



SLALEY NEWS

APRIL 2021



Slaley Shop

As you know I owned Slaley Shop for 47 years together with my late husband Roy.

I am writing to say how sorry I was to hear recently that David Allsop felt the need to resign as a Member of the Board. If it wasn't for David the village would not have had a Community Shop where it is. Nor would there have been 3 year's rent free for the shop if it had not been for David's kind assistance and expertise in assisting both Roy and I in making the transition of buying the shop a smooth one and as easy as possible for me after Roy died to finalise the sale of the Shop to the Community

I also do not think the Shop would be where it is today without the hard work that David has done.

Thank you David and may I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best.

Margaret

Contributions for April edition by Wednesday 28th April please.

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Community Environment Group

The negative impact that we have on the world is easy to appreciate, even without David Attenborough's magnificent but disturbing TV documentaries, as we fill our bins with bottles, wrappers and wasted food. Sadly we are all contributing to the problems as part of our everyday lives.

The Environment Group comprises local folk who want to help reverse this process. This seems like an impossibly large task for a small group but the emphasis is on Community – acting together and with similar groups - an understanding of what can be done develops. We can become more responsible ourselves and by influencing others have a real impact.

A small start has been made with planting trees in the village and greater recycling opportunities through the Community Shop. For more details take a look at the Facebook page for the Slaley, Healey and Hexhamshire Community Environment Group and on the Parish website

We are happy to work with the forward-looking Northumbria County Council which has ambitious plans for reducing the environmental impact across the county. Its website also provides very practical advice and tips regarding recycling.

Something to consider: does your energy company supply all its electricity from renewable sources? You can check how much renewable energy a supplier produces by looking at its 'fuel mix' information. This shows how much of the power they sell has come from coal, gas, nuclear, renewable and other sources, so you can see how green they really are.

The first AGM of the Environment Group will take place Wednesday March 31st 2021 at 6.30 p.m. on-line. If you would like to join the group and/or attend this meeting, call Pat on 673388. The agenda is on the Parish website.

Slaley and Hexhamshire Oil Buying Group

The March oil order was placed with Carrs Billington at 39.9ppl and the volume for the month was 59,750 ltr. Prices ranged from 39.99, Certas were at 44.98 and Northern Energy were at 45.2 so from dearest to the cheapest a saving 5.3pence per litre. and a total saving of £3,166 for the group on the month

Deadlines for April are orders to me by Friday 16th of April for delivery during week commencing Monday 19th

Thank you all for your continued support

Neil Whatmough, nbwhatmough@btinternet.com or by telephone on 01434 676949

Hello ladies, fellow members.

Has another month really gone since my last message? Still no meetings but I hope that sometime in the summer we may be able to get together if the restrictions are lifted and we have had our "jabs". If everyone sticks to the rules it may happen, if not we could be back to square one.

On behalf of all members, past and present, may I say Happy Birthday to Mary , one of our longest serving members if not the longest, when she celebrates a BIG one at the end of the month.

Hope to see you all soon, stay safe and stay well.

Margaret Rowell



Parish Council Notes

The Parish Council met 15th March on-line. The discussions were very wide-ranging covering environmental matters, highways, broadband issues and climate change amongst other issues. Councillors were inducted into the intricacies of how to deal with nomination packs for the May elections. Most Slaley folk will have been given the option to vote on-line in May but the Commemoration Hall has been booked and will be a safe space to vote. Contact the bookings clerk on 673001 if you have any questions about access to the hall.

Slaley Commemoration Hall

Slaley Commemoration Hall is in need of a Caretaker.

Please contact Commemoration Hall Treasurer, Stella Douglas with expressions of interest. Telephone 01434 673001

Slaley Commemoration Hall Auction

We have some wonderful items for auction at the Commemoration Hall silent auction site.

All of them have been generously given by local people to help raise funds for phase two of the hall renovation.

Follow the link and have some fun bidding for the wonderful lots on offer!
<https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/slaleyaprilfoolsdayauction>

Slaley, Healey & Minsteracres Local History Group Monday April 26th The Birth of Egger: Airscrew-Weyroc, 1962-1984 By Ian Hancock

Ian Hancock has researched the history of forestry in the area for many years, and this got him interested in the history of our biggest local industry - what is now the Egger factory - which was located in Hexham partly to take advantage of timber from Kielder Forest. It became the largest employer in the area and has included many Slaley people in its workforce over the years. His article on the history of the factory appeared in the 2008

issue of the Hexham Historian. He has continued to update his information and will describe the development, and tribulations, of the company and its Hexham factory until the takeover by Egger in 1985.

