

## USEFUL NUMBERS & CONTACTS

Badminton Group	Fran Pugh	673429
Carpet Bowls	Jason & Jeannie Abdelnoor	673651
St Mary's Parish Church	Reverend Helen Savage	676852
Slaley Methodist Church	Reverend David Goodall	603139
St Elizabeth's Catholic Church	Father Jeroen Hoogland	673248
Commemoration Hall	Chairman Ros Doonan Bookings Stella Douglas	673173 673001
Community Trust	Chairman Norman Watson	673914
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 Robbie Hutchinson Clerk Pat Wilson	673107 673388
Police PC Sue Cockburn	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	<a href="http://www.slaley.org.uk">www.slaley.org.uk</a>	
Slaley Show Society	Chairman, Marge Rastall Secretary Fiona Pattinson	673547 07766 467 455
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



# SLALEY NEWS

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

### 2020



Welcome to this month's Slaley News. The editors took the decision to combine August and September as we expected a rush of people to be taking advantage of the relaxing of covid restrictions to take a well earned break. Unfortunately today's news of new quarantine restrictions imposed on returnees from Spain may have dampened enthusiasm for holidays abroad. Nevertheless we will stick to that decision.

There are stirrings amongst the village organisations to get things moving and it is good to see encouraging reports from the Commemoration Hall and other clubs that they hope to get things moving in either virtual or reduced form.



### SLALEY SHOW GOES VIRTUAL

This year things have changed. Never fear, all your fantastic entries for the show can now be photographed and put on our Facebook page to be judged by everyone at the beginning of September. All you need to do is decide which classes to enter, print out the Slaley Show Logo 2020 card and place that to be visible in your photograph. Rosettes will be awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placings and the winner will also have free entry into next year's show on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021. A selection from all the photographs entered will be printed in our 2021 schedule.

The closing date for entries is 1<sup>st</sup> September so get busy.

**Marge Rastall, Chairman**

***Contributions for October edition by Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> please.***

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Fiona McKendrick: 673281 [fionamckendrick@googlemail.com](mailto:fionamckendrick@googlemail.com)

## Slaley Parish Council – Notes from July Meeting

The July Parish Council meeting took place remotely at 7.30 on 13th July. The village is looking lovely. If you have hedges, bushes or trees overhanging the pavement, can you check that they do not impede pedestrians please. Perhaps a little neighbourly trimming? Pavements again: parents, can you remind children on bikes that vehicles may be driving out of concealed entrances. A recent incident caused the PC concern and some measures may need to be taken to help to reduce this risk.

Fire and Dough pizza van will be visiting the Commemoration Hall car park soon. Watch out for their promotional literature.

Is your broadband slow? Not yet been provided with FTTP? Register that with the Parish Clerk.

Parish Clerk, 673388

Recently there was an incident in the village when two young cyclists riding on the footpath collided with a vehicle coming out of a property on the roadside. Fortunately they appear to have been unhurt. We have asked the school to remind pupils of the dangers to cyclists in the village and hope that parents and drivers will take notice from this incident.

There is an immediate vacancy for a willing person to join the Parish Council. If you have an interest in the Parish and would like to join the other councillors please contact the Clerk, Pat Wilson, on 673388



### Rose and Crown Slaley

**A friendly and welcoming country pub**



We are finally open with social distancing measures. Look on our Facebook page or our web page for our opening hours.

Throughout August on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 50% off dine in food up to £10 per person.

Book a table to avoid disappointment. 01434 673996 or [info@roseandcrown@outlook.com](mailto:info@roseandcrown@outlook.com)

Every evening our takeaway food is available. Please ring and place your order, delivery available depending on location.

Look forward to seeing you all back at your Community pub and restaurant.

## Carpet Bowls.

Due to the COVID we are delaying any decisions about when we can start bowls again until later in the year.



### Working with People for Nature – Working with Nature for People

#### An update on the reserve –

Unfortunately Ladycross Nature Reserve remains closed and all walks and talks are cancelled. We have a two man team who are doing some essential maintenance while still keeping their distance. They have built some rustic viewing seats and have replaced the Raptor Watch Point seats. However we are continuing to monitor the situation and will keep you informed. We are looking forward to organising some events and welcoming people back when it is safe to do so. With best wishes from us all. Joan  
Hope you all continue to stay well.

