**USEFUL NUMBERS & CONTACTS**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Badminton Group** | **Fran Pugh** | |  | | --- | | **673429** | | **673651** | |
| **Carpet Bowls** | **Brian Wilson** | **673043** |
| **St Mary’s Parish Church** | **Reverend Helen Savage** | |  | | --- | | **676852** | | **673248** | |
| **St Elizabeth’s Catholic Church** | **Father Jenish** | **673248** |
| **Commemoration Hall** | **Chairman Ros Doonan**  **Bookings Stella Douglas** | **673173**  **673001** |
| **Community Trust** |  |  |
| **County Councillor** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Colin Horncastle** | **618259** | | **618259** |
| **Dial –A-Ride** | **A.D.A.P.T** | **600599** |
| **Film Club** | **Jean and Michael Elphick** | **673443** |
| **Friends of Slaley School** | **Andrea Foster** | **634865** |
| **Hexham Hospital** | **0344 811 8111** |  |
| **Ladycross Nature Reserve** | **Joan Jewitt** | **673245** |
| **Leek Club** | **David Innes** | **673845** |
| **Local History Group** | **Pat Wilson**  **Ian Hancock** | **673388**  **673502** |
| **Mobile Hairdresser** | **Linda Johnston** | **673196** |
| **Northumberland CC** | **Report faulty Streetlights/Potholes** | **03456006400** |
| **Parish Council** | **Chairman Clerk Pat Wilson** | **673388** |
| **Post Office Van** | **Martin Nichol**  **Stocksfield Post Office** | **01661**  **842110** |
| **Police** | **For non emergency calls** | **please call 101** |
| **Rose & Crown Pub** |  | **673996** |
| **Slaley Shop** | **Sandra Innes** | **673201**  **673845** |
| **Slaley First School** | **Head, Mrs. Hayward 673220** | |
| **Slaley Notes in**  **Hexham Courant** | **Stella Douglas**  **Helen Savage** | **673001**  **676852** |
| **Slaley Parish Website** | **www.slaley.org.uk** |  |
| **Slaley Show Society** | **Chairman, Marge Rastall** | **673547** |
| **Travellers Rest Pub** | **Ian and Darren** | **6732312** |
| **Women’s Institute** | **President Margaret Rowell**  **Secretary Hilary Porteus** | **673589**  **673637** |

[](http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiTtqeoke7YAhVMAcAKHcSJCQ0QjRwIBw&url=http://moziru.com/explore/Bouquet%20clipart%20snowdrop/&psig=AOvVaw1-iJglJ-8SzADhQrjQVjPm&ust=1516798616743371)**SLALEY NEWS**

**February2022**

I hope everyone has survived the festive season and “dry January” in better shape than I. There is plenty to look forward to during this New Year with many events and activities continuing or planned. The Parish Council notes highlight many of these but for those feeling the need of exercise I note that a new work out and gym session is trying to establish itself on Monday evenings and is in need of more participants.

We are trying to update our useful numbers and contact list as, since it was created, the number of activities and events available has increased. If anyone thinks it would be a benefit to be included please contact the editors with the necessary details.

We are also aware that the information we print is not comprehensive and suggest that the Parish Website [www.slaley.org](http://www.slaley.org) is a source of extra information. It has an excellent calendar of events and links to other organisations in the parish.

Finally, even though it is now February, we wish you a Happy New Year!

**Badminton Club**

Slaley Badminton Club is on Wednesday mornings at 9.30 in the Commemoration Hall. New members are welcome. Come and join us for exercise and fun.

Contact Fran Pugh tel: 673429

The **Exercise to Music** sessions in Slaley Commemoration Hall continue on Monday mornings. The Aerobic Class (9.30-10.30am) is pretty full while the seated/standing group (10.45-11.45am) has room for new members. Keep safe, Carol Ferguson 673585

**Contributions for March edition by Wednesday 23rd February or earlier please.**

*Editors: Jim Bailey 673352* [*baileyjim128@gmail.com*](mailto:baileyjim128@gmail.com)

*Fiona McKendrick: 673281* [*fionamckendrick@googlemail.com*](mailto:fionamckendrick@googlemail.com)

**Carpet Bowls in the Commemoration Hall**

Regular Tuesday nights meetings will continue. Our first match of 2022 will be against the Shire on the 1st Feb.

