

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 Jenish	673248
Commemoration Hall	Chairman Ros Doonan Bookings Stella Douglas	673173 673001
Community Trust		
County Councillor	Colin Horncastle	618259
Dial –A-Ride	A.D.A.P.T	600599
Film Club	Jean and Michael Elphick	673443
Friends of Slaley School	Andrea Foster	634865
Hexham Hospital	0344 811 8111	
Ladycross Nature Reserve	Joan Jewitt	673245
Leek Club	David Innes	673845
Local History Group	Pat Wilson Ian Hancock	673388 673502
Mobile Hairdresser	Linda Johnston	673196
Northumberland CC	Report faulty Streetlights/Potholes	03456006400
Parish Council	Chairman Clerk Pat Wilson	673388
Post Office Van	Martin Nichol Stocksfield Post Office	01661 842110
Police	For non emergency calls	please call 101
Rose & Crown Pub		673996
Slaley Shop	Sandra Innes	673201 673845
Slaley First School	Head, Mrs. Hayward	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
Travellers Rest Pub	Ian and Darren	6732312
Women's Institute	President Margaret Rowell Secretary Hilary Porteus	673589 673637



SLALEY NEWS DECEMBER 2021 JANUARY 2022



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Badminton Club

The Badminton club is on Wednesdays at 9.30 at the Commemoration Hall, with a break over Christmas and New Year. The badminton equipment is for everyone to use, so please do make use of it with friends and family. You just need to book the hall and play. Contact: Fran Pugh tel: 673429

Carpet Bowls in the Commemoration Hall

There will be bowls nights on the first 3 Tuesdays in December, ending on 14/12/21. Bowls will commence again on Tuesday 4/1/22 and will be on every Tuesday in January.

We have arranged a Christmas dinner for the Slaley Carpet Bowls Club on the night of Thursday 16th December at the Rose and Crown, Slaley. 7.00 pm for dinner at 7.30 pm

The **Exercise to Music** sessions in Slaley Commemoration Hall continue on Monday mornings. The Aerobic Class (9.30-10.30am) is pretty full while the seated/standing group (10.45-11.45am) has room for new members. Please contact me if you would like further information about the sessions. There will be NO Classes over the Christmas holiday period. The following three Mondays have been CANCELLED - 20th & 27th December and 3rd January. The New Year sessions will recommence on Monday 10th January 2022. . Keep safe, Carol Ferguson 673585

Contributions for February edition by Wednesday 26th January or earlier please.

Editors: Jim Bailey 673352 baileyjim128@gmail.com
Fiona McKendrick: 673281 fionamckendrick@googlemail.com

Slaley, Healey & Minsteracres Local History Group

The meetings will be held in Slaley Commemoration Hall from 7.30 p.m. – 9 p.m. with an admission cost of £2 per adult or 50p for anyone in full time education.

January Monday 24th Remaking Beamish by Connor Emerson

When the idea for a North of England open air museum at Beamish in County Durham gained momentum in the 1950s founding director Frank Atkinson began a policy of unselective collecting. "You offer, we collect" was the slogan. Move forward to February 2013 and Beamish launched its Great Donate project when once again the people of the North East were asked to share their history especially items from the 1950s and 1980s. In July 2015, Beamish director, Richard Evans, took possession of the keys to Ryhope's former Grand Electric Cinema built at the coastal village near Sunderland in 1912. It was to be moved brick by brick to the 1950s village at Beamish.

However, some of what we see at Beamish has spent part of its life much closer to Slaley – Warden on the banks of the Tyne, west of Hexham, was once the home for two special attractions. Sunderland Corporation Tramways No 16 tram was built as an open-top tramcar by Dick, Kerr and Co, of Preston in 1900. When Sunderland tram system closed in 1954 one tram in particular became a football changing room until it was bought for £50 by a farmer of Low Warden Farm, Hexham, where it spent the next 30 years of its life as an apple and tool shed until a tram buff spotted the tram from the A69. Beamish came to the rescue paid the farmer £50 then spent a further £250,000 restoring the 66-seat vehicle until Kate Adie welcome the tram back into service at Beamish in 2003.

