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 Ann Wright	673173 673366
Community Trust	Chairman Norman Watson	673914
County Councillor	Colin Horncastle	618259
Craft Group	Brenda Hutchinson	673269
Dial -A-Ride	A.D.A.P.T	600599
Film Club	Jean and Michael Elphick	673443
Friends of Slaley School	Emma Turnbull	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 ple	ase ring 101
Post Office Van	Martin Nichol Stocksfield Post Office	01661 842110
Rose & Crown Pub	Distribution of the second of	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 673547 Secretary Fiona Pattinson 07766 467 455	
Slaley Red Squirrel Group	Margaret Bates	673461
Travellers Rest Pub	Ian and Darren	673231
Women's Institute	President Margaret Rowell 673589 Secretary Hilary Porteus 673637	



SLALEY NEWS DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY 2020



MERRY CHRISTMAS

The editors wish all our readers, correspondents and volunteers a happy Christmas and would like to thank them for all the hard work that they have put in over the last 12 months.

Just a reminder that there is no edition in January so please make a note of any news or activities tht you don't want to miss. Perhaps a suitable New Years resolution would be to try something new that is going on in the village and perhaps be surprised!



Ladycross Nature Reserve

Working with People for Nature - Working with Nature for People

Winter Guided Walks Feed the Birds in Ladycross Nature Reserve Starting at Ladycross Quarry gates at 1 p.m.

Sunday December 8th 2019 Sunday January 12th 2020

The circular walk is approximately 1 mile, you will need appropriate footwear and clothing. At the moment the route is not pushchair or wheelchair friendly – but we are working to address this.

£5 per person – accompanied children under 12 years free. Admission includes bird food to fill the feeders. Sorry no dogs on this walk. Take photographs for an exciting new class at the 2020 Slaley Show 'Countryside Classes' section.

All proceeds towards new facilities at the Nature Reserve.

Craft Group. There will be no meetings in December. Meetings will start again after the New Year. Contact Brenda 673269 for details

Contributions February edition by Wednesday January 20th please.

Editors: Jim Bailey 673352 <u>baileyjim128@gmail.com</u> Fiona McKendrick: 673281 <u>fionamckendrick@googlemail.com</u>

SLALEY CARPET BOWLS

We played the cheery Riding Mill team early in November and bowled well to record a good win and then later in the month we had a great game away at the Shire. The awesome Shire raced ahead in the game and were soon some 30 points ahead leaving Slaley an almost impossible challenge to draw level. We didn't achieve that but finished the match only 9 points behind the Shire and were ruing our poor start. The result of the last match in the month was a moral boosting win over the Snods team by over 20 points.

In December there are a club nights on 3/12/19 and in January club nights on 7/1, 14/1and 21/1

Slaley, Healey & Minsteracres Local History Club

Slaley Commemoration Hall from 7.30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Admission £2 per adult or 50p for anyone in full time education

January Monday 27th Education in Slaley A talk by by Pat Wilson

Hexham Courant 15/1/2010 issue - Looking back 100 years = 1910Women's right: The Northumberland education committee outlawed the appointment of married women at elementary schools unless there were special circumstances to justify their employment. In addition female teachers who married after December 1, 1909 would lose their jobs.

Hexham Courant 22/5/2015 issue - Looking back 100 years = 1915 Chipping In: A special event held by the children of Slaley Council School for the war effort realised the sum of 10s 6d (Fifty-two and a half pence in today's money).

Hexham Courant 18/7/2019 issue - Looking back 100 years = 1919Well, well: Hexham Rural Council heard from its sanitary inspector that some residents of Slaley obtained their water from a well in a field some 200 yards from the main road, while others got theirs from a pump in a field at the opposite side of the road. One farmer drew his water from a well 640 yards from his house. What impact did this fact have on Slaley's schoolchildren?

Hexham Courant Friday May 11th 2001 - Cooking up a fund-raiser.