Slaley, Healey & Minsteracres Local History Group

**February Monday 28th**

As yet no speaker has been found so we will be holding a Zoom meeting and I will email details of the talk and a link to the meeting nearer the time. Pat

**Travellers Rest Knit and Natter**



Come and join us on the second Thursday in the month

Between 3pm – 5pm at The Travellers Rest

All crafts welcome

Come along and enjoy a natter.

Contact Darren 01434 673231

**Hexham Arts Society**  Tuesday February 8th at 2.00pm Hexham Mart Function Room.

**Medieval Graffiti – James Wright**

**Church News**

**Weekly Sunday services** at Slaley (every week) are at 10.45am.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

All are welcome – always!

The next Evensong at Healey will be on Sunday 27 February at 5pm.

Sunday services continue to be streamed on Facebook and You Tube as well as the weekly ‘thought for the day’ each Wednesday. To find them please just click on our Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/moorlandgroup/ and via You Tube via our website:

[www.moorland-group.org.uk](http://www.moorland-group.org.uk)

**Ecumenical Study Group**

We’ll begin a new series of Friday studies for Lent on Friday 4 March. They’ll be based on the words of the prophet Isaiah that the church has used to help us understand better who Jesus is. More details next month.

**Slaley Parochial Church Council**

We next meet in church on Tuesday 8 February at 7.30pm

**Helen’s thought for the month.**

We’ve so much to be proud of here. The shop, the pub, the hall and the school are all rich evidence of a healthy community working together, in which people truly look out for one another. I believe we can speak about the church in the same breath too. But few projects provide a better opportunity to show just how great Slaley is than that which invites us to embrace a refugee family into the heart of our community.

Christian ethics have too often failed to deliver all that they should, but our bottom line is that we must reach out to those whom Jesus called ‘poor’. He was convinced that poverty is not just lack of possessions, but describes those who are excluded from society.

Any talk about ‘God’s kingdom coming close’ is pretty meaningless if we fail to challenge poverty in *all* its forms together with the systems of oppression that make poverty possible. That’s why I’ll be doing all I can to support this project and I urge you to do the same.

**Slaley weather report – a dry start to the year**

We have had an exceptionally dry January so far (and that’s not referring to alcohol consumption). A staggering 19 out of the 26 days of January so far have been completely dry. Last January was so different. It was our wettest month of the year with 113.3mm of precipitation.

Our rainfall total so far is only 18.9mm. Even though rain is on its way, our only significant precipitation was the snowfall on January 4th. During that event we had 14mm of our total of 18.9mm. A further 3.5mm fell over the weekend of January 7th 8th and 9th (which happened to be when our family were paying a rare visit)!

We’ve also had a fairly mild and settled month with plenty of sunshine. In this, we’ve done better than the south of the country. The high pressure has also caused less frost and fog here than further south.

It looks as if we’re heading for wetter and windier conditions over the remainder of January but continuing mild. Olwen Savage

**Jubilee Year**

This year, 2022, we celebrate Queen Elizabeth’s 70 years on the throne with her Platinum Jubilee, 1900 years since Hadrian’s Wall was built and the 100th anniversary of Slaley Commemoration Hall.

Slaley Parish Council is discussing ways to celebrate all three events.

**Queen Elizabeth II:**

Slaley celebrated the Coronation in June 1953, with sports in Townfoot fields, the hire of a Black and White TV set for the Commemoration Hall where Slaley residents were invited to watch the Coronation as it was broadcast by the BBC to the nation, followed by afternoon tea.

The Silver Jubilee parish event in 1977 is well recorded in photographs, this involved floats through the village, football matches, tea and entertainment at Slaley Commemoration Hall. Tynedale Sports Council was established and a team incorporated from Blanchland, Hexhamshire and Slaley took part in many sporting events under the ‘Jubilee Festival of Sport’. Our team won the Silver Salver and although it did spend some time at Slaley has been kept in the locked silver cupboard at Blanchland Sports and Social Club.

