

SLALEY COMMUNITY TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2010 - 2011

The Community Trust is now in its seventh year and continues to be an active part of the community.

After the previous year's successful publication of "Slaley, Then and Now", the Trust's activities over the last year have centred around the pub and a play area for the village.

During the latter part of 2010, the Trust worked on proposals for community ownership of the Rose & Crown, with the aim of encouraging a thriving pub in the village. This work included developing a business plan, researching sources of funding and investigating planning and building works required. Although these proposals did not come to fruition, the Trust is pleased to see new tenants in the pub with exciting plans for redeveloping the business.

Starting in July last year, the Trust has been working with the Parish Council and Slaley First School on developing a play and sport area on the school grounds, in order to access funding set aside for Slaley from the Housing Developers Fund. This project is now at the stage of getting the detailed plans drawn up and the final application for funding will shortly be submitted. The aim is for the building work to be completed during the school summer holidays.

In addition the Trust has offered its support to a number of other Slaley organisations:-

1. A small grant to the Methodist Chapel for redecoration.
2. A small grant to the Mother & Toddler Group to ensure it was on a secure financial basis.
3. A contribution to funds for St Mary's Church to facilitate the movement of an ancient gravestone – this is due to be carried out as soon as the specialist contractor is available.
4. Sponsorship of a Junior Leek Club prize, with £10 and a cup for the best single leek from the under-16s. This generated a lot of interest at last year's Leek Show and will continue again this year.
5. Support to the Slaley Show by running a raffle on the day of the show.

The Community Trust put on a production of Beauty and the Beast at Christmas in the Commemoration Hall, which was well attended. Also, thanks to the efforts of Jackie Green, the Trust arranged for the signs at the Townhead end of the village to be replaced free of charge by the County Council.

The Parish Newsletter continues to be distributed monthly, with many thanks to Carolyn Brooks and Joan Galley, and also to the team of volunteers who distribute the newsletters to every household in the parish. Thanks should also go to Northumbria Water for their assistance with printing.

Michael Elphick stood down last year after serving as Chairman for nearly four years, but remains on the committee as a valued member. Margaret Weatherley continues to provide invaluable service as our Treasurer and new members are always welcome to join the Trust.

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

Norman Watson and Catherine Lincoln
(Chairman and Secretary, Slaley Community Trust)

8 May 2011