There was a baking bonanza at Slaley First School last week as pupils did their bit to raise money for farmers affected by foot-and-mouth. Year three and four children, with the help of parent, Christine Milligan, made a selection of scrumptious biscuits to sell to each other during the Friday morning break. Together with a bring and buy sale in the afternoon more than £180 was raised for the Agricultural Benevolent Fund.

A local history display will be available to look over after the Talk.

For more information contact Pat Wilson 01434 673388, email: pat.wilson28@outlook.com

Slaley and Hexhamshire Oil Buying Group

The December oil order will be earlier than normal to avoid delays in delivery because of demand. So for December oil orders I need your order by Tuesday 3rd of December for delivery week commencing the 9th of December

I know it's a little early but Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to you all. Neil. 01434 676949

The Exercise to Music sessions will continue on Monday mornings in December up to and including Monday 16th. There will then be a break over the Christmas period with sessions recommencing on Monday January 6th 2020. The first session starts at 9.45am and is for those with good mobility. The second session starts at !!am and is a gentler session.Both sessions last 1hour and cost £3 Fancy trying it ? Contact Carol Ferguson 673585 for more information.

Ladycross Nature Reserve

C

Working with People for Nature - Working with Nature for People

We have had a very successful year with our monthly walks – on a variety of topics - organised by Pat. Colin took his usual Owl, Woodcock and Nightjar walks and, as usual, these were successful.

Our Open Day went well and we were lucky with the weather. Everyone enjoyed the walks around the reserve and quarry and liked having a variety of stalls to look at. You can pencil in Sunday 14th July 2020 in your diaries for the next Open Day. Gordon has also given us the date for the next Fungus Foray – Saturday 26th September 2020.

We are continuing with the monthly walks and are also organising some interesting talks to take place in the village hall. We will advertise them in the Slaley Notes and also in the Hexham Courant. If you would like to go on our contact list please email me with your email address. jjewitt245@btinternet.com You can also contact me if you would like to become a member of LXNR.

We have an excellent team of volunteers looking after the reserve and they have achieved a tremendous amount over this last year. They deserve our thanks.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. Thank you all for supporting the reserve. We couldn't do it without your support.

Slaley Show Slaley Show AGM is on 5th December at Slaley Commemoration Hall at 7.00pm.

All are welcome.

Members are entitled to vote.



Slaley First School - December Update.

We can hardly believe it is the last half of the autumn term. It has been yet another busy term at Slaley First School. However it is not over yet! There are still plenty of opportunities to come and share in all our fun and reflect on the fabulous learning that is taking place. Our diary is packed with events and dates for special visitors!

Foss will also be holding a Christmas Fayre at the Commemoration Hall on the evening of Friday 29th of November, where there will be range of crafts and stalls. Please support if you can as it promises to be a Christacular Event!

The children in Key Stage 1 will have a visit from our 'feathered friends' on the 3rd of December as they share their theme of Owls with the staff and birds from Falconry Days right here at school. So watch out for Birds of Prey flying high across our school field.

Children in Early Years have enjoyed visiting 'Baynes' Farm' and discovering where their school milk comes from. Once again the Baynes' family hosted a brilliant trip which was enjoyed by all the children.

Wednesdays are very busy in school at the moment. Children in Key Stage 2 are taking part in an after school club: 'Chatterbooks' where they are reading together and have developed their own book club. The children are sharing their love of reading through a shared text and lots of discussions about authors and new and unusual vocabulary. Meanwhile, KS1 and Reception children are developing their sewing skills through attendance at our Craft Club. We'd like to extend a huge "Thankyou" to Brenda, Dorothy and Margaret, who have kindly given their time to help. It is lovely to work with these ladies and learn from their expertise, the children are really enjoying it. Our Year 1 children will be completing their Inamojo sessions this half-term. This has been an amazing experience for the children as they have learned to reflect and appreciate being themselves. The creative dance and yoga elements have been a real hit!