The Golden Jubilee (2002) involved all schoolchildren being presented with a Jubilee Mug by the Parish Council. Tea followed by BBQ at the Rose and Crown. History exhibition inside Slaley Commemoration Hall. A street party with fancy dress contests, held inside Slaley First School grounds in 2012 was the celebration for the Diamond Jubilee, this was organized by Slaley Community Trust.

Rosaleen & Pat organised first Parish Wander in June 2016 to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday.

**What we do know that is happening:**

Slaley Commemoration Hall is celebrating Hadrian’s Wall 1900 years on Friday March 4th with a comedy by timeforearest local actors – if you want tickets for that please get in touch with Stella or Pat (see contact details above).

Slaley Parish Wander is the weekend after the Jubilee: Sunday June 12th. The Wander will give visitors the chance to visit local gardens, exhibitions at the School and the Church, plus guided tours at Ladycross Nature Reserve and a local business. The Wander has produced a Royal Quiz, thirty questions for £2, there will be a first prize and in the event of a tie, the reason why the winner likes their favourite Royal – proceeds towards Slaley Commemoration Hall Phase Two. The Quiz will be for sale on the Wander stall at the January Artisan market. There will also be a Venue Quiz on the day of the Wander identifying names of plants, animals or something with a Royal name or twist.

On Friday November 25th there will be a heritage performance to celebrate the Hall’s 100th year. Denis Lumley is producing that for the community.

Reverend Helen Savage has a special Jubilee service planned for St. Mary’s and in Blanchland Abbey, Helen hopes to do some archaeology inside the Abbey. Slaley Church has a silver jubilee memorial made by children from the First School and the Headteacher will be approached to see if the school wishes to remodel or update it for the Platinum Jubilee.

We would like to ask if your group has any plans for a celebration or would like to join with others in organising something to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee? Northumberland County Council has just launched its £70,000 fund for communities to celebrate the Jubilee, to get a share of this we do need a co-ordinated application.

Please reply to any member of the Parish Council with ideas or suggestions.

The Parish Council looks forwards to receiving feedback from you in time for the next meeting on February 14th

Pat Wilson

Clerk to Slaley & Healey Parish Councils

**Slaley Welcomes**

We have all watched in sadness as innocent families from places like Afghanistan, to Syria and the Yemen, suffer and are forced to seek sanctuary as refugees. We believe that Slaley and its environs can be a safe and welcoming place for a vulnerable family to take their first steps into settling in the UK within the caring heart of our community.

A government scheme – ‘Community Sponsorship’ - has been set up to enables villages and towns across the UK to take control and help a vulnerable family settle in the UK. This requires raising at least £9000, providing suitable, self-contained accommodation for the family for two years, alongside having a plan to support the family with things like learning English, registering with a doctor, finance and education.

**Want to know more?** There will be a short meeting in the Commemoration Hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 3 February when we can tell you more about the project, answer your questions, and hopefully where you can share your ideas about a way forward. We hope that you may then consider joining the organizing group or volunteering in some capacity.

Otherwise, if you are interested in supporting this project by offering time or expertise, accommodation or pledging funds, please contact Mark Jennings at Slaleywelcomes@gmail.com

**Feb 2022 garden column-       Karen Melvin**

As the weather has turned wet and the leaves fallen, I am carrying out a ground elder eradication experiment, by covering it with piles of old newspaper and other paper from the recycling and then putting old damp leaves on top to weigh it all down. The first efforts ended up being blown all over the garden. It is surprising what a small area a year’s supply of newsprint will cover. Similar experiments, according to Andrew Davenport at Bingfield Cottage Gardener’s Plants, used large round bales of barley straw rolled out to suppress ground elder as well as other weeds like couch grass and buttercup. I’ve also introduced woundwort, which overwhelms ground elder but is shallow rooted and quite easy to pull out. I might also try bright yellow Inula, rampant when given its head in the wild garden; plugs that I dotted around a few years ago are now a solid huge 4 metre square clump.

