

USEFUL NUMBERS & CONTACTS

Badminton Group	Fran Pugh	673429
Carpet Bowls	Brian Wilson	673043
St Mary's Parish Church	Reverend Helen Savage	676852
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
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	673388
	Ian Hancock	673502
Mobile Hairdresser	Linda Johnston	673196
Northumberland CC	Report faulty Streetlights/Potholes	0345 6006400
	Parish Council	Clerk: Pat Wilson
Post Office Van	Martin Nichol,	01661
	Stocksfield Post Office	842110
Police	For non-emergency calls	please call 101
Rose & Crown Pub		673996
Slaley Shop	Shop	673201
	Sandra Innes	673845
Slaley First School	Head: Mrs. Hayward	673220
Slaley Notes in the	Stella Douglas	673001
Hexham Courant	Helen Savage	676852
Slaley Parish Website	www.slaley.org.uk	
Slaley Show Society	Chairman: Marge Rastall	673547
Travellers Rest Pub	Ian and Darren	673231
Women's Institute	President: Margaret Rowell	673589
	Secretary: Hilary Porteus	673637



SLALEY NEWS

April 2022



Just one thing...

4-7 pm. Friday 22nd April
Slaley Commemoration Hall

Meet up with members of our local environmental group and celebrate Earth Day.

Have a chat, find out more and share ideas about all things green.

- solar panels - local tree planting schemes -
recycling in Northumberland - and a lot more.

Refreshments available.

Special feature: Tyne River model provided by the Tyne Rivers Trust.

We ask that you commit to "just one thing" to help in the fight against climate change.

Contributions for May edition by Tuesday April 26th or earlier please.

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Fiona McKendrick: 673281 fionamckendrick@googlemail.com

Slaley and
Hexhamshire
Welcome
slaleywelcomes@gmail.com



A missing key...

With nearly £7,500 raised in just 5 weeks; pledges and donations in the pipeline and fundraising events being planned, The Slaley and Hexhamshire Welcome project, the Community Sponsor Group offering a new life for refugees, is receiving some very positive

attention from groups and individuals.

But the group is missing a vital cog in the machinery of the application: - accommodation. The search is on. It perhaps needs further explanation. Accommodation is not expected to be freely given....

Landlords/owners can expect to receive rent and legal protection. *"The scheme needs to offer a two-year commitment, backed by a shorthold tenancy. Under the government scheme we are working with, the landlord is eligible to receive Northumberland County Council's housing benefit rates"* explains Project Lead Mark Jennings.

'Slaley and Hexhamshire Welcome will have raised funds to help with decorating, furnishing, any minor repairs and if needed could even top up the housing benefit' he says. Thus explained it may be of interest to owners of holiday lets in the area who may consider the project as guaranteeing 2 years' worth of income rather than being reliant on a shorter holiday period.

There are expected and necessary requirements. *"We are looking for self-contained accommodation. It needs to have its own front door, living and sleeping space and a bathroom and kitchen. The size of the place will determine which refugee or refugee family we are matched to."* Who is allocated is not the decision of the Welcome group. The UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) will allocate a family, a couple or an individual to match the property size and location. Accommodation size is therefore less important than the actual offer of it.

It goes without saying that the 'welcome' will be greater and more supportive if the location is central within the two communities, but 'nearby' is also suitable. *"Given the fantastic number of volunteers who have come forward we feel we can support a family in a rural environment - so many people have offered help"* says Mark.

The project has already received tremendous support with the offer of time and expertise as well as money. A few final pushes will allow the GO button to be pushed.

Mark sums it up *"I'm really confident that if we can find the right place, we can help a family that is in really dire circumstances just now. So many people have come forward wanting to offer support - helping with transport, health needs, schooling. We have seen the best of our community."*

Details of the Just Giving page:
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/slaley-and-the-shire-welcomes
Contact: Slaleywelcomes@gmail.com



CLAUDIA SACHER. MINOR INJURY.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, HEALEY, NE44 6BJ.