Key Stage 2 children will be taking part in a School Gymnastics competition in the New Year and will be getting in some extra practise as they visit Paul's Gym in Consett (along with the rest of the school) as part of their Physical Education Curriculum.

Finally, the week beginning the 16th December completes the Christmas celebrations in school. Our Christmas: 'Lessons & Carols' Service is being held on the 17th December. There will be two performances for parents at St Marys Church, 10.30am and 2.00pm. Yet again, we have been warmly welcomed back by 'Reverend Helen' – which we really appreciate. Our Christmas Lunch, superbly catered by Mrs. Seymour, will take place on the 18th and we are hoping for a special visitor at some point in the last week too!

"We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

"The Arts Society Hexham"

Tuesday 8th. January 2.00 pm in the function room at Hexham Mart. A Concise History of our Great British Parks – Paul Rabbits.

A beautifully illustrated insight into the history, decline and revival of a great British institution – the park, with its bandstands, fountains, floral displays and lakes



SLALEY FILM CLUB

December 20th, 2019 "Babe" (U)



A young pig fights convention to become a sheep-dog – or, rather, sheep-pig – in this charming Australian family film. Babe is adopted by a friendly dog, and discovering that the fate of most pigs is the dinner table, Babe devotes himself to becoming a useful member of the farm by trying to learn how to herd sheep, despite the scepticism of the other animals and Farmer Hoggett.

Slaley Commemoration Hall. All performances start at 7.30pm December is bring a sharing platter for supper as well as byo drinks

January 17th, 2020 "The Shoplifters" (15)

This drama is set in contemporary Japan but has a storyline which could have been filched from Charles Dickens. It tells of a Japanese family of crooks who find a lost little girl on the streets. They're a close-knit family who depend on one another, and if they game the system and engage in petty crime, they do so to survive.

Slaley Parish Council – Notes from November Meeting 2019

The Parish Council met 11th November. Much of the routine discussion revolved around Highways issues which had resulted from the heavy rainfall. It was noted that water was gushing from an underground drain and running down Swang Lane – Swang meaning marshy or boggy, so it looks like this has been a problem for a very long time. Cllr Carson reported on many road problems which had been brought to his attention and he has been in frequent contact with Highways to ensure that problems are resolved. CC Horncastle reported that grit heaps would soon arrive ready for adverse winter road conditions. CC Horncastle asked the Parish Council whether it had considered creating a Neighbourhood Plan. The PC will invite an expert to a meeting in the spring to find out if this would be a benefit for Slaley Parish. The next PC meeting is on Monday 9th December.

Christmas Greetings from the Rev David Goodall

I can't believe it's December again but I'm so excited that it is! I love the seasons of Advent and Christmas, the lights and Christmas trees appearing, the candles on the advent wreath being lit, presents being bought and the singing of wonderful carols. For me all of these things remind me that this is a special time, that it's a time to prepare and then to celebrate the Good News of the birth of Jesus. To celebrate God coming to live amongst us, God bringing his love to earth in a very personal way. This Good News is what Christmas is all about, this Good News is why we give presents, light candles and sing carols.

As you journey through Advent and get ready for Christmas this year why not take a few moments in each day to remember why we celebrate Christmas, to remember the Good News of the birth of Jesus and to say thank you to God for his amazing love. You are very welcome at St Mary's during Advent and Christmas and you'll find details of all the services elsewhere in Slaley News.

I wish you a very blessed Advent and Christmas. David (Methodist Minister in Slaley)

St Mary's Grand Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 14 December from 10am to noon in the Commemoration Hall on. All the features that make the regular coffee mornings so attractive (Ellen's scones) will be there in abundance along with lots of other goodies: good chat, good food and great coffee. Please come!

There'll be no January Coffee Morning – the next regular Coffee Morning in Church will be on Saturday 4 February at 10.30, but on Saturday 11 January from 10.30 to noon Helen and Olwen warmly invite you to the Vicarage for coffee chat and mince pies.