****I never get around to putting fertiliser on the garden (much like years old vitamins languishing in the cupboard). It turns out that this was a good strategy, as new books on mycorrhizal fungi have shown that high use of chemical fertiliser reduces the effectiveness of these essential fungi in the soil. Compost and manures are the way to go, to improve the soil so all these connections around the root systems can happen. Plants and microscopic mycorrhizal fungi interact by sharing a circulatory system that moves carbon, phosphorus, water and other elements around. Green plants supply energy rich carbon compounds to fungi in exchange for phosphorus and other minerals. This has been tracked both in the lab and in the wild with radioactive tracers that measure amounts of carbon in linked and in isolated plants. The fungal hyphae can grow, thicken, fuse, branch and solve complex spacial dynamics to hoard compounds, manage transport, change exchange rates with plants, reward co-operation, and all more than just passive diffusion would allow. They are a very special type of network.   (see “Entangled Life” Merlin Sheldrake)

**** A principle of ecology is the relationship between organisms. Plants are not distinct entities in competition for resources. Energy moves from where there is more to where there is less, from the mature to the small and immature (building for the future), from abundance to scarcity. Why aren’t plants even more competitive? Air and carbon are plentiful so it doesn’t “cost” the plant much. And the fungal partners need the plants to do their part. Distribution within the network is more important. This is a new way of thinking for me, more ecological, more satisfying.

****

**Marmalade Competition**

**It’s not too late to get your entry in for the marmalade competition. There are two categories**

* The Marmalade with the most Mmmm factor
* The Most magnificent Marmalade

Just drop your jar of marmalade off to the shop by the 19th February. Paddington awaits your treats!

The theme for February will be flans, so look out for lots of recipe ideas using our the lovely Northumbrian free range eggs.

The big news for February is that we will be stocking freshly made local bread. Starting on the **12th February** we will stock a range of bread and scones from the Holly Cottage Bakery. Please come along on the 12th to sample the wares. You will be able to buy bread in the shop and preorder. The drop off days for fresh bread and Scones will be Tuesday and Saturday.

@slaleycommunityshop



**Slaley Show**

Our future is in jeopardy!

We are in urgent need of a

**Secretary** and a **Treasurer**. Unless these 2 vital roles are filled the running of successful shows in the future is under threat. If you feel you can help, please feel free to ring me on 673547.

Marge Rastall, Show Chair

**Ladycross Nature Reserve**

*Working with People for Nature – Working with Nature for People*

**Bird feed appeal**

Thank you for your support with this appeal last year. Your response was tremendous with some of you donating money and others bird food. I am just using the last of the money. and the seed is all gone.

Despite being able to have a couple of events to raise funds, we still need help with feeding the birds over the coming winter and spring.

So, once again, I am asking for your help by making a donation. Should you wish to donate money please make cheques out to *Ladycross Nature Reserve,* and send to me at Dotrobin, Juniper, Hexham, NE47 0LA.

We buy our seed from Poltross who deliver or you can use your own supplier. If you are dropping off feed can you leave it in the porch at Dotrobin as the quarry is not always open. My telephone number is 01434 673245.

We are busy organising some walks, talks and events but these will probably be in next spring/summer.

We really do appreciate the support you have given us.

Thank you. Joan Jewitt

We are beginning to organise some fund raising “events” for LXNR

The following are 2 confirmed dates (virus allowing!)

* Wednesday 6th April.  A talk by Keith Buchanan – To Patagonia and beyond – in search of the big cats.  Keith has a long history of environmental work all over the world.This will be in Slaley village hall, starting at 7pm.  More details nearer the time.
* Something new for this year.  Monday 4th July.  A botanical trip around LXNR led by Chris Metherell.  Chris is a County Recorder for North Northumberland for the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland.  We will start at 6.30pm.  Details nearer the time

**FoSS news**

A very Happy New Year to everyone! We were pleased that our festive FoSS events were able to go ahead this year! Our Christmas cake decorating evening was a huge success, Mrs English and her friend Ali Hammersley led the fabulous event. We raised a great total of £253.56 and everyone was thrilled with their beautifully decorated Christmas cakes.

We also organised a festive art gallery of masterpieces and Christmas decorations made by the children, with a ‘Coffee and mince pie’ event in the school. It was a wonderful chance for the children to show parents their amazing artworks. We also organised our Christmas hampers tradition at this event, and we were very pleased that we raised a grand total of £342.