Joseph Hedley, known to all and sundry as "Joe the Quilter" lived in a humble cottage near Warden. His murder in 1826 produced records that provided the information needed to reconstruct the cottage at Beamish long after the original was demolished. This is just a taster of what Connor will entertain us with.



Travellers Rest



Come and join us on the second Thursday in the month
Between 3pm – 5pm at The Travellers Rest
All crafts welcome
Come along and enjoy a natter.
Contact Darren 01434 673231

Knit and Natter

Hexham Arts Society Tuesday January 11th at 2.00pm Hexham Mart function room.

TBA Mark Hill

Church News

Christmas Services

Thursday 23rd December – 5pm Slaley Village Carol Service

Our favourite carol service returns to church, but we'll also relay it outside so that we are not too squashed for space!

Christmas Day – 10am Christmas Morning for all the family, with carols (of course!) at St John's Healey

Sunday December 26 – 10.45 Christmas Communion (Slaley)

Weekly Sunday services at Slaley (every week) are at 10.45am. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

The next Evensong at Healey will be on Sunday 23 January at 5pm.

Sunday services continue to be streamed on Facebook and You Tube as well as the weekly 'thought for the day' each Wednesday. To find them please just click on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/moorlandgroup/> and via You Tube via our website:
www.moorland-group.org.uk

Ecumenical Study Group

We'll begin a new series of Friday studies for Advent on Friday 26 November at 10.30am at Middle Grange in Slaley, again, very kindly hosted by Paula Darrington. We'll be looking at the background to the familiar Old Testament passages from the prophets that we read over the Christmas period. Everyone is welcome. Individual copies of the studies for private reflection are also available for collection at the back of church.

Messy Church – An Epiphany Spectacular – Saturday 8th January 10am

This year, we've decided to hold Messy Church after Christmas and make the most of the wonderful stories about the Epiphany – think wise men and so on ...
Please contact Helen for more details.

A blast of colour, gold and Christmas. Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th December – Divino Amore in Healey Church

Come and see Susi Bellamy's fabulous Madonna collages, showing for three days only at Healey Church,

Friends of Healey Church are invited to come to the preview on Friday (until 8pm), with wine kindly supplied by Dennhofer. The exhibition is then open (and free) to everyone else from 11am – 5pm, on Saturday and Sunday.

If you'd like to join the new Friends of Healey Church Scheme please email thehotspur@gmail.com

**Christmas Concert with Hexham Stage Society
St Mary's Church 7.30pm Thursday 9th December**

Come and enjoy the very best of Christmas music with 35 glorious voices for a seasonal mix of songs and carols – and a glass of mulled wine.

We're not printing tickets and there's no minimum price, but we hope you'll donate at least a fiver to church funds – please come in droves!

Helen's thought for the month.

Our village community has had to come to terms with too much sadness recently. It has affected us all deeply and our hearts go out to Pat, Hilary and Hazel. Christmas can be a tough time when you're down, so it's incredibly important to reach out to one another with simple human kindness, particularly if those for whom we care are going through the mill.

I hope that the message of the festival, in the words of that old carol: 'love came down at Christmas', can find new meaning for us all in the love we share at this time. Love matters. Love heals. Love makes all the difference, though, of course, it's far from easy to believe it when your heart is broken. Let's make a special effort to reach out to one another in 2022. Our community needs us all.

Slaley Shop Christmas Wine Offer

Once again, Helen has put together three amazing Christmas selections that can be ordered specially from the shop at extremely competitive prices. Pop into the shop and pick up a leaflet!

The Great Champagne Challenge Zoom – Tuesday 14th December

Can you taste the difference between cheap Champagne and one of the luxury brands? No? Well, Slaley Shop can help you check. Helen will supply a bottle sneaked from a discount supermarket and compare it with the amazingly swish top, notch, all bells and whistles Deutz Champagne. Zooms at 5.30pm and 8pm. To book please email helensavage1@gmail.com The cost? Just £29.50 – because we'll be able to buy in half bottles of the Deutz at a special price.



Our December meeting is on December 8th and is the Christmas Lunch at the Rose and Crown.

Our January meeting is on January 12th when we will be concentrating on plans for the new year and in particular discussing a recruitment drive.