Badminton Club

Wednesday badminton at 9.30 am will finish on 18th December and start again on 8th January. Monday evening badminton at 7pm will finish on 16th Dec and start again on 8th January. Come and join us for fun and exercise. contact Fran Pugh tel 673429

Christmas Wreath night

Slaley Commemoration Hall
Monday 16th December 7pm
£15 to include basic materials and refreshments.
Please bring secateurs and foliage.
To book contact Fiona McKendrick fionamckendrick@googlemail.com

07817 993767

Services at St Mary's: Anglicans and Methodists Together

Sunday 1 December	11.00	Family Service
	18.00	Advent Carol Service
Sunday 8 December	11.00	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 December	11.00	Service of the Word (and Carols)
Sunday 22 December	11.00	Holy Communion
Monday 23 December:	18.00	Village Carol Service
Christmas Eve	21.00	Christmas Communion
Sunday 29 December	11.00	Holy Communion
Sunday 5 January	11.00	Family Service
Sunday 12 January	11.00	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 January	11.00	Service of the Word
Sunday 26 January	11.00	Holy Communion
Sunday 2 February	11.00	Family Service
	18.00	Evensong

Further details of services and other events throughout the Moorland Group of Churches can be found on our website www.moorland-group.org.uk

St. Elizabeth's, Minsteracres

Services around Christmas and New Year (2019/2020))

	Sunday 8 th . December	8.30 &10.30am Mass (church) Christmas Fayre after both masses			
	Saturday 7 th . December Commemoration Hall		Messy Church (Slaley		
	Sunday 15 th . December	8.30am	Mass (church)		
		10.30am	Mass (church		
		3.00pm	Carol Service (church) &		
			Children's party		
	Tuesday 17 th . December	7.00pm	Heavenfield Partnerrship		
	Advent Reconciliation Service	(in Hexham, St. Mary's!)			
	Sunday 22 nd . December	8.30 &10.30am Mass (church)			
	Tuesday 24 th . December	Christmas Eve			
		5.30 pm Crib service & Vigil Mass at 6pm			
	Wednesday 25 th . December	9.30 am	Mass (church)		
	Thursday 26 th . December	10.00 am	Mass (chapel)		
	Friday 27 th . December	8.30am Mass (chapel)			
	Saturday 28 th . December	8.30am Mass (chapel)			
	Sunday 29 th . December	8.30&10.30am	Mass (church)		
	Tuesday31st. December	3.30pm	Evening prayer with		
thanksgiving for the past year and prayers for 2019 (chapel)					
	Wednesday 1 st . Jan	10.00am	Mass (chapel)		

Slaley Christmas Carols – a very special tradtion

For very many years, Bobby and Connie Johnston have helped to organise a group of carol singers who have gone from house to house in the village, Colpitts and even up to Slaley Hall in the Priestman family's days, on Christmas Eve and in all weathers. It's a grand village tradition many of us would like to continue, not least for the remarkable way in which it has helped to raise money for a wonderful locally-based charity, Action for Children.

This year, we've decided to move it forward to Thursday 19 December in the hope that lots more of you will come and join us for an hour or two. We'll meet and begin outside the shop at 6pm (the shop will be open late that night) and wend our way down the village via the pub to Parkside. And we hope we'll raise more money than ever for Action for Children.

Slaley Community Shop

We have lots of special offers and exciting new lines for Christmas.

Our new selection of unique, Slaley Christmas Cards has arrived. Don't look elsewhere! There's wrapping paper too.

If you're stuck for present ideas we can help. For example we have some absolutely superb, hand-made bird boxes, made for us by Hexham Men's Shed.

Our Christmas wine range is bigger and better than ever and once again, we have very special Christmas boxes on offer featuring wines you can't normally buy in the shop. We also have new bargain bottles too!

We were very sad when Rothbury Bakers stopped trading, but thrilled to be able to agree a deal with the award-winning Sweethart Bakery from Blackhill – North East Baker oif the Year 2019-20. Their products are superb and are selling like ... hot bread. We also stock their horribly tempting breakfast goods.