## Oil group

The deadlines for September will be orders to me by Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of September for delivery during week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> of September. From September through to May 2021 we will go out to tender every month. If you wish to join the group please contact me, Neil Whatmough at [nbwhatmough@btinternet.com](mailto:nbwhatmough@btinternet.com) or on 01434 676949

Regards and thanks for your support - Neil Whatmough.

## Exercise to music

Exercise to Music Groups. (Monday mornings). Hello everyone! I am hoping we will be able to restart, all be it modified, Exercise to Music for the over 50s at some point this year! As you will know indoor exercise is a difficult one (with Covid restrictions) and, due to us not being spring chickens, we may have additional precautions to address to keep us safe. There will be number restrictions. Therefore if you are hoping to come back to one of the group sessions or, if you are someone interested in attending who has never been before, it would be helpful if you could let me know during August so I can think of ways, if possible, of including everyone who wishes to take part. In the meantime keep safe. Carol Ferguson 673585 or [abcarolferguson@gmail.com](mailto:abcarolferguson@gmail.com)

## Slaley Commemoration Hall update

The work on the Phase one improvements is progressing really well. We understand that people are keen to see what has been happening and are eager to go inside. However, for safety reasons, **the Hall is currently closed to everyone** until the work is completed and it is signed off as being safe to re-enter. At the moment there is no insurance in place for the public to be inside.

When the work is complete, unfortunately we can't have a big celebration due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we anticipate being able to invite people to have a look around sometime in August. Please keep an eye on the website, Slaley Notes and local noticeboards for updates. You can also see photos on the work in progress on the hall webpages.

The committee are working through COVID-19 guidelines on how to make the hall safe for users when we re-open. Restrictions will apply inside Slaley Commemoration Hall and user groups should be aware that hiring the Hall will have implications different to those in place before the virus struck. Please contact Stella 673001 for details about hiring the hall.

Our fundraising has also had to change with afternoon teas and any catering events being temporarily suspended. What we have launched instead is the SCH 200 Club. This is a way of raising a percentage towards the running costs of the Hall, a percentage towards fundraising for phase two of the improvements whilst returning a massive 25% each month to one lucky winner, which at the time of writing will be £50 + in September. It is not too late to join if you have misplaced the insert in the July Slaley News simply look on the village hall pages of [www.slaley.org.uk](http://www.slaley.org.uk) to find the application form.

**Easyfundraising** set up in March is very easy to use: Click on the link below to go to their web site. Then type in Slaley Commemoration Hall in the "search for a good cause" box. From there you can register with them and away you go.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> Most retailers give a small donation.

Forget when you shop on line? Enter the reminder on your web browser, when installed it pops up every time you use a site where you can collect a donation.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/donation-reminder/>

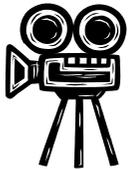
### Help for "While Slaley Sleeps"

Towards the end of November Slaley Commemoration Hall will host an exhibition entitled "Cribs from Around the World". More on that will appear in later months, however, we asked Dorothy Bell during lockdown if she could think of a Slaley scene for the exhibition. Dorothy has come up

trumps: her exhibit will be called "While Slaley Sleeps". Dorothy is in need of some props. She has asked for 6 WHITE bed sheets, does not matter if they are single or double, they are to be painted as background and foreground scenes so the odd tear or stain will not be a problem. Dorothy also requires large sheets of white card A2 or larger. (the back of advertising/display posters are normally white and these could be reused.) Large cardboard boxes could be adapted to become stands for her characters. Poster paints (type used by children) is something else on her list. Obviously, Dorothy needs to work on these individual sections while the others are stored. If you can help with any of the above please contact either Dorothy 676962 or Pat 673388 who will arrange to collect and storage.



### SLALEY FILM CLUB



With Ros, Debra and Stella, we have looked at the film club as a planning exercise for the autumn.

In view of the best advice, we have made a decision to limit numbers, to a maximum of 20 (possibly 25).

