



# SEDGWICK PARISH NEWSLETTER

## CHRISTMAS 2024



Photograph by Richard Gill

## Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter.

The end of the year has been a busy one! It was good to see so many people turn out to cheer Paddy McGuinness as he rode through Sedgwick on his chopper bike, raising money for BBC CHILDREN in NEED appeal.



**COUNCIL VACANCIES:** One of our Councillors, Val McConnell has retired from the Council – we thank her for her work as Councillor, especially with Safeguarding and fundraising. We now have two casual vacancies and it is imperative that we fill them, so that we can avoid becoming inquorate, which would result in us losing local control over our assets and services. It is important we keep a council so we can continue to campaign for things like the 20mph speed limit. We urge residents to consider whether they can step up to help – we meet just 6 times a year and it is very rewarding thing to do – we do make a difference! In particular, we are looking for somebody who could us in making grant applications. For more information, please see the Parish website or contact a councillor.

**20mph SPEED LIMIT CAMPAIGN:** A huge thank you to everybody who took part in the formal consultation during the autumn. Sedgwick's response was strongly in favour of establishing the 20mph speed limit and we expect the limit to be introduced in mid to late 2025 following the finer details of the scheme being finalised and the statutory notice period has occurred. This will mean our decade long campaign will result in a significant improvement in safety for all road users in the area. We are grateful to our local Councillors Doug Rathbone and Jonathan Brook who have supported us throughout.

**THE MILLENNIUM FIELD:** We continue to develop the Millennium Field as a valuable asset for the community and our fund raising for a new slide continues. Our new Community Orchard and wildlife friendly hedge will be planted soon. In future years, the community will benefit from harvesting apples, russets and pears. Unfortunately, following reports of Dogs being taken to the Millennium Field and dog poo being found in and around the play equipment, we have had to remind owners of the ban on dogs in the field. Dogs on children's playgrounds represent a major injury and health hazard: In addition to children being frightened and attacked by dogs, dog poo contains dangerous parasites that can cause Toxocariasis which leads to vision loss and can also carry hepatitis and E.Coli. Please respect this and keep dogs away.

### Date for your Diary

#### Millennium Field Fundraiser

Sat 22nd March 2025 Kendal Parish Hall 7.30<sub>pm</sub>

#### Kendal Fellside A Capella Singers Concert

Proceeds will be shared between Sedgwick and Levens Villages for their play equipment appeals. Expect an uplifting evening of harmony with joyful songs of hope and heart.

Adult £10. Children under 16 free

Tickets will be via QR code on posters and on Parish Facebook pages in the New Year.

**CANAL WILDLIFE AREA:** Throughout the year, the habitat has thrived and the rich flora and fauna continue to make the area a peaceful haven for walkers. Our Annual Woodland Inspection confirmed that our trees are doing well for the time being, despite Ash Die Back and Dutch Elm Disease. However, the stone wall boundary is causing us problems and significant repairs have been made and more are required. We will also need to fund the patching of the path as the condition does not meet criteria for W&F to resurface it. We have agreed to replace the bench next to the Bus Shelter in the New Year and hope that it proves useful to canal and bus users alike.



**80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY :** On May 8<sup>th</sup> 2025, it will be the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and the nation will mark the occasion with special events throughout the day. We are asking residents to display red, white and blue bunting and flags and to coincide with the Lamp Lanterns of Peace at 9:30pm light up the village with fairy lights and lamps.

**HANDYMAN SCHEME:** A scheme that supports elderly or vulnerable residents with free practical help around their homes (like changing a lightbulb, putting up shelving/handrails/security devices etc) to help them maintain independent living, is being rolled out across Westmorland and Furness. It applies to residents who are unable to undertake the tasks themselves whether they are tenants or home owners. For more information and to request a job under the Handyperson Scheme call the Housing Standards Team on 0300 373 3300, email [housingstandards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:housingstandards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk) or visit the website: <https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/housing/handy-person-scheme>

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY VOLUNTEERING – WHY NOT MAKE IT YOUR NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION?**

With just a maximum of 6 councillors – and we are down to 4 at the moment – we are a very small Council, but we are responsible for a disproportionately large range of assets; the Millennium Field, play equipment Canal Wildlife Area and numerous benches, bins and the bus shelter. We have a list of small maintenance jobs for the Spring and so we are asking if residents could give just a couple of hours to volunteer to help us carry out small tasks such as varnishing the Village notice boards. If you can offer just a few hours of your time, please contact a councillor; it will make a huge difference if a few people offer this help.

**We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2025**  
**Sedgwick Parish Council**



# SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

**Parish Clerk;** Rachel Harrison  
14 Helmside Gardens, Oxenholme LA9 7HN  
Tel: 07717357176 [sedgwick.parish@gmail.com](mailto:sedgwick.parish@gmail.com)



**Westmorland and Furness Council** [www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](http://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)  
**South Kendal**

Cllr Doug Rathbone T: 01768807678 M: 0779592532  
[doug.rathbone@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:doug.rathbone@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)



Cllr Jonathan Brook [jonathan.brook@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.brook@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)

**Councillors:**  
**Chair: Boyan Holmes**  
The Oaks, 61644  
**Vice Chair: Bernie Tanham**  
The Wharf, 60179

**John Hall**  
1 Wakefield Meadow 07974416657  
**Gerry Stoker;**  
4, Wakefield Meadow, 07368 366411

## COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025



January 8<sup>th</sup> March 12<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup> September 10<sup>th</sup> November 12<sup>th</sup>  
**7.30pm Sedgwick Village Hall Annual Parish Meeting March 19<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**Residents are always welcome at meetings.**

Each meeting includes a Public Forum as part of the agenda for residents to ask questions, raise items of concern or simply comment on issues. Submission of questions in advance of the meeting is welcomed, so that they can be answered more fully. Matters raised that are not included on that agenda will be considered for subsequent agendas.



**Our Website** [www.sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Our Email** [sedgwick.parish@gmail.com](mailto:sedgwick.parish@gmail.com)

**Sedgwick**  
**NO COLD CALLING ZONE**

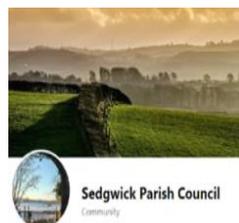
**COLD CALLERS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SEDGWICK!**

If they call on you, contact  
Cumbria Police on 101  
**immediately** and report them to  
01539713583  
[trading.standards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)

**SEDGWICK  
BOOK BOX**



There is a Book Sharing  
Box in the old phone box.  
Please feel free to use to  
swap a book in or out and  
share with the village  
**TAKE A BOOK-LEAVE A BOOK**



Sedgwick Parish Council  
Community



Our nearest  
defibrillator  
is located  
at the  
Village Hall  
LA8 0JU

What3words#  
**///mutual.abundance.  
bleaker**

**SEDGWICK**  
Community Emergency  
Plan

Sedgwick Parish Council has a  
Community Emergency Plan  
to help minimise the impact of  
a major local emergency on  
residents. In event of a major  
emergency, contact our  
Coordinator  
Gerry Stoker -Tel 07368 366411