Another great new range is from Robson's of Hexham, probably the best butcher in town. They freeze packs of the sausages, burgers and steak mince specially for us. Their succulent Hexhamshire sausages are as fine a banger as you'll ever hope to find.

We're looking forward to a special late opening until 7pm on Thursday 19 December when all our Christmas goodies will be available. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Notes from the Vicarage

Someone asked me this week if I get fed up with certain Christmas carols. I calculated that there's a possibility this year of singing some of them at least twenty times before I get to carve the turkey, but Ding Dong Merrily apart, and I suppose the dreadful First Nowell and, of course, the even more dreary Angels from the Realms of Glory, I love the lot of them (well, almost all of them).

But one I wish we would sing more often is 'Love came down at Christmas'. The words are simple and heartfelt and there are just three short verses, without any lung-busting glorias and nowells. It's the work of Christina Rossetti, who also wrote 'In the bleak midwinter.' The best tune to it is a simple Irish folk melody called Gartan.

The first two lines of the last verse express the heart of the Christmas Spirit: `Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine. It's also the heart of the Christian message.

Don't let anyone tell you that Christmas is just for the kids or that it's just an excuse to forget the world's woes, though goodness knows, we all need a bit of cheering up after endless weeks of rain and the most uninspiring election debate I can ever remember in this country.

Christmas is really all about love and the difference it makes. In fact, as I've said, it's the heart of the Christian faith, as simple (and as profound) as that. It's also what I told the children at Whittonstall School the other day, when they asked me what Christians believe and how we're supposed to behave. (They were having a faith week – exploring lots of different religious ideas.)

Not that love is always easy of course. It often demands a great deal of patience and tenacity which helps to explain, in part at least, why Christians have not always lived up to the standards that love demands. But Christmas is not the time for breast beating and recriminations. Let's instead make time again to celebrate love. Let's remember that the God who is love still comes right into the vulnerable heart of our world and can be known every day in our ordinary lives, transforming them and giving us hope.

So, let's end with a rousing chorus. I know just the thing: 'All you need is love, All you need is love, love. Love is all you need.' It'd make a nice change from some of those more dreadful carols. Happy Christmas!

Helen

.Ecumenical Study Group

We'll meet on Fridays 6 and 20 December in the Vicarage from 10.30 to noon for a couple of seasonal, biblical reflections on the meaning of Advent and Christmas and then after a short Christmas holiday begin again on Fridays 17 and 31 January with a pair of Bible studies on the theme of Epiphany. You are very welcome to join us.

Messy Church: Christmas Christingle

Saturday 7 December 9.30 to 11am in the Commemoration Hall

This year messy Church combines with Christingle for another morning of noisy, informal fun, faith, lot of craft activities, games, songs, stories and food. Don't forget, children need to bring a responsible adult with them – we look forward to seeing you!

Slaley W.I. Wednesday December 11th

Christmas Lunch, 12.30 - Travellers Rest



Meeting January 8th. 2020 Andrew Graham "Penfax – The History of Writing & Pens" Competition: Your favourite pen Hostesses: Jo Bailey & Vicky Pepys



Northumberland Theatre Company

Slaley Commemoration Hall

Friday January 3rd at 4.00 pm

Admission by ticket only.

Adults £10 Children under 16 £5

Family ticket (2 adults+3 children) £25 Available from 0143 5673388 / 673173 Mobile 07932450874

Commemoration Hall £100,000 for 100 years

The Commemoration Hall appeal

We know that many other groups are asking for your support, and are glad that the Shop and the Rose & Crown have been so successful, but Slaley still needs a central meeting point for Slaley parish residents and the wider community.

Why do we need all this money?

The Hall will be soon be 100 years old, and needs extensive alteration and refurbishment to set it up for its use and enjoyment by the community for the future.

