

SLALEY COMMUNITY TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2009 - 2010

Slaley Community Trust is now in its sixth year, and I hope you will agree that we have had a successful year. It has seen the completion of the reprint (with additional material) of Miss Mason's "Slaveleia Miscellany" under the title "Slaley, Then and Now". The Trust obtained grants totalling £1450 to finance this, together with a loan from the Slaley Show Society which has been repaid in full. The book was on sale for the first time at the 150th Slaley Show (which the Trust supported in other ways as well).

Since then sales have continued through the village shop, bookshops in Hexham and Corbridge, and directly from the Trust. Sales of the book exceeded our expectation, and have provided a net income of approximately £1250. Out of a total print run of 350, only 102 copies are still left in stock. Copies have also been donated to the funders, several individuals and libraries.

This has helped to improve the Trust's financial position, as will be seen from the Treasurer's report, and will enable us to offer some grants to several other parish groups. We are currently discussing this with the churches and other organisations, and are also sponsoring a Junior Leek Club prize, with £10 and a cup for the best single leek from the under-16s.

The Trust is grateful to the Parish Council for its grant of £120 from the precept towards our running costs. The Council will in future be requiring annual applications from organisations such as the Trust before making grants. Thanks to the efforts of Jackie Green, we are getting the signs at the Townhead end of the village replaced free of charge by the County Council, and are now planning for the installation of planters to add to the welcome.

The Parish Newsletter continues as a monthly publication, thanks to Carolyn Brooks and Joan Galley, and to the team of volunteers who distribute the newsletters to every household in the parish. We hope that this effort is appreciated by its recipients, if only to remind people of all that is going on in Slaley. We would again like to thank Northumbria Water Ltd. for their assistance with printing. However we have not produced another edition of the Parish Reports booklet, and it is uncertain if this will continue as an annual or occasional publication.

We remain concerned over the future of the shop and other amenities (e.g. the Rose & Crown, the school and churches) vital to a flourishing local community. A small group are keeping a watching brief on developments in this area.

Having served as Chairman for nearly four years, I now feel that it is time for a change. I am therefore standing down, and look forward to a new Chairperson who will help to build on what we have started. Our Secretary and Treasurer are continuing, but 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 years; I know that the Committee would like to thank all who have given their time and skill to support the work of the Trust since its inception. We very much hope that this help and support will continue in the years ahead.

Michael Elphick
(Chairman, Slaley Community Trust)
21st April 2010