

SLALEY COMMUNITY TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2008 - 2009

Slaley Community Trust was set up in 2004 as a consequence of the Slaley Parish Plan, with one objective: "to help promote the quality of life in the Slaley Parish". It is now starting its fifth year, and in this time we have managed a number of projects, starting with the opening of the school playing field. This year in particular, we have:

- ⌚ Completed the design, production and placement of an information board, now in place in the centre of Slaley village. Designed by Marcus Byron from Haydon Bridge, the board has been funded jointly by the Parish Council, and by Tynedale District Council, with the Trust managing the process.
- ⌚ Produced and distributed a monthly news-letter to every household in the parish. The successful continuation of this venture is due to the trio of editors (Carolyn Brooks, Joan Galley and Angharad Pitty) who took over from Peter McKendrick, and to the team of volunteers who distribute the newsletters locally. We would again like to thank Northumbria Water Ltd. for their assistance with printing.
- ⌚ Produced and distributed the second edition of the Parish Reports booklet (containing reports from the Parish, District and County Councillors with others from many local groups and clubs). This was prepared with support from Slaley Hall and Sir Michael & Lady Darrington, and we hope that it will continue as an annual publication.
- ⌚ Another publication well underway is the reprint (with additional material) of Miss Mason's "Slaveleia Miscellany". The Trust has obtained grants totalling £1550 to date, but will also be using loans from the Slaley Show Society and others. The book will be on sale at the 150th Slaley Show, which the Trust will be supporting in other ways as well.

Despite these successes, the continued progress – indeed existence – of the Trust depends on the willingness of members of our community to take an active part in its affairs. We hope that this evening will have encouraged some to do that.

Throughout these five years, we have supported the Parish Council as they have implemented the actions proposed in the Parish Plan. However, as you are well aware, the joint efforts of the Parish Council the Trust and many others were unable to dissuade the Post Office from closing our own post office. We are still concerned over the future of the shop and other amenities vital to a flourishing local community (e.g. the Rose & Crown, the school and churches).

The Treasurer's report will give details of income & expenditure, but the Trust's finances are still dependent on grants and donations from a variety of sources. The Trust is grateful to the Parish Council for its annual grant of £120 from the precept towards our running costs, while other contributions this year have come from Tynedale District Council (towards the interpretive board), Slaley Hall and Sir Michael Darrington (for the Parish reports booklet).

Having been Chairman for two years, I now feel that it is time for a change, and am not offering myself for re-election. Our Secretary and Treasurer are also standing down, and it would be good to see more involvement of younger people in the Trust.

As Chairman I would like to thank the hard working members of the Committee for their efforts over the past year; I know that the Committee would like to thank all who have given their time and skill to support the work of the Trust over these twelve months. We very much hope that this help and support will continue in the year ahead.

Michael Elphick
(Chairman, Slaley Community Trust)
25th March 2009