We desperately need new members so please come and help reinvigorate our club. ALL ARE WELCOME

Hope to see you all then. Margaret Rowell - President



Fire & Dough Pizza Van comes to the Commemoration Hall Car park on the **FOURTH** Wednesday from 5 p.m. December 22nd & January 26th

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The winner of the October SCH 200 Club was number

Third Artisan Market will be at Slaley Commemoration Hall on Wednesday January 26th 2 - 6 p.m.

Performers Wanted.

In the November Slaley News you read that Denis Lumley was looking for Performers/Musicians to celebrate the 100th birthday of Slaley Commemoration Hall. Several people came forward, ideas were discussed and decisions loosely agreed - these according to Denis will alter and change as the performance takes on a life of its own. The date for this Event to say 'thank you' to everyone who helped to make the 100-year refurbishment possible is **Friday November 25th 2022.**

Funny stories of incidents at, or in, Slaley Commemoration Hall is the ingredient that will make this performance great entertainment – would you share them with us please? Rosaleen & Kevin (673173) Denis (673204). Linda (673196), Nicola (School), Margaret (673589) or Pat 673388.

Do you know anyone who could be a Stage Manager (a bit bossy), a Music Director or a Lighting expert - Denis suggested Middle or High School pupils for this? We are meeting again at 7 p.m. **on Thursday December 16th** when we shall build a section of stage for an idea of height and space above the actors for a couple of suggestions Denis made.

Garden Wander 2022 Rosaleen Doonan and Pat Wilson have agreed to hold a second parish Wander in the summer of 2022. Having checked with Hexhamshire that they do NOT intend to host their Garden Walk in 2022 the

decision was made. If you would like to welcome people into your garden while raising money for the final 100year SCH improvements this Wander will also celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year. Please indicate your interest to either Ros 673173 or Pat 673388.

Parish Council Notes

The Parish Council met 8th November at Slaley Commemoration Hall. You will see elsewhere in this edition of Slaley News that there was a great deal discussed and there are now opportunities for two new councillors. Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact PC Clerk Pat Wilson for more information. This will be an interesting time to be a councillor or a volunteer as the PC is embarking on writing a Parish Neighbourhood Plan which will give the people of Slaley a greater say in planning decisions. If you are interested in volunteering to help in this process, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Dog fouling is still a concern. The School recently complained about excessive mess outside the school gates so may we remind you that a £1000 fine can be imposed on anyone caught not picking up their dog's mess!

December Update from Slaley First School

It has been a busy half term at Slaley First School. The children have settled back into school well and have been working hard. They are a credit to us and have brightened up our days with their energy and smiles. We have welcomed our new head teacher, Mrs Hayward and she has already had an opportunity to participate in a number of Slaley Traditions and events. Our Harvest boxes and contributions this year were wonderful and it was lovely to be able to deliver some treats to our local residents. We would like to thank all those who sent Cards and Thankyou's, the children really enjoy receiving them and displaying them on our community noticeboard.

We celebrated Halloween at Slaley First School in true style. The children arrived to school in Halloween costumes carrying the most fabulous collection of carved pumpkins. The pumpkins were judged and placed around the field in a pumpkin trail. All the entries were fantastic! Staff, children and parents really enjoyed following the trail and taking time to look at all the hard work and time spent on carving the pumpkins. We are very grateful to FoSS for organising such events and have very exciting plans for the future. The money raised will provide a polytunnel, books and additional resources for the children in school. Details of the event, complete with photographs of a splendid Halloween themed party lunch, can be found on the school website.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Fayre and have been designing a collection of art on canvas, Christmas cards and tree decorations. Mrs English has a Christmas Cake decorating evening. Watch out for a collection of beautiful

wreaths on the doors of many houses in the village as FOSS will be organising a 'Wreath Making' event. This event has been well supported with a huge number of households signing up for the event in the past.

We are keeping our fingers crossed that numbers remain low regarding COVID-19 as we would really love to have a Christmas play open to parents and families this year. We have been practicing 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' and are excited at the prospect of a 'real live' audience. For those who cannot make this event, or if for any reason we need to move Christmas celebrations outdoors, we are also planning 'Carols by Candlelight' around the tent in the school field. It would not be complete without a festive drink and mince pie, so we will be serving refreshments on the evening.

