opened its doors at noon with 90 children, ranging from 2 months old to 11 years old, leaving with a wrapped gift from Santa to pop under their tree! A few steps away in the main hall, children enjoyed a bouncy castle, face painter and some fun games put together by Chi Taekwondo. Sedgefield Youth Club also manned the kitchen once again for a fundraising Christmas bake sale!

Across the town, Ceddesfeld Hall was bustling with life for the craft fayre of local stalls and much-needed warm dinks and nibbles provided by Sedgefield Uniformed District Services Group. As the craft fayre came to an end, the carol service in St Edmund's Church, led by Lay Reader Michael King and Rev'd Rachel Wilson, began. What a lovely, festive service with musical accompaniment from Sedgefield's Ukulele Group.



To end the day, the Mayor revved up the crowd for the draw of our glow-affle – a £1 ticket secured to a glow stick that could be purchased throughout November. The winner is awarded the honour of switching on the town's Christmas lights and receives a

Beamish Unlimited Family (2+2) Pass Voucher to redeem.

Congratulations to Jessica, Age 7, for holding the lucky ticket and illuminating Sedgefield for us this year. Thank you to all local organisations, contractors, staff and volunteers who make this event such a big success. For the full article and images of all activities, head to sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/snowparty2025.



HALLOWEEN HOWLER PUMPKIN COMPETITION 2025 WINNERS



Child Winner: Amy (7)



Child Runner Up: Charlotte (10)



Adult Winner: Craig (40)

What a great turnout to the Fireworks Display at Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds (despite running on Halloween!) As always, you can read up about the event on the news page of our website.

SNOW PARTY CRAFT ACTIVITY 2025: 'Little Robin Red Vest'

This year's task set by the Mayor of Sedgefield saw students from Hardwick Primary and Sedgefield Primary schools create miniature Christmas vests for his tree at St Edmund's Church Christmas Tree Festival. The Mayor visited both schools in the week leading up to the Snow Party and selected his favourite vests, awarding prizes to the winning children and presenting sweets to all classes that took part. Congratulations to our winners and

thank you to all staff and students involved. Visit sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/schoolcrafts2025 for more details and lots of images of the decorations.

Hardwick Primary

Year 2: Shanvi
Year 3: Hattie

Sedgefield Primary

Year 1: Belle
Year 2: Arlo



HEADSTONE SAFETY INSPECTIONS 2025/26

Our annual headstone safety testing for 2025/26 has been completed. Unfortunately, we have identified a small number of headstones that require urgent attention. These headstones have been marked with red & white warning tape and an advisory notice placed in the cemetery noticeboard. The council has contacted next of kin, where details are known, detailing next steps.

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 what to do next. If repair work is not undertaken by Friday 27th March 2026, the council will oversee a programme of work to lay down these headstones.

CONTACTING SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL COUNCILLORS:

	Addresses (all Sedgefield)	Tel. no.
Cllr Allan Blakemore	32 Beacon Avenue TS21 3AB	01740 621820
Cllr Ciaran Butterworth	Via Town Council Office	07837 647158
Cllr Mark Cant	Mordon Moor Farm TS21 2HN	07818 243774
Cllr Ann Carr	Via Town Council Office	
Cllr Melvyn Carr	3 The Square TS21 2AB	629070 / 07530 315331
Cllr Helen Cunningham	5 Eden Drive, TS21 2DX	07932 074981
Cllr Kelly Dickerson	30 Beaumont Court TS21 3AH	07720 080497
Cllr John Finlayson	5 Pine Ridge Avenue TS21 3EF	01740 622313
Cllr Jenny Haworth	27 Station Rd TS21 2BY	07946 569178
Cllr Peter Hinde	44 West End TS21 2BT	01740 621709
Cllr Dave Jasper	The Mews, 1 Rosedale Close TS21 3EQ	07791 030886
Cllr Myles Mantripp	15 Mitford Court, TS21 2JE	07593 326925
Cllr Tony Stubbs	31 Cragside, TS21 2DT	07710 092139
Cllr Julie Towler	6 Mitford Court TS21 2JE	07979 376997
Cllr Mavis Wayman	32 White House Drive TS21 3BX	01740 620337

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Ian Catchpole	39 Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 3AT ian.catchpole@durham.gov.uk	07469 355600
Cllr Chris Lines	41 Whitehouse Drive, TS21 3BX chris.lines@durham.gov.uk	07971868329

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Alan Strickland MP alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 3AT, 01740 621273

Town Clerk:	Dr. Jane Ayre	town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Admin. Officer:	Jane Tate	jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Financial Assistant:	Julia Rowsby	julia@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Projects & Media Coordinator:	Natalie Chowns-Traynor	natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk

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 / www.durham.gov.uk/planning
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

SAVE THE DATE

Mayor's Coffee Morning

20th February 2026

Parish Hall

Mayor's St Patrick's Dance

21st March 2026

Parish Hall

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Annual Town Meeting

5th May 2026

Parish Hall

Keswick Coach Trip

TBD June 2026

*note: there will only be

one 49-seater coach for

all trips going forward*

Tub Planting

25th June 2026

Summer Coach Trip

Location TBD

TBD August 2026

Remembrance Service

8th November 2026

Turning Circle

York Coach Trip

TBD November 2026

Snow Party

28th November 2026

Various Locations

Alternatively, Durham County Council concerns can be placed via text on 07786 027280 starting with the word INFO or via www.doitononline.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!