This talk will be administered by ZOOM video connection at 7.30 p.m. If you wish to attend please email pat.wilson28@outlook.com with your email address and the ID and Passcode to join the talk will be sent.

During the March local history talk we learned how Curlew Cottage got its name; what we did not find out was:

A group of curlews is known as a 'curfew', a 'salon' or less imaginatively a 'skein'. The curlew's Latin name *Numenius arquata* means new-moon and bow-beaked bird. The curlew's call has been fascinating us for many years. An old poem called 'The Seafarer' said to date back to 1,000 AD or older says: "I take my gladness in thesound of the curlew instead of the laughter of men".

More recently, Scottish bard Robbie Burns wrote that he could 'never hear the loud solitary whistle of the curlew in summer's noon....without feeling an elevation of soul...'.

Anyone for a curlew pasty? It might not sound that appetising or ethical these days, and we hope a certain popular bakery chain isn't reading this, but British folk did once have a taste for them. It's said the Cornish put them in pies and that you could get them from some butchers as recently as 1942.

Curlews use their super-long beak rather like chopsticks and often toss their prey up in the air before catching and swallowing it, because their tongues can't reach it to push it down. Who says it's rude to play with your food? Curlews are long-lived birds and can live for up to 20, sometimes 30 years.

An update from Slaley First School:

On the 8th March we were very happy to finally be able to welcome all our children back to school following the change in Government Guidance. It is wonderful to be back together again. All the children have come back to school with enthusiasm and really enjoyed spending time in school learning and socialising with their friends.

Regardless of the lockdown, we have been finding ways to celebrate World Book Day, Red Nose Day and Easter. The children really enjoyed taking part in World Book Day. They came to school dressed to celebrate their favourite character in a book or a costume linked to our theme of 'What the Ladybird Heard' (please look on our website to see the amazing outfits and buffet lunch). Many thanks to famers in the local community for the use of a hay bale to add to the theme and the decorations!

Red Nose day gave an opportunity for our budding comedians to entertain their friends. Class One had a comedy club and entertained each other with their jokes, using a microphone which added to the excitement. The children then followed the 'Share a Smile' theme by decorating a biscuit with a smile

and eating it for their pudding following a smiling pizza lunch! Again, please go to our school website to enjoy some very happy pictures.

Our Easter celebrations included a decorated egg competition organised by FOSS which resulted in all the children getting an Easter Egg (thanks to the generosity of Tesco) and taking part in an Easter Raffle. This was another fun day which gave everyone an opportunity to let their creative skills flow.

Although we are still very carefully guided by the restrictions, we have maintained our bubbles and have made sure everything we have done has been safe for both children and staff in school, we are looking forward to a more normal summer term where we can involve our parents to a greater extent in our events at school. However, we will continue to be guided by the government in all decisions that we take.
Happy Easter!

Slaley Shop.

AGM & New Board

We were delighted to welcome 52 people to our recent AGM on Zoom. A new Board was elected: Ian Stevens, Katie Stevens, Toni Hargreaves, Fiona McKendrick and Sandra Innes. Warmest thanks were recorded to those Directors who had recently stepped down: Norman Watson & David Allsop, who as Founder Directors were responsible for getting the whole shop project off the ground four years ago, and were instrumental in seeing through the share offer and the purchase of the shop. And Philip Cain, who as Property Director has worked tirelessly, gathering a great team around him, to improve the appearance and the fabric of the shop.

Thanks were also expressed to all those 50+ people who volunteer in the Shop, especially to those who fulfil key roles; to our 175 Members; and of course to our loyal customers. New Members and volunteers are always welcome, there are jobs behind the scenes as well as in the Shop.

The AGM also passed a resolution to donate £500 to Slaley First School to purchase new laptop batteries for home schooling. A Donations Policy was discussed at the meeting and will be publicised in due course.

If you have any feedback on the Shop the new Directors would be delighted to hear from you.

Recycling

You may have noticed that the temporary newspaper shed has been become our recycling point! A recycling bin for cheese wrappers has joined those for batteries, printer cartridges (Great North Air Ambulance) and clothes (Scope). So you can now drop off your recycling at any time, not just when the shop is open. Thanks go to Andy & Gill Hayden and the Environmental Group for organising this. I'm sure there will be more to follow.