April 2-3, 2022, 11am-5pm.

Opening Night 5pm, Friday April 1. Refreshments.

We're looking forward to seeing you...

FoSS News

With Spring in the air, we have just had a successful Fundraise & Recycle collection from school. We asked parents to donate pre-loved clothing to recycle and we raised a grand total of £61.20 for the school.

With Easter around the corner, FOSS are planning an exciting Easter bonnet competition and Easter egg trail for the children. We are also hoping to do the Smarties challenge where we give each child a tube of Smarties to enjoy at home and in return fill it with spare change and we will see which class collects the most money and there will be a class prize! Our Slaley First School cookbooks are still available to buy, the books cost £10. You can buy these at the Slaley shop or on our JustGiving site: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/slaleyschoolcookbook21>

We are very pleased that FoSS fundraising has paid for some brilliant treats for the children including a Planetarium visit, the Image theatre, decodable phonics books and a polytunnel! FoSS are very grateful for your continued support in making FoSS events successful!

The Rose and Crown

We held two special events in March marking St. Patrick's Day and Mother's Day (and a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all). As spring moves into summer we'll be holding many more. The events page on our website is regularly updated, so why not keep checking in with us at <http://www.roseandcrownsalaley.co.uk/events.php> to see if anything tickles your fancy. We're currently working on a new website for the pub to enhance the user experience. During the month we'll be bringing back one of the North East's up and coming photographers, Claire Batey of Unscripted Photography (<https://www.unscriptedphotography.co.uk/>), to take some promotional shots of all things 'Rose and Crown'. We'll be publishing the date and time on the website and we'd love you to come along and be in them - so do please keep your eyes peeled for further information about this exciting opportunity.



If you would like to view work that Claire has already done for us, do feel free to pop in and peruse our gallery in the bar. A celebratory Easter drink might be a nice accompaniment.

Our Landlady, Tracey, captured by Claire Batey, doing one of the things she does best



Recycling News from the Community Environmental Group

Are you up to speed with soft plastic?

About half of what has gone into your general waste bin can now be successfully reprocessed. Unfortunately, this is still not accepted by the weekly kerbside collections but major supermarkets are committed to taking soft plastics for recycling at their bigger stores.

What are soft plastics?

- All plastic bags, *except biodegradable or compostable bags*
- Bread bags
- Bubble wrap
- Delivery bags
- Frozen food bags
- Biscuit & chocolate wrappings
- Multi-pack wrapping
- Plastic marked as low-density polyethylene (LDPE) - resin ID code 4 e.g. biomass pellet sacks
- Breakfast cereal liners
- Crisp packets
- Dry cleaning bags
- Magazine and newspaper wrappers
- Salad, pasta & rice bags
- Toilet roll wrapping

All this material can be collected in plastic bags and returned to some supermarkets.

Where is the best collection spot?

Tesco Extra in Hexham is by far the most comprehensive collection spot with large capacity containers by the entrance.

The collection bin at *Waitrose* offers to recycle carrier bags but has a narrow aperture which does not welcome larger donations.

M&S have said they are collecting but the bins have yet to appear. *Aldi* also has none.

Recycling HQ at the Village Community Shop

The latest addition is the collection point for *CORKS*. So now pop your corks from the bottle to the shed.

Slaley Parish Wander – Sunday June 12th 2022

Visit gardens, a robotic milking parlour, see art and flowers, tour a nature reserve

Start at the Commemoration Hall

Gardens open from 11.00am – 5.30pm

Tickets £5.00 on the day from the Commemoration Hall with all proceeds going to the Phase Two Appeal for the Hall

London exhibition comes to Slaley!

LARGE and small

by Karen Melvin, Claudia Sacher and Carl von Weiler

Visit this pop-up exhibition and Slaley Commemoration Hall:

- Friday May 13th - 5-8pm
- Saturday May 14th - 11am-5pm
- Sunday, May 15th - 11am-5pm

The Commemoration Hall is proud to welcome this event to Slaley and will be providing a range of tasty refreshments throughout the weekend.