For the present we will NOT provide supper, but invite people to bring their own (perhaps with their own glasses and plates). The entry charge will therefore be reduced to £5. The traditional raffle could be replaced by an option to add an extra £1 for the chance to win a free ticket for a later show.

To facilitate this we will invite people to book, by email or via the website, using a system that presents users with a form to gather their details and allow them to select options for payment (online, by contactless card on entry, or in some cases by exact cash in an envelope). Here's an example to try it out:

Control+Click this link <http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-5545382/form>

A successful submission triggers an email to the organisers, which contains the necessary detail to record their contact (e.g. for "track & trace"), as well as telling us how they will pay.

If they have chosen online payment, the organiser will send a payment link by email, giving full details of how to pay this way.

If they choose card payment, the Hall will provide a card reader (from 'iZettle') to use contactless or PIN entry for the requested amount.

If they choose cash payment, they must hand over the exact amount in an envelope, which will be stored for later processing.

And if we have reached the limit of 20 bookings, we will have to send an apologetic email !

If all goes well, we'll see if we can get a show set up for September (probably "Mrs Lowry and Son").

### News Update from Slaley First School.

In September, Slaley First School will open to *all pupils* with protective measures in place to minimise risk and keep everybody as safe as possible. As always, we will be adhering to government guidelines in all our risk assessment and decision making.

Arrangements are planned to be as follows:

The school day will remain the same (with no staggered start or finish times) 8:50am – 3:15pm as our pupils will be able to enter the building via three separate routes (including the vehicular entrance).

Our children will be organised into two 'bubbles', effectively splitting the school in two. These bubbles will not interact and there will be no 'cross-over' of staff. Guidance states that this is not absolutely necessary, but we feel that this is the 'safer' arrangement at this time.

The two bubbles will have designated zones both in and outside the building – a system we have used in both Phase 1 & 2 of reopening school.

Sadly, visitors will not be allowed into the building unless they have a pre-arranged appointment. A visit will also entail completing a 'visitor questionnaire and self-declaration' in order that contacts can be traced (if it becomes necessary to do so).

As there will be more people on site from September, we will be notifying parents not to 'socialise' at the school gate as it will not be safe to do so and the pavement congestion may put residents at increased risk.

Extra-curricular clubs may be able to run, but these will be in a reduced capacity and in line with DfE guidance i.e. no contact sport and no cross-over of bubbles.

For further detailed information please visit our school website Home page:

### Community Access

We are really pleased that community access to our grounds can resume over the summer holiday when we are not using the site. However, in September, community access will need to be restricted to weekends only in order to minimise risk to our children and staff. Again, we greatly appreciate your continued cooperation in this matter.

From all the pupils, staff and governors at Slaley First School, we hope you all remain safe and well at this time and have a chance to enjoy a much needed summer break.

### Slaley Garden Column August 2020 Karen Melvin

We will be missing Slaley Show this year, seeing lots of people and their produce of all kinds. Flowers and summer vegetables would have been very good, french beans almost a foot long, courgettes in abundance. There has been plenty of time in the garden to sow vegetables successionaly, beetroot, spinach, lettuce, rocket. The soft fruit keeps coming, even in the rubbish rocky "soil" that we have in the old tip. We have been mulching yearly with leaves, raked up and stacked around the soft fruit. This stoney ground has "very good drainage" so is a useful habitat for eryngiums, ornamental grasses, deadnettle, acaena, Shirley poppies, and dieramas. I am hoping to make my wild spring garden more interesting for the summer season.



image- Dierama pendula

Image-Echinops, eryngium



I am fine tuning the garden for next year's opening with Slaley Wander. There are some blank areas in the garden and some congested plants not thinned for 40 years and now completely exhausted. Time to be pick-axed out with new manure added. One clump of discarded old irises is now a much more interesting collection of shade lovers, including a highly scented shrubby honeysuckle, Lonicera elisae and a delicate tiarella and epimedium Akebono. I found some frilly irises for sale online to add to my collection for full sun, which should flower next year. So many nurseries were sold out of most things.

