

Slaley, Healey and Hexhamshire Community Environmental Group –

Report from Christopher Porter - Chairman 2022 / 2023

I was privileged to be asked to chair 4 meetings during the year and am pleased to report on an active year – but we can always do more for improving our environment...

The CEG now has an active core membership and all contributions are always welcome. Following the resignation of Peter Topping, Healey is no longer represented by a Healey resident. During the year a number of activities have taken place including:

- A mission statement has been agreed – “Inform on issues which influence the environment and climate change, change attitudes, take action, engage the community on issues and joint action towards planetary change”
- We attempted to define what we have done and what we plan to do in a spreadsheet. This still needs work but will allow us to look back on achievements, learning opportunities and see specifically what differences have been made.
- A “Just one thing” event was organized for Earth Day. The opportunity to engage on a vast range of subjects was well received and also demonstrated the local talent and knowledge available from which our community can draw.
- The Hexhamshire Quakers Hole asset has had some attention with “ups and downs” but now a management plan which Hexhamshire PC has been agreed and events are planned for 2023 in which the CEG membership will be involved.
- Meetings were held both in Slaley Commemoration Hall and the Quakers Hole hut. The latter is likely to continue in warmer months.
- Scything the Slaley Churchyard was a successful event leading to a scything course being planned for 2023.
- £100 was agreed to be given towards the PV / Battery system for Slaley Commemoration Hall.
- Healey PC came up with an idea for an advent calendar. This was taken up by the CEG and a first CEG electronic advent calendar was produced at short notice and some fun for those involved. Over 80 calendars were sold and over £250 was raised. This environmentally friendly alternative gave a great opportunity for engagement and received some positive feedback. If repeated, even more community involvement could be really beneficial.
- Shedquarters continues to provide an excellent local recycling facility.
- A Community Chest grant has been received for a Verge protection project to be implemented in 2023. The application stimulated the need for the CEG to have a number of policies in place eg Safeguarding, which has now been implemented.
- Several people attended a presentation by Herbie Newall on Humshaugh net zero. This demonstrates a structured and planned approach from which I am sure we can learn.
- There has been engagement with both Whitley Chapel and Slaley Schools during the year which is good to see. Personally, being the future carers of our environment, I sometimes feel we could do more but accept their timetable is very full. Should this be a focus for the future?

The above could not have been achieved without the contributions of all the CEG team in a wide variety of capacities. Thank you for your support and a successful year.