It will feature the very large and the very small, the outsize and the miniature. It includes a dollhouse that Grace Warde-Aldham had as a child, an elevated shed from Claudia Sacher, and a vintage doll house (Small House Cottage) and toy garage (Small House Garage), that have come north from the London mini-contemporary art project for a group of doll's houses- **Small House Gallery**, curated by Eldi Dundee.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Organisations and individuals throughout the parish are keen to arrange events to commemorate the Queen's jubilee.

Slaley Parish Council are excited to support the occasion and have arranged an open-house meeting to bring groups and individuals together who are keen to arrange an event.

**11am on Saturday, 9th April
Slaley Commemoration Hall**

To find all the latest information and promote your event visit:

www.slaley.org.uk/platinum-jubilee



Slaley Parish Council

Invite members of the public who have ever complained about the litter left lying in and around our parish to join them in the 2022 Annual Parish Litter Pick

Saturday April 9th, Sunday April 10th.

Gloves, Bags, Litter Grabbers & Traffic Warning Signs will be provided. at Slaley Commemoration Hall

There is a Prize for the most unusual item collected during the pick.

In the case of adverse weather, the Litter Pick will be postponed.

Please read and sign the Risk Assessment which will be available at Slaley Commemoration Hall.

Bring filled bags to Commemoration Hall car park and leave near the wheelie bins for collection by Northumberland County Council.

Parish Council Notes

The Parish Council met on 14th March with a huge agenda, so this is a small taste of what was discussed. For more detail, please visit slaley.org.uk.

For many months, even years, the PC has been trying to get information about the progress towards a 20mph speed limit in the village and the improvements to the Glen Crossroads. There remains no update. The PC clerk will try a new approach, requesting information from Cllr Riddle. If anyone has had a near miss at the Glen Crossroads, please log that with the Parish Clerk (673388).

The PC wishes to co-ordinate a response to the Platinum Jubilee. There is a dedicated page on the parish website and **an Open Meeting is to be held 11am Saturday 9th April in Slaley Commemoration Hall** so that community groups can share ideas and plan together. If you wish to add to this page, please contact a councillor.

Another dedicated page on the parish website will provide information about the Neighbourhood Plan. Stage 1 has been passed by the Council and the Parish is embarking on Stage 2 which is a public consultation. Everyone is encouraged to attend open meetings on Sunday April 3rd 2.00 – 4.00pm and Thursday April 7th. 5.00 – 7.00pm. Both meetings in the Commemoration Hall.

For someone who has used the village hall for over 60 years and seen many changes I was thrilled last week to see it as it is now. The pictures, curtains, storage facilities and toilets were so good that I am sure are a pleasure to use. We should appreciate all the hard work that has been done and the foresight of the Huntings for giving our village such a lovely amenity and we look forward to its completion.

Mary Metcalf

April gardening column- Karen Melvin

Seed sowing time again. I sow my early seeds of lettuce, rocket, spring onions, leeks, swiss chard, and spinach onto kitchen paper in old cream cheese tubs, which can then be stacked up somewhere warm in the kitchen. These robust tiny seedlings can be pricked into individual pots and go straight out into the unheated greenhouse. There was frost outside for my first batch but a sunny day heats the greenhouse. The cardiocrinum lily pods propped up under the tall bit of the greenhouse are drying out under the glass and shedding some of their seeds. Seeds sown over the past two years have not shown any signs of germination, and since all of my five offsets flowered at once last year, I might not have any dramatic tall lilies for this year's open gardens in Slaley. We are just getting the poster together and I am looking at Albert Weir's garden from 2016, with his collection of antique gardening tools and miscellaneous items artfully arranged in charming locations around the garden. Tin watering cans



are displayed under a sagging table by a silver weeping pear, a beautiful small tree, which can be clipped and pruned to fit its space, but looks best when it has a generous space to dangle its long shoots. Along with many secluded seating areas in the garden is a wooden hut with slate tiles, folding door and day bed with welcoming cushions - a place to doze and dream.