Pat Wilson has collected a native harvest pack of trees for the school. The children will be involved with the planting of these trees.

On behalf of all the children and staff at Slaley First School, we would like to wish you a very Happy, Safe Christmas and New Year

Farewell and good luck!

A fond farewell to Ms Sue Roff and Mrs Julie Stevenson, who are leaving Slaley First School after a total, between them, of 43 years service! One of their previous pupils commented that Miss Julie, as she was known, was always very encouraging and enthusiastic about our PE lessons. Another said of Ms Roff that she was the French teacher who was always very friendly and actually made me engage in languages!

As a parent whose two boys went to Slaley, and now a governor of the school, I wish them a long and happy retirement.

Catherine

December Garden Column



Maples Osakazuki & griseum I

Some people like autumn and the wind; I am drawn to the colour change and structure of plants gradually becoming more visible. The first bright red colour came early in late September on a small leaved maple, which I grew from a packet of "bonsai tree seeds". I had a go at twisting the young trunk in its pot in a romantic shape, but didn't have the heart to keep up such drastic pruning. The tree is now in the garden, beautiful, 3m high, with exquisite dainty pointed leaves that turn cherry red. Then comes the intense red of the butterfly cherry, *Prunus KojoNoMai*, along with the wild cherries and the butter yellow of the large maples. Even in mid November we still have colour. My three star turns, the elegant and reliable Japanese maple, *Acer Osakazuki*, is in its full crimson red glory, brightening as the autumn nights get cooler. Behind it is *Acer griseum*, with an orange-red textured leaf and beautiful coppery peeling bark and a Persian ironwood tree. The smoke bushes

have just started their transformation from dark plummy purple to clear deep red brightening to vibrant copper orange. *Cotinus coggygira* Grace, the smaller smokebush comes first, then *Cotinus Royal Purple*, the last to colour maybe in December. Quite a long season.

I am hanging an exhibition at Gibside, a National Trust garden, which I am told is considered a sculpted 18th c landscape garden. The view from the column of Liberty, which sits on a mound looking over a small valley to the tree lined avenue leading to Gibside chapel, is dramatic. The crest of the half mile long grassy avenue is precisely level making a perfectly tree framed approach to the rotunda chapel.

Some gardens might have sculptural features like ponds, banks, shaped lawns, topiary, twisted tree trunks, even moss; but a truly sculpted landscape is something else. A spectacular example is Jupiter Artland, a landscape garden south of Edinburgh, where Charles Jencks (of local Northumberlandia fame and co-founder of Maggie's Centres) designed his signature sculptural contoured walking mounds. It is entered by driving through the towering landforms. Walking amongst them they angle in various directions with multiple paths, like ribs, all of perfectly mown grass. Water provides another reflective dimension isolating the mounds. A grassy 'snakes tale' winds into the water tempting you to walk to its disappearing tip which then emerges further on just out of a leaps reach. Sitting at the top of one of the conical mounds feels almost like being on some celestial floating island surveying the wonders below. Walking around here brings the magic and order of nature together.



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Community Environment Group Notes:

In Slaley Shop there are bulk supplies of Wash-Up and Eco detergents to fill your own containers. Plant based liquid soap and washing soda are entirely pollutant free. The soda softens the water, helping the soap to clean through the action of the washing machine. Mainstream detergents contain bleaching agents, enzymes, artificial fragrances, dye, and other chemicals which get into the water eco system, contributing to "persistent bio-accumulative chemical waste". DEFRA says the toxic impact of clothes washing is "significant". An amazing 150 million bottles of Fairy Liquid are used and flushed into the eco system each year in the UK. Current guidelines say a product must degrade by 60% in 28 days. Ill-equipped treatment plants in times of stress are allowed to discharge into the sea to avoid system back-ups. This happened for more than 3 million hours in 2020 alone. (Info taken from Michelle Ogundehin, Financial Times.) We all know about the plastic choking the oceans. Even on remote Lord Howe Island far into the Tasman Sea, 100s of pieces of plastic were found in the stomachs of dead baby birds, recently photographed by my friend Mandy Barker.