Due to rising Covid case numbers, we held our annual Christmas Wreath making evening online, the fantastic florist, Charlotte Douglas did a wonderful job of putting together wreath boxes and showing us how to make Christmas wreaths. It was a great success and we raised £224.38.

On the last day of term the children wore Christmas jumpers, and we had a Santa and Elf run for the children at school.

Our Slaley First School cookbooks are still available to buy, the books cost £10 and are available at the Slaley shop or on our JustGiving site:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/slaleyschoolcookbook21>

We are looking forward to planning some fun events in the coming months! FoSS are very grateful for the continued support we receive in fundraising for our wonderful school.

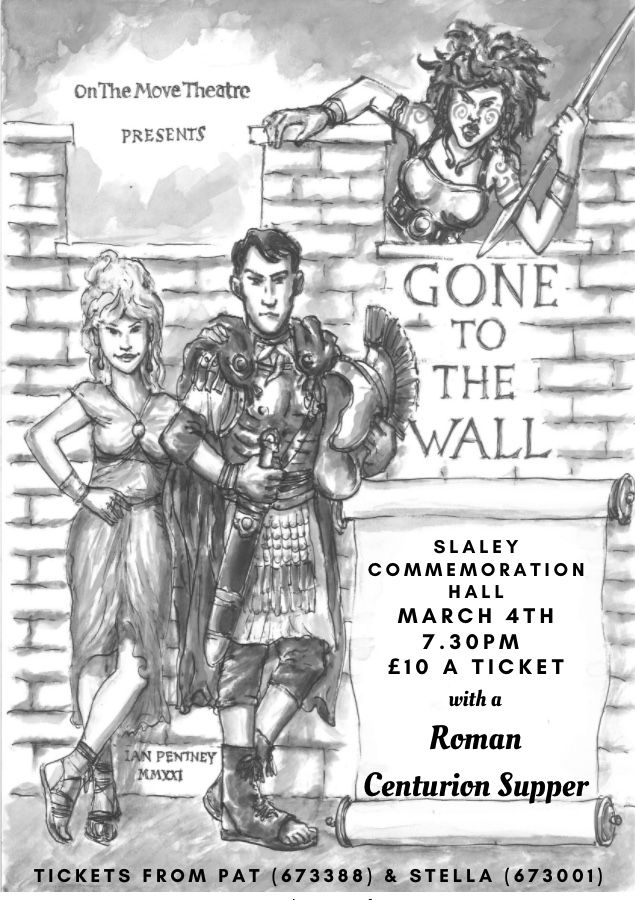
**Feeling a little flabby after your Christmas over indulgences?**

Then try a work out every Monday evening in the Commemoration Hall.

6.00 – 7.00 pm. First session free then then £5 / session thereafter.

For further information contact Ferguson Fitness 07500056654

**Email** [**fergusonfitness02@gmail.com**](mailto:fergusonfitness02@gmail.com)

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**FANCY A SING-ALONG accompanied by a GREAT PIANIST?**

Do you enjoy humming or singing along to a tune or song? ( You do not have to be a  Choir singer)  If so,you might be interested in having fun , singing favorites from years gone by, as well as expanding your range of local songs and Musicals  If there is sufficient interest, we would set up a taster session, during the day, in Slaley Commemoration Hall. If enough people enjoy the session and wish to attend regularly, we would look to setting up a series of sessions. To register an interest, please phone  Carol Ferguson on 01434 673585 , if possible by mid-February.

**Parish Council vacancies.**

Are you eighteen or over?

Can you make decisions even when sober?

Do you have an email account dedicated to you?

‘Cos correspondence each month will number a few!

Most business is lively, but some, may be boring

I’ve never had Councillors actually snoring!

Don’t let that stop you from joining the group

On the second Monday evening on a monthly loop.

You should regard dog poo and pot holes with equal zeal,

Compare contractors estimates till you get a good deal.

Encourage planning applications to consider climate change,

Award grants each year, that some may find strange.

All problems associated with parish life

will be tabled for discussion no matter the strife;

From hedges that grown to an unacceptable height,

To organising the Litter Pick when timing is right.