April gardening column- Karen Melvin

It is a sunny day. I am tending my perennial flower and veg seedlings in the greenhouse daily and have a sudden urge to clean the greenhouse windows before the seedlings get too big. The greenhouse glows translucently in the sun, very welcoming for a cup of tea and gaze into the garden. I have had time to sow a lot of seeds this year, all on time, starting off spinach, salads, broad beans, spinach beet, leeks, and beetroot. I sow broadbeans and beetroot directly in pots and all the rest I start on kitchen roll in old cream cheese tubs kept in the warmth, pricking out into pots when they germinate. The greenhouse is unheated and these fairly hardy seeds don't mind the low night temperatures, although if it snowed I might carry some inside. While window washing I moved the 8' dry seed head of the Tibetan lily and some seeds spilled out, so I emptied it onto newspaper, making at least a pint of seed. If anyone has patience to try a Tibetan lily from seed, let me know.



We were deciding between the small flowering *Prunus incisa* Kojo No Mai, the butterfly cherry, and a *Magnolia stellata*. She didn't want a *Philadelphus*, a *Viburnum plicatum* or a *Kolkwitzia amabilis* Pink Cloud, all of which are beautiful in flower. The butterfly cherry has zigzagging twig branches which still look interesting when out of flower. *Viburnum plicatum* has regular horizontal branches evenly spaced with upward facing white flowers. I had a *Viburnum plicatum* Kilimanjaro but lost it, planted in poor soil, in a very dry summer, a big mistake on my part as they are a lovely tiered form with good autumn colour, and the Chelsea Flower Show Plant of the Year winner. But a magnolia is such a grand tree and the *stellata* is not too large. I have just bought one in the garden centre in Hexham. I now have three magnolias that have survived my gardening and Leonard Messel flowers more abundantly every year.



Magnolia loebneri Leonard Messel at Holly Hill

A View from the Vicarage

Maybe it was the circumstances in which I saw it, but I'm not a fan of *Jaws*. A friend and I watched it one miserable autumn afternoon in East Yorkshire in 1976 when torrential rain forced us off the archaeological site we were digging. The rest of the audience was a class of eleven- and twelve-year-olds who screamed their way through the all-to-predictable action. Wild horses would not have persuaded be to watch *Jaws 2*, though its strap line remains a horribly apposite classic for our times: 'Just when you thought it was safe ...'

Over the last year we've had to endure so many false dawns that the timely roll out of the government's road map to recovery seems far from certain. If you're like me, you'll probably waver between a feeling of, 'I'll believe it

when I see it 'and a sinking feeling that another, possibly completely unforeseen spanner is likely to be thrown in to the works. I'm also aware - and this is why Jaws 2 came to mind - that as and when the lights turn to amber and then green, lots of us are hesitant about putting our foot in the water of normal life. It feels scary - and perhaps for reasons we can't quite get our heads around. As much as we want to see family and friends and to travel our locked-down life has brought a certain security alongside the restrictions we've endured.

For this reason, even the promise of starting up church services again is, I know, a mixed blessing for some people. Mind you, this has also given us an opportunity to re-think what we do. Our pattern and style of worship certainly won't be the same as it was in March 2020. We've learnt a lot this year. And so, oddly enough, this Easter represents a new beginning in more ways than one.

The women who first came upon the empty tomb on the first Easter morning in St Mark's story were scared too. It took courage to get over their fear and to begin to talk about what they'd witnessed. It took even more courage to go away and live in the hope that in following Jesus in a completely new way it was possible (I'm quoting Archbishop Rowan Williams) to rebuild a relationship of trust and love on the far side of the most extreme human realities of suffering, abandonment and [even] death.

A similar courage is needed now if we're to discover new and fresh ways of being together that will make all our lives better and enable us to reach out to one another and find healing and recovery. Easter really is the time to put our toes back in the water.

Helen

Church Services and News

Every morning in Holy Week (beginning 29 March) there'll be a simple, quiet service of prayer in St Mary's at 9.15am.

On Easter Eve (April 3) at 7.30pm we'll hold the lovely Easter Vigil Service in the Churchyard extension, followed by a simple sharing of Holy Communion in St Mary's Church – Easter Communion.

On Easter Day at 10am there'll be a short family service outdoors in the Churchyard extension. All are most welcome.

