



Annual Report by CEG Secretary for AGM February 2023

Since our AGM in February 2022 the group has held five general meetings 16/2/22, 20/5/22; 15/6/22; 17/8/22; 19/10/22 – three in Slaley Commemoration Hall and twice (Summer meetings) in the Quakers Hole meeting room in Hexhamshire. A letter of thanks was sent to Jennifer Molyneux for the use of the meeting room.

The group has however met outside of meetings and taken part in scything the wildflower meadow at St, Mary's Churchyard in Slaley, initially a working party on Wednesday 29th June, when half of the area of sticky weeds was cleared. HP said the area should be cleared and then raked before the seeds take hold. This was undertaken on Friday 2nd September 2022. On Sunday December 13th 2022 we gathered at the Dukesfield Arches to sing for the Christmas Day door on the on-line Advent Calendar.

New members Hilary Porteus and Victoria Hufford from Edmundbyres have joined us and both are very interested in roadside verge wild flowers. We appear to have lost the interest of our younger members, and our oldest member is no longer able to attend the meetings through ill health.

Unfortunately, the five new fruit trees at the Community Orchard at Parks Side did not bear any fruit during 2022, the apple trees however had a wonderful crop and were harvested by Stella and Terry Douglas for use at the Snack and Chat events in Slaley Commemoration Hall. The Community Orchard was a designated area to visit at the 2022 Parish Wander on Sunday June 12th and many visitors were seen reading the information provided.

New members requested a copy of our original Constitution, and as a group we have drafted the following policies. An Equalities Policy, a Safeguarding Policy and a general Risk Assessment template.

CEG received an invitation from Stocksfield Climate Change Group to a presentation on 18/1/23 when Herbie Newell from Humshaugh gave a talk about Humshaugh Net Zero. Groups from Corbridge and Wylam were also invited. Attended by DT, PW, JJ, CF, PG, HP.

The group intends to have a stand at Slaley Show 2023 – how to engage with the public needs some serious thought.

Pat Wilson