Community play is agreed with the school, but that costs money

For insurance and weekly inspections, be it snowy or sunny.

**We have a vacancy for someone who’s not afraid to have their say;**

**So don’t leave it ‘till next year, ring me today.**

Pat 673388

A picture containing building, outdoor, stone

Description automatically generated**The Rose and Crown – February 2022**

Our thanks to everyone that came to see us over Christmas and the New Year. Whilst on some occasions it was cold outside there was always a warm welcome in the bar and restaurant.

We took a little time off in January to do some essential maintenance work but we’re back now and looking forward to welcoming you to a new look interior, particularly in the bar where the ‘Covid screens’ have been banished (for good we hope) and the tables given a face lift. Not a location everyone will visit, but the gentlemen’s toilets have also had a makeover. We’ve also installed a new fire. It’s quickly become a talking point, we’d be interested in your views.

Our opening times have changed too, both for the bar and restaurant. In addition, we’re pleased to say we’re open again on a Wednesday. You’ll find all these changes captured on our website at www.roseandcrownslaley.co.uk.

Our popular weekly Sunday evening quiz continues (20:00 sharp) and this month we’ve got Valentine’s Day to look forward to as well. Be sure to keep an eye out for our special menu and don’t forget to book in advance so that the special person in your life doesn’t miss out.

A picture containing shape

Description automatically generated

Something else not to miss out on for our real ale lovers is our new guest beer – Wagtail. From the Allendale Brewery this superbly balanced session bitter (3.8% ABV) has a floral aroma, hints of Seville orange and spiced dried fruit, with biscuit and toffee notes.

A picture containing outdoor, flower, plant

Description automatically generatedFinally, being a community owned pub, we continue to be grateful for all the support those in the parish and from further afield show us. However, if you would like to get more involved, we’d love to hear from you. In particular as spring approaches perhaps you could take a little time to give our window boxes a little TLC.

If so, please contact Ian at ian.stevens686@gmail.com.

**January’s Artisan Market** was very poorly attended even though it was widely advertised. The organisers have discussed the possibility of introducing an email reminder and have issued the following note

Because of Data Protection we are not allowed to email out reminders about our quarterly Artisan Market unless asked to do so. Several people came by chance to our January market, hundreds did not. Despite an interesting article on [www.slaley.org.uk/villagehall/market](http://www.slaley.org.uk/villagehall/market), reminders through Slaley notes in the Hexham Courant, posters on every outside notice board, on litter bins and dog waste bins, two large signs at Townhead and Townfoot, inside Springhouse Holiday Park shop and mention through the FREE to every household Slaley News. Local Slaley people claim they know nothing about the Artisan Market. Bread comes from Alnwick, home-reared pork and organic vegetables from Ponteland, Charlotte Douglas provides floral wonders, refreshments, so you can sit and chat over a drink, artists change from market to market as do other stalls including honey, cheese, apple juice, Fentimans and there is a charity stall. At 5 p.m. Fire & Dough Pizza van joins the market and trades outside.

This is a joint venture between the Community Environment Group to reduce air miles and shop locally and Slaley Commemoration Hall to encourage people to use the village Hall. The stallholders and the organisers talked about the abysmal support for the January Artisan Market and one suggestion was an email reminder to shoppers 3 days before and again on the morning of the market. If you are housebound and wish to place an order for delivery we may be able to arrange that. This article is a request for you to confirm to the Artisan Market team that you would like an email reminder of the Market.

Please email pat.wilson28@outlook.com if you would find this helpful.

**Fire & Dough Pizza Van Wednesday 23rd February**.

the Commemoration Hall Car park from 5 p.m. – 7.00pm

**Selected diary dates**

Mondays – Exercise to music.

Evening keep fit session

Tuesdays – Bowls night

Wednesdays – Badminton,

Thursday 03/02/22 Slaley Welcome Project meeting

Tuesday 08/02/22 Hexham Arts Society

PCC meeting

Thursday 10/02/22 - Knit and Natter at the Travellers Rest

Friday 18/02/22 Film Club

Wednesday 23/02/22 Fire & Dough Pizza Van