Hooray for Slaley Shop



Every month the shop is planning an ingredients special to encourage people to share their favourite recipes and try new ones. During December you will find all you need to make the best mince pies. We have produced a little pocket sized book of Slaley's favourite mince pie recipes so please drop by, pick up your booklet and all the ingredients you need.

It's that time of year when our feathered friends need a little bit of extra help in the garden. We have stocked up on various feeds to attract numerous varieties of garden birds and back by popular demand are our bird boxes supplied by the Men's Shed in Hexham.

Slaley Shop Community Fund

It was agreed at the last Slaley Shop AGM that a fund would be set up to benefit the community using a percentage of the profits from the shop. This fund is to provide financial support to local groups, organisations, projects, initiatives and individuals that benefit the community that is served by the Shop. The giving is focussed on three areas: Community Enrichment, Education and Training and Environment.

The board welcomes applications to this fund for the coming year. If you, or an organisation you are involved with would like to apply for this funding please submit a written request which will be considered at the next board meeting. Requests must be received at least eight weeks before the funding is required. If you would like more details about the application process and eligibility please contact the board via the shop email which is shop@slaleyshop.co.uk



A Christmas themed coffee morning will be held on **Friday 3rd December** in the Commemoration Hall from 10am to 1pm. There will be several stalls selling Christmas wreaths; cakes; greetings cards; crafts and other lovely items to help you with all those last minute Christmas presents.

A reminder that the Show's AGM will be held in the hall on **Thursday 2nd December** at 7.30pm. All are welcome. Marge Rastall,

Help support the show by becoming a member for only £10 per year. Go to www.slaleyshow.org.uk to access a membership application form. the event in the past.

St Elizabeth's Minsteracres Easter Services

Friday 24th Dec

4.00pm Vigil Mass preceded by Carol service at 3.30pm
6.00pm Vigil mass preceded by Carol service at 5.30pm (Sung mass)
(Potentially an 8.00pm Vigil Mass depending on demand for the earlier masses)

Saturday 25th Dec

9.30am Mass. (Sung mass)

Sunday 26th Dec 9. 30am Mass

Friday 31st Dec 4.00pm Thanksgiving Service

Saturday 1st Jan 10.00am Mass

Sunday 2nd Jan 8.30am and 10.30am Masses

Thursday 6th Jan (Epiphany) 9.30am Mass

N.B. * Although the booking system for masses has now been suspended it will be reintroduced for masses on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Booking is required and can be made via www.heavenfieldpartnership.org.uk - " Bookings can be made from 9.00am on Wed 1st December



SLALEY FILM CLUB

December 17th 2021

"The Angels' Share"



A surprisingly delightful and uplifting comedy that successfully blends a charming story of redemption with bits of dark humour and a social message. It sees the director, Ken Loach, in a playful mood with an enjoyable Scottish drama that skilfully brings together the nation's most renowned tropes – namely whisky, kilts, Iron Brew and working class strife.

Supper is "bring a platter" as well as your own drink

Selected diary dates

Mondays – Exercise to music. Except 20/12, 27/12 and 03/01/2022

Tuesdays – Bowls night Except 21/12, 28/12

Wednesdays – Badminton, Except 22/12, 29/12

Thursday 02/12/21 Slaley Show AGM

Friday 03/12/21 Slaley Show Coffee Morning with stalls

Friday 03/12/21 - Sunday 05/12/21 Exhibition of Madonna collages Healey

Wednesday 08/12/21 W.I Lunch

Thursday 09/12/21 Christmas concert Slaley Church
Knit & Natter – Travellers Rest

Tuesday 14/12/21 Champagne Challenge (Zoom)

Thursday 16/12/21 Commemoration Hall performers meeting

Friday 17/12/21 Film Club

Wednesday 22/12/21 Fire & Dough Pizza Van

2022

Saturday 08/01/22 Messy Church

Tuesday 11/01/22 Hexham Arts Society

Monday 24/01/22 History Club

Wednesday 26/01/22 Fire & Dough Pizza Van

Christmas Church services for Slaley and Minsteracres can be found inside the News.

Calendar times and details can also be found inside the news. If in doubt as to the accuracy please check with the relevant organisers.