Trygill Burn Cottage garden open for Slaley Parish Wander June 12th



Another area is enclosed by a stone wall, a wooden fence and a clipped box hedge, entered through a low white painted gate. The gateway is a place to pause and take in the different atmosphere of this more formal space with clipped box balls, a stone urn and a sculptural metal bird bath, all set off by tall white alliums and herbaceous geraniums. The whole garden is a mix of the formal and loose wild planting, punctuated by surprising arrangements and collections reminding us of the careful craftsmanship of old hand made objects. I'm looking forward to seeing it all again.

Down south seeing the grandchildren, I visited one of my favourite gardens, Evenley Wood. Even though it is early in the season there were some magnolias and perfect camellias in flower. There were expansive woodland carpets of the tiny daffodil, narcissus cyclamens and clumps of pale hellebores. The specimen plants are exciting and the children love the garden because they can scramble through streams, over bridges, into little rustic huts and climb on heaps of fallen trees; in other words, a magical place.

Slaley, Healey & Minsteracres Local History Group

Monday April 25th

Slaley Commemoration Hall, 7.30pm

My Time at the Hexham Courant by Brian Tilley

Brian Tilley joined the Hexham Courant in 1973 as a reporter. (Five years after he left the advertising department in September 1968 to get married and move to Didsbury in Manchester).

Today, Brian Tilley is best known as 'Hextol', a character made famous by him when he was the Courant's deputy editor. Two books 'The Hextol Collection' published in 2007 and 'The Hextol Collection 2' published three years later in 2010 sold all over the world from Macclesfield to America and even Australia. Enjoying his retirement with Mrs Hextol, at Hextol Towers in Bellingham, Brian is still entertaining readers today with his weekly column. The funniest of 2022 was the issue of January 6th when his story of filling the pepper pot for Boxing Day guests caused a paroxysm of sneezing. It was the final paragraph to this story which made me laugh the most, but for copywrite reasons I cannot retell here - it will however be part of the April display. As will the story of being at a garden centre when the fire alarm went off (November 2018). In December 2020 Brian amused us with stories of serving behind the bar, in the late 1970s, at Dantino's night-spot while out on strike as a journalist from the Hexham Courant. However, for anyone who wears hearing aids and glasses the addition of face masks during the COVID 19 pandemic made his article of July 2020 the funniest of all. Brian has many stories to tell about his years as a reporter for the weekly newspaper. What was printable in the 70s, 80s and 90s wouldn't be allowed today so join Brian on Monday 25th for a trip down memory lane.

There will be a display to look at after the talk containing many of the Hextol articles, several local history editorials written by Brian and some Hexham Courant background information.

For more information contact Pat Wilson 01434 673388 Email: pat.wilson28@outlook.com



SLALEY FILM CLUB

April 15th

Julie and Julia (U)

Commemoration Hall 7.30 pm



Based on two true stories, Julie & Julia intertwines the lives of two women who, though separated by time and space, are both at loose ends until they discover that with the right combination of passion, fearlessness and butter, anything is possible. Meryl Streep plays Julia Child, a major figure in introducing French Cuisine to the American middle classes.

As usual BYO drink and a sharing platter for supper



Ladycross Nature Reserve

Working with People for Nature – Working with Nature for People

To Patagonia and Beyond: In search of South America's Big Cats with Keith Buchanan

Wednesday April 6th 2022 7 p.m. Slaley Commemoration Hall



Wildlife and environmental specialist Keith Buchanan with a fascinating talk about Patagonia, the big cats of South America and the unique challenges of the Patagonian environment. Keith's experience and extensive travels have left him with an enormous range of knowledge and insight into the situations faced by animals, plants and their habitats across the world.