Sunday worship will then continue, from 11 April but we haven't yet agreed the time and format of this. Please look at the church noticeboard and website for more information (we have a joint church council meeting just after the deadline for Slaley news this month!): www.moorland-group.org.uk

We'll still continue to stream our weekly Sunday services on Facebook and YouTube. They go live each Sunday and there's a weekly 'thought for the day' each Wednesday. To find them please just click on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/moorlandgroup/>

Our weekly ecumenical study group will take a short Easter break, but begin again (via Zoom) on Friday 30 April. Everyone, as ever, is really welcome. More news next month!



Join our Messy Church Easter Trail!

SATURDAY 3rd APRIL

09.30-11.30am (it takes about 20 minutes)

Starting at The Vicarage, Slaley and finishing at St Mary's.

Hear the Easter Story and collect some special souvenirs along the way...there may even be Easter Eggs!

To book <https://slaleyastertrail.eventbrite.com/>

Please contact Helen for more details: 01433 676852

Churchyard

The Churchyard at St Mary's is maintained by volunteers. If you want to join in the fun of grass cutting then please contact Brian Wilson (673043). You don't need to commit to any specific time just to find a couple of hours now and then. All the equipment is provided.

Thoughts from a graveyard – Mark Hatton

In St Mary's Churchyard are some interesting 17th and 18th century gravestones. The 17th century stones are very plain stones with no ornamentation or symbolism, just text inscribed on them. In most cases this is very difficult to read. These stones do not appear in their original location. One is in the entrance porch and the others are propped up along the wall to the north west of the Churchyard. The one in the entrance porch is dated 1635 and commemorates Richard Teasdaill a Gentleman of Slaley. This stone appears to have originally been a roughly hewn horizontal slab, placed above the burial. A small plaque beside the stone in the porch explains that this stone is "believed to be the oldest outside gravestone in the county".

Before the early 17th century, burials were more normally inside the Church, under the floor, with only the wealthy and well connected getting any memorial recording their passing. Following the Reformation and the in society and customs, burials were most commonly placed outside the Church and stone grave markers start to be used. Practices and styles of gravestones varied widely in different places and different times. Few of these early gravestones survive today as they were either lost (sinking out of sight in to the ground) or deliberately removed by later incumbents so the burial plot could be reused and the appearance of the Churchyard "modernised". Some of these removed stones can still be found propped up against walls or piled up in corners of Churchyards. But most commonly the

stone was reused as building or paving materials or simply discarded altogether. In the later 17th and 18th century gravestones in some areas become much more stylised with elaborate symbols of mortality and resurrection carved on them. Where the local stonemason's skills were up to the task and full creative license was allowed, the gravestones can be astonishingly beautiful and meaningful. At St Mary's the best surviving example of this is the memorial to Thomas Bainbridge who died in 1765 and various family members who died over the next few years. This stone (pictured) is richly decorated and every detail has been carefully chosen. The central image is of a human head with wings. This represents the soul of the deceased rising up to heaven and is usually referred to as a Winged Spirit. On the left is a Crown. This represents the Crown of Everlasting Life, which is the reward all Christians hoped for. On the right is a Bible, representing the faith of the deceased and their observance to scripture. Above the Winged Spirit is a Shell. In this context the shell represents the path to heaven. The inscription is framed by beautifully carved foliage which represents new life. So taken together we have an exquisite memorial, rich in beauty and meaning, that tells us so much about the hopes, faith and lives of the deceased and the skills of the stonemason they commissioned to produce their memorial



"Thomas Bainbridge of Slaley ob Sept 29 1765 et 80 year. Jacob his son ob May 30 1769 et 59. Elizabeth wife to Joseph Bainbridge ob May 4 1769 et 21. Joseph son of Thomas and Mary Bainbridge ob Jan 2 1771 et 19". Note that "ob" is short for obit and means "died" and "et" I think is short for age.

Slaley weather report

This month has been very dry so far, with just a few wet days. Total precipitation for the last 22 is just 16.8mm (compare this with the 37.85mm that fell on just 2 days, February 3rd and 5th.) Our gardens are gradually drying and those of us who are keen gardeners can at last start to enjoy ourselves.

March certainly hasn't lived up to its reputation so far. It didn't come in like a lion, and we've only had one major storm, with winds gusting up to force 7 on the Beaufort Scale (approximately 35mph). It remains to be seen if it goes out like a lamb.

With light winds, the spring sunshine has certainly given us some pleasantly warm days. The maximum temperature so far has been 15.2°C.

Olwen Savage



Rose and Crown

Hooray Beer garden opens from 12th April

(Takeaway food will continue as well.)