This is a time to prune shrubs that have finished flowering, like Philadelphus, Kolkwitzia, Deutzia, and Weigela, taking out about 1/3 of the oldest growth, near the base of the plant, to encourage new flowering stems. Also cherry trees should be pruned in high summer to avoid infection by silver leaf or bacteria. I have a prunus Kojo-no-mai, which is a beautiful large shrub with small leaves and short twisted stems. I have taken off all the lower branches so that it looks like a small tree, but the top canopy is too dense. It needs pruning by taking out branches that are too close, to encourage better flowering.

## Slaley Leek Club

We had all sorts of plans for 2020. At our AGM last December we took a couple of decisions to change the format of our Show. The first one we took was to move the date of the Show forward. Historically it has always been on the first Saturday in October. With hotter summers though we increasingly found that our leeks were way past their best by this time. As a result we agreed to bring the date of the show forward by a few weeks to the second Saturday in September.

We also realised that a lot of effort was going into putting a show on that attracted many gardening entries from outside the village area but little from the village's own fine gardeners. We very much wanted to turn the show back to a more local look and feel and one that villagers would feel comfortable entering. So we have dropped a lot of categories, particularly in the flower section. We also realised that the flower growers outside of the village will mostly be entering other larger shows in the north east in early September.

And then Coronavirus came along and drove a coach and horses through our plans. We have reluctantly therefore taken the decision not to hold a public Show at all this year. This is in line with most other local shows in Northumberland; we just didn't feel it was a risk worth taking whilst the virus is still about. We will be working closely with the Commemoration Hall Committee to allow the members to put the leeks they have been growing since April in to be judged behind closed doors but nothing else beyond that. Social distancing, hand sanitising, masks and an agreed number of members only inside the Hall at any one time will be very much the order of the day.

We are though already looking forward to holding a rejuvenated Slaley Leek Club Flower and Vegetable Show next year (on the second Saturday in September!) with our much more local look and feel well to the fore.

### Whist Drives.

Pat has completed a health and safety revue and is examining the need for extra protection from the virus. We shall however have to wait for more information from the Hall Committee concerning the re-opening of the hall. We don't expect to be able to play before October.

## FOSS News

During these unprecedented times, FOSS have been unable to host any fundraising events for Slaley First School. We had planned to host a family sponsored walk in June this year. However, instead we are now asking families to do the same planned circular walk, which starts from Whitley Chapel, in their own time as a summer challenge during July and August. It is such a shame that we cannot go ahead with the walk as a large group, but it will still be fantastic to be able to raise some funds for the school.

We have now set up a JustGiving site for FOSS (<https://justgiving.com/fo-slaleyfirstsch>), to make it easier to donate. We have also set up a specific fundraising site for the summer sponsored walk: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Foss-summerwalk20>. As always, we would like to say a big thank you for your continued support.

## Prescriptions from Corbridge Medical Centre Pharmacy

Please don't forget that if you would like your regular prescription to be delivered to you from Corbridge Health Centre, we can continue to arrange this through the Pyramid of Care. Prescriptions are collected and delivered every Friday. For more information just phone Olwen on 01434 676852.

If you would like to join the scheme please also phone the Medical Centre on 01434 632011 and ask for the dispensary – after 2pm and ideally by the Wednesday of any week –and they will arrange for your prescription to be added to the Slaley Box.

## Minsteracres Monastery and Retreat Centre.

The Retreat Centre is closed currently, but we plan to re-open in early September subject to our risk assessment, which will determine what social distancing measures will be required. Retreat activity will be much reduced given the limitations, but if anyone is interested in seeing what is on offer please ask them to visit our website: [www.minsteracres.org](http://www.minsteracres.org)

St Elizabeth's completed its risk assessment yesterday and from Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> of August normal masses will resume each Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am. Of course, social distancing measures will be in place and this will limit the number of people who can attend mass in person.

## Notes from the Vicarage

Our Church is too small. It should be a nice problem, but not now, not as we struggle to cope with the pandemic. Most of the time, small country churches are just fine. At a squeeze we can get 150 into St Mary's, Slaley at Christmas or for a big farming funeral, but our socially-distanced limit is about 17 and that's pushing it.