Admission £5 – All proceeds towards new facilities at the Reserve

Hexham Arts Society Tuesday April 12th at 19.30 pm. Hexham Mart Function Room.

The Bayeux Tapestry. "The World's Oldest Comic Strip"

First Aid Training, Slaley Commemoration Hall, Thursday April 7th 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. £50 per person. The Hall is being paid for by Slaley Parish Council and the training by a North East Ambulance service instructor is also being subsidised by Slaley PC. If you are concerned about using a defibrillator then sign up for the training it is all part of emergency First Aid. Age is no barrier to knowledge. Five places left - if £50 is more than you can afford at present please do not let that stop you - Special prices for school age teenagers. Tel Pat 01434 673388 to reserve your place.



Fire & Dough Pizza Van Wednesday 27th April

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

SCH 200 winning numbers

The winner of the March SCH 200 draw was number 37, drawn by Catherine Myers at the Slaley Commemoration Hall management meeting on March 16th

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!

In addition, the service on Easter morning will be one of Holy Communion.

We will also have a simple act of worship on Good Friday in St Mary's at 2pm.

The next Evensong at Healey will be on Sunday 24 April at 5pm.

Sunday services continue to be streamed on Facebook and You Tube as well as 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

Messy Church – Come to the Church's Birthday Party!

Saturday 7 May 9.30 to 11am in the Commemoration Hall. Join us to celebrate the Church's birthday (aka Pentecost) with cake, candles and lots of crafts! If you'd like to know more, please ask Helen: helensavage1@gmail.com

Helen's thought for the month.

Two years have passed since the first lockdown. It seems ages ago. The experience of the pandemic has taught us many things and has shown us, especially, just how vital community is to us all. In rural, isolated communities like ours, we had sufficient resources to cope with some measure of stoical determination, but a House of Lords Report published last month called for greater resilience in our communities as a whole and a stronger emphasis on well-being.

Both the pandemic and the war in Ukraine are also teaching us important lessons about ourselves, in that they prompt us to reflect on what we really want and what truly matters. I hope that as, God willing, we continue to rebuild our lives along with the shattered cities of Ukraine, we will hold onto that desire to reach out to one another and to build communities in which we reach out to one another, deeply value one another and make time for one another. If we do so our world may seem – and really be a better, brighter place. We have to hold onto hope. And that's what Easter's all about too.

Slaley weather report

The first three months of the year have been essentially dry, though we have had some extremely wet days. If the next week continues to be dry, we will have had another dry month, in spite of the unsettled and windy days, particularly in the middle of March. They didn't result in much precipitation. The

total so far is only 22.8mm and 17 of those fell in one day on March 4th. Fifteen days have been completely dry.

Last year, March was even drier, only 18mm, though that was after much more average figures for January and February. The reason of course, has been a settled spell of high pressure.

Selected diary dates

Mondays – Exercise to music.
Evening keep fit session

Tuesdays – Bowls nights
Lent lunches. Midday in Hall

Wednesdays – Badminton,

Fridays - Ecumenical Study Group. From March 11th

Friday 01/04/22 -03/04/22 Exhibition, Healey Church

Sunday 03/04/22 Neighbourhood plan meeting

Wednesday 06/04/22 Ladycross – Big cats

Thursday 07/04/22 First aid course
Neighbourhood plan meeting

Saturday 09/04/22 Jubilee meeting 11.00 am
Parish Litter Pick

Sunday 10/04/22 Parish Litter Pick

Tuesday 12/04/22 Hexham Arts Society, Bayeux Tapestry 7.30 pm

Friday 15/04/22 Film Club - Julie and Julia

Monday 28/04/22 - History Club

Wednesday 27/04/22 Fire & Dough Pizza Van

Please give your support to all the enterprises that make this village a thriving community. Visit their websites, - a great deal of effort is being made to make them more informative and easily accessible.

By the time you read this congratulations should be due to Mark Jennings and Hugh McKendrick who should have completed their trip to Poland with a load of medical supplies for the Ukrainians.