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 4pm until 7pm * Food & Bar

Friday & Saturday, Food 4pm until 7pm. Bar 4pm until 8.30pm*

Sunday Food 12noon until 2.30pm. Bar 12noon until 3.30pm*

Please remember outside dining and drinking only until May 17th. Wrap up warm and support your Community.

* may stay open longer depending on weather and customer flow.

Contact 01434 673996 to reserve a table or takeaway. Please leave a message anytime.

Exercise to Music (For those over 50)

Planning for classes in Slaley Commemoration Hall

IF the proposed roadmap out of COVID19 lockdown proceeds as planned, we may be able to begin Indoor exercise classes in late May. To do this the COVID secure guidelines for Slaley Commemoration Hall must be followed. In addition the Exercise to Music sessions (which are sponsored by Age UK Northumberland) must follow their COVID Guidance too. To enable me to plan what we should do, I would be grateful if past class members, (both those who used to attend one of the classes in the Hall and those who have been taking the sessions on Zoom recently) as well as anyone who feels they would like to join up for the first time could contact me by APRIL 14th either by email or phone (answer machine available), I would be grateful if you could give me the following information to help me work out a plan that will suit most of us!

1 Would you attend Ex to Music in a COVID safe environment at Slaley Commemoration Hall? Yes/No

2 IF "yes" to Q1 Which of the following class times would suit you----- Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday Mornings? (Please state ALL the sessions you could manage, as it may be that we will need to divide a class depending on numbers.

3 If you answered "No" to the first question, would you want to join a zoom session if that can be offered? Yes/No

Thanks you. Carol Ferguson. abcarolferguson@gmail.com or 673585



Minsteracres Themed Retreat

'The God Who Speaks.'

An online event delivered by the Minsteracres team During this retreat we will be developing and exploring the ways of listening to and responding to the God who speaks to us through people, the Scriptures and nature. We invite you to join us online via ZOOM for a weekend of prayer, reflection and fellowship. This retreat will start on **Friday 16 April** at 7pm and ends on **Sunday 18 April** at 12:30pm.

Further details on how to join the retreat using ZOOM will be sent to you once you have booked and paid for a place online.

Please note: you do not need a PayPal account to pay online with a card of your choice even if you are using our secure PayPal site.

Suggested donation: £75

For information and bookings visit www.minsteracres.org

Easter services at Minsteracres

Services will take place in the church with additional places in the Gallery and by video relay to the Library.

Due to the current restriction on attendance numbers, booking via the Heavenfield Partnership website is essential.

[\(https://heavenfieldpartnership.org.uk/news-information/bookings/\)](https://heavenfieldpartnership.org.uk/news-information/bookings/)

Holy Thursday 1st April - 8.00pm (The Lord's Supper)

Good Friday 2nd April - 11.00am (Stations of the Cross)

Good Friday 2nd April - 3.00pm (The Lord's Passion)

Holy Saturday 3rd April - 7.30pm (The Easter Vigil)

Easter Sunday 4th April - 8.30am and 10.30am (Easter masses)

USEFUL NUMBERS & CONTACTS

Badminton Group	Fran Pugh	673429
Carpet Bowls	Jason & Jeannie Abdelnoor	673651
St Mary's Parish Church	Reverend Helen Savage	676852
St Elizabeth's Catholic Church	Father Jeroen Hoogland	673248
Commemoration Hall	Chairman Ros Doonan Bookings Stella Douglas	673173 673001
Community Trust		
County Councillor	Colin Horncastle	618259
Craft Group		
Dial -A-Ride	A.D.A.P.T	600599
Film Club	Jean and Michael Elphick	673443
Friends of Slaley School	Andrea Foster	673317
Hexham Hospital	0344 811 8111	
Ladycross Nature Reserve	Joan Jewitt	673245
Leek Club	Malcolm Goodwin	673408
Local History Group	Pat Wilson Ian Hancock	673388 673502
Mobile Hairdresser	Linda Johnston	673196
Northumberland CC	Report faulty Streetlights/Potholes	03456006400
Parish Council	Chairman Anne Livesey Clerk Pat Wilson	673787 673388
Police	For non emergency calls please ring 101	
Post Office Van	Martin Nichol Stocksfield Post Office	01661 842110
Rose & Crown Pub		673996
Slaley Shop		673201
Slaley First School	Head, Mrs Debbie Brett	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 Secretary	673547
Slaley Red Squirrel Group	Margaret Bates	673461
Travellers Rest Pub	Ian and Darren	673231
Women's Institute	President Margaret Rowell Secretary Hilary Porteus	673589 673637