Last year our average attendance was just over 20, but on many occasions it rose above 30. First come, first served with a booking system seems to me to go right against the grain of what we're about as a church, so when public worship became possible, we moved outdoors.

We're lucky with our churchyard extension, half of which is the fabulous wild-flower meadow. There are wide views over the Tyne Valley and if it's not raining you can just see Cheviot. We tried it out on 12 July. It wasn't exactly hot, but the sun deigned to appear. I'd no inkling how the idea of worshipping outdoors might appeal, but 27 people rolled up, despite the fact that just about everyone who's still worried about coming to church stayed at home.

Of course we're not allowed to sing – annoying really, given the way in which the media lauded the way in which unsocially-distanced crowds joined in with 'We'll meet again', as Dame Vera Lynn's funeral procession went past; but if one person can give a good lead, there's nothing to prevent humming clapping and maybe just a few other lips parted a bit, but the wind took the sound away, and any infected water droplets with it – or so I hope.

The service took just twenty or twenty five minutes, but everyone then broke all the rules and stood around chatting for the best part of an hour. I know it's not allowed, but what do you do?

Time, of course, will tell, especially when there's more rain in the air and autumn arrives (mid-August in many years in these hills). We'll discover if it's all a novelty, but there are fine local precedents for outdoor worship. Dare we look back to the days when at various times over the centuries John Wesley, Paulinus and many others preached outdoors in these hills to hundreds – and sometimes more. And never mind the weather.

Holy Communion outdoors might be a challenge. I was amazed, however, to discover that only two out of about twenty of the PCC members of our group of parishes who Zoomed into our last meeting admitted they'd really missed Communion. I think we'd better learn to be careful about making too many untested assumptions.

Of course, we still put out our Facebook video service and numbers watching don't (yet) seem much lower than usual. Even in our relatively remote rural communities where community has been robust and resilient throughout lockdown, it seems that people have a deep hunger for just being together

again and I really hope the churches can play a big part in enabling that to happen.

*Helen*

### **The church is open!**

St. Mary's remains open every day for private prayer from 10am to 5pm.

As you'll gather from the 'Notes from the Vicarage' piece, we have a real conundrum about how to arrange Sunday services. St Mary's is sometimes just too small. So ... we'll try to worship outdoors for as long as the weather allows. At the moment these means alternating between 10am and 5pm each Sunday, but we'll review our arrangements in early August. You'll be able to find full details of the new arrangements as they're updated on the church noticeboard, on our Facebook page (below) and our website: [www.moorland-group.org.uk](http://www.moorland-group.org.uk).

All this means that whatever else we do, we shall continue to stream our weekly Sunday services on Facebook. They go live at 10.30am each Sunday and there's a weekly 'thought for the day' each Wednesday, usually 'live' by 9.30am.

To find them please just click on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/moorlandgroup/>  
You don't need to join Facebook and you can listen to them all at any time of your choice.

We'll also still hold 'coffee after church' by Zoom every Sunday at 11.30am for the time being. If you'd like to take part, please drop Helen a line: [helensavage1@gmail.com](mailto:helensavage1@gmail.com)

If you know of anyone who needs a call or would like Helen to pray specially for someone, please phone her on 01434 676852.

**The Pyramid of Care** is less needed now, thank goodness, but the provision is still there if you need it. If you don't know who your local contact is, please just ring Olwen on 01434 676852

### **.Slaley Community Shop News**

For the moment our daily opening hours remain 9am to 12 noon. Our amazing volunteers are utterly fantastic. Thank you all so much! Have you thought about joining us? Now that holidays are possible again we really need all the help we can get.

### **It's wine tasting time again on Zoom!**

By popular demand, Helen Savage will host a wine another tasting on **Thursday 13 August** via Zoom – with two wines specially ordered through Slaley Shop. The idea is simple and already tried and very successfully tested – buy the wine, join the meeting at a set time and Helen will guide you through the wines as we taste them together and she'll suggest food pairings too. If you think it sounds like fun, please contact her on [helensavage1@gmail.com](mailto:helensavage1@gmail.com) and she'll send you full details. Last month we had two 'sittings' at 5pm and 8pm. We'll do the same this time.