

**SLALEY COMMUNITY TRUST**  
**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2007 - 2008**

Slaley Community Trust is now completing its third year, since it was set up in March 2005. During this time we have achieved a number of successes, beginning with the successful opening of the school field outside school hours.

The present Committee and Officers have now served a full year, and we have made progress in several areas:

- ⌚ Following the demise of the Parish Magazine in December 2007, the Trust has since January this year compiled and distributed a monthly news-letter to every household in the parish. The success of this venture is due to Peter McKendrick, and to all who have helped distribute the sheets locally. We would also like to thank Northumbria Water for their assistance with printing.
- ⌚ The Parish Reports booklet (containing reports from the Parish, District and County Councillors with others from many local groups and clubs) was finally distributed in September last year. Many readers welcomed it, and the 2008 edition is now being prepared with support from Slaley Hall and Sir Michael & Lady Darrington. We hope that this will continue as an annual publication.
- ⌚ Another publication being undertaken is the proposed reprint (with additional material) of Miss Mason's "Slaveleia Miscellany". The Slaley Show Society has offered some funding, but the small group of volunteers working on this will be looking for additional sources of funding.
- ⌚ The major project still under way is the design, production and placement of an information or interpretive board, displaying a map of the area and local places of interest. Additional funding has now been secured, the design of the board is under way, and we look forward to handing over the completed board to the Council before the end of the year.
- ⌚ The Trust continues to monitor the use of Slaley First School field for the community, thanks to the efforts of John Melvin and others. The recently formed Slaley Gardening Club have now taken over the task of maintaining the popular Willow Dragon in the school grounds.

Like many others, the Trust is concerned over the long-term future of two vital village amenities: the Post Office & shop, and the Rose & Crown inn. The area plans for the Post Office's Network Change Programme in Northumberland should be announced soon, with public consultation due to start at the beginning of July.

The position of the Rose & Crown is not completely clear at the moment, but there is some news from Marston's. The Trust (and the Parish Council) had previously written to them, and has recently received a statement from their Business Development Manager that "I'm hopeful that the site will re-open with new tenants before the 1st bank holiday in May."

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).

As Chairman I would like to thank the hard working members of the present Committee for their efforts; 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 the past twelve months. We very much hope that this help and support will continue in the year ahead.

Michael Elphick  
(Chairman, Slaley Community Trust)  
27th April 2008