Many users of the hall will be aware of the problems with the toilets, access to the storage area, and others. These improvements will involve major changes to the structure, such as raising the floor level and re-siting the toilets. All this requires substantial funds, and can't be done without both external grants and local fundraising.

What are we planning to do with it?

Installing new toilets, upgrading the storage area, re-decoration, new comfortable seating, and eventually an extension to the east to make a new meeting room.

These proposals have been developed over several years, taking account of the survey carried out in 2017 and many discussions with groups using the Hall. Planning permission has been granted for this work.

How much have we raised so far?

Our proposed alterations and improvements will require external funding as well as what can be raised locally. Since 2017 the many shows, teas and other events have raised over £11,700 and donations have amounted to over £27,600.

A small group have been working on numerous grant applications, with the help of two experienced advisers. The result of a Lottery application for a substantial grant is awaited soon, while most recently the Barbour Foundation have given £5000.

How much more do we need?

The full plans will need around £170,00 to achieve our aim. Without investment, the hall will eventually become unusable by modern standards, and could see the eventual closure of the hall altogether.

How can you help to achieve this?

You can help us by supporting the various events put on to raise funds, by encouraging your friends to donate online at GoFundMe (www.qofundme.com/f/slaleyvillagehall), or just spreading the word.

For a fuller account of these plans, see the document "More about the Appeal" on the village website at: www.slaley.org.uk/page/village-hall/

Afternoon Tea
December 29th 2019
Slaley Commemoration Hall
3.00 – 5.00p.m.

Hosted by Healey Parish Council

Christmas is over, and it's still 2019 - if you want to know what is planned watchout for further advertising

Open Day Sunday January 26th 2020 Slaley Commemoration Hall 12.00 noon – 4.30p.m.

See the plans for the Hall improvements
Refreshments throughout the day
Display of past and future events at the Hall
Help with ideas about how we can provide a venue for activities for the younger generation
Join in a game of Table Tennis at 3 p.m.
A game of Whist at 2 p.m. and a game of chess at 1 p.m. (beginners welcome)

We have just been awarded Hallmark 2 – we are one of only 7 Halls in the 64 Halls in Northumberland who have been awarded this standard of management

Look through our party/wedding planner/business hub

Volunteer Needed

Ann and David Wright have decided to step down from taking bookings for Slaley Commemoration Hall and being the Key Holder. The Management Committee wonders if there is someone out there who would be willing to take on either or both of these positions. The Booking Clerk can live anywhere in the parish whereas the Key Holder, for obvious reasons, should live close to the Commemoration Hall. We have a key safe at the door and most bookings are able to use this facility, sometimes however groups lock each other out and a second key is needed. If you are interested or wish to know more contact Rosaleen Doonan 673173 or Pat Wilson 67338

Sunday lunch organised by the Excersise to Music Class members

A BIG THANK YOU to all those who made this event a success. Many people were involved in producing the food , preparing the Hall and serving our customers. OUR thanks go to those who came along to support the event! We raised £339. Carol Ferguson

Whist night. Tenth night Thursday November 14th

Printed Score sheets from Whitley Chapel were given to the group by Derek Hull. Having 8 players meant that everyone played every game.

Reg Urwin had the lowest score and won a pen. Shiela had the highest score and won a small box of sugar free Sweets.

2019 dates

Thursday December 12th This is now the date of the General Election so the hall is not available for Whist. It was agreed to ask if the Hall was free on Thursday December 5th. If Free it was suggested that a Christmas Theme was given for the prizes. Pat has checked the date and we can play in the main hall. **Unless I hear from you differently I shall see you all on Thursday December 5th.**

2020 dates

January 9th. February 13th. March 12th. April 9th. (Good Friday 10th). May 14th. June 11th. July 9th. August 13th. September 10th. October 8th November 12th. December 10th

Wanted Boys Bicycle

Has anyone got a boy's bike that needs a new home.

It is for a growing ten year old and as far as can be calculated wheel size should be 22 - 24 inches

Please contact Slaley 673352 with details.