

SEDGEFIELD AREA MENS SOCIAL NOTES FOR
MEETING HELD ON 24 September 2026
Sedgefield Social Club at 7.30pm

1. **Attendees:** Graham Price, Mike Ashwell, Simon Gulliver, Malcolm Williams, Rob Fillary, Helen Cunningham, Neal McCaulky
2. **APOLOGIES:** Nigel Letts, Bob Fillary, Gary Martin, Dave Warwick, Steve Barker, Jo Haye.

3. PURPOSE OF MEETING

To agree and progress the next steps.

Notes of meeting held on 28 July, missing attendees, to update and approved as a true record.

4. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Review of recent events:

Farm Visit: went well, low numbers attended, to arrange again for next year.

Foot golf: Well attended, enjoyable afternoon, to arrange again for next year.

Art Workshop: Cancelled at last minute due to illness of Tutor. To re-arrange for next year. Only 6 booked, may be more interest if have more time to advertise.

Walks: Hardwick Park and Heritage Walk – both evens well attended and went well. **Malcolm Williams** to research other walks going forwards.

Bowling: Only 6 attended but was short notice and need to advertise better. Do again next year, potentially January.

Future events: Arranged

Prostate Cancer Awareness Talk: 8 October from 19.00, Venue: Sedgefield Social Club, upstairs room. Need to advertise event, Malcolm to develop poster for distribution. Think we should do a collection for Prostate Cancer Research

Coffee Tasting/Barista experience: Event booked for 6 October at 18.00 at the NetPark café, all welcome. Mark Chapman leading, Graham to confirm time, need to ensure this event is advertised. Think we should do a collection for Kate's (manager of the café) choice charity.

Future events: Planned:

CPR Training – Arranged for 12 November 2026, to check availability of room at Social Club and book. Once confirmed to advertise. No charge but agreed to ask for donations with top up from SAMS funds if felt necessary.

Life of an International Airline Pilot: Graham in discussion and awaiting potential dates and availability.

Brewery Visit: Gary to organise, potentially for 2027.

Sedgefield Primary School: Potential for this to go ahead during October school holiday in conjunction with Bloomers and the school. Graham has a list of requirements and to further liaise with others to arrange.

Star Gazing: ongoing

GNAAS: ongoing

Quiz Night: potential date of **10 December 2026** at the Social Club, Helen to check availability

Programme to be developed for 2027 for the following events:

10 pin bowling

Brewery visit

Allotment – **Graham** to complete application form so that this is placed on the waiting list. **Bob to lead**

Farm visit

Music

Litter picking

Walking

Cycling

Singing

Regular meetings

Speakers – list to be compiled for future events. Gary Philipson to be added to list

Blue Tree visit- possible daytime event

5. **FUNDING** – Graham to contact Banks Group and the Co-op for further funding availability.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Website – Gary still working on the development of the website:

Sams.enable.com.cloud.co.uk

WhatsApp - separate WhatsApp group for Steering Group, Graham to speak with Andrew Swinbank.

Email – due to circumstances beyond our control Graham has advised he is happy for his email address to be used graham.price2@outlook.com

Post – potential for posters etc to be sent via post if requested

Group agreed that we need much better promotion of SAMS and its events. We have a good core group but need to get ourselves much better known and reach more men who might benefit from membership. If we get better promotion of our events that should spin off to attract more members. Chris lines has offered to help with promotion and Graham to speak with him and investigate how he can help.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Confusion around the date of the meetings. Confirmed that the steering group will be held on the **Third Tuesday** of the Month with the monthly general meeting being held on the **second Thursday** of the month

7. **DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 20 October 2026, 7.30 at Sedgefield Social Club.** Mike to chair as Graham away on holiday