



SLALEY NEWS JUNE 2026



In this month's News, three members of the WI are planning a 22 mile walk in aid of MND (Motor Neurone Disease), and there are lots more details of future WI events.

There is a brief summary of how people in Slaley can find out what's going on, and add their own information.

The Shop is inviting applications from local groups, organisations, clubs and individuals for grants from their Community Fund.

The Rose & Crown have plenty happening, including another Beer Festival, this time with cider and sausages!

And a garden trail in Hexhamshire on the 21st will feature Karen Melvin's own garden among others.

As always we welcome contributions from anyone who has news they would like to share!

Contributions for the combined July & August edition by Tuesday, June 23rd or earlier, please!

For this next News, we are hoping to be able to print the booklets in colour as well as the online version. However this would cost an additional £7 or so for each page of the 310 copies printed. We have a few offers already, and if you would like to donate for a page or two, just email slaleynews@icloud.com.

Send by email to slaleynews@icloud.com, or to michael@elphicks.myzen.co.uk

Parish Council Report

The Parish AGM and Parish Council Meeting were held in May.

Anne Livesey was proposed and seconded as Chair and Michael Ogle as Vice Chair. Many thanks to Julie Cole for being Vice Chair for the past 12 months.



The usual matters were discussed, planning decisions, condition of roads, Community Playground etc. The finances, including the budget, were discussed at length. Speeding was also discussed and we have information about repairing the speed sign in the village - hopefully we can get this sorted soon.

We were hoping to hold a Cuppa with a Copper meeting in June, however the police wanted to just offer one-to-one confidential meetings, whereas we agreed it would be more useful to learn more about what sort of crimes to report, the best way to report suspicious behaviour, how to protect your vehicles and keys, marking possessions and which numbers to report on. There is an opportunity to pop down to Corbridge as they are holding a session for one-to-one confidential meetings with a community police officer on 12 June, 10-12.

It goes without saying that 999 is the emergency number and the police recommend not approaching anyone but keeping yourself and others safe.

There have been no crimes reported in the past month in the Parish.

Our verges are looking amazing this year with all the wildflowers! No mow May seems to have been very popular. We are renewing our grass cutting of several areas in the village plus the Millennium seat to keep the village neat and tidy.

The bin collections have been a bit erratic which has been down to broken vehicles. We're hoping we'll get back on track soon.

We will be meeting on the third Monday in June. We're always happy to see anyone at the meetings which start at 7pm, and you can always contact any of us between meetings in the usual ways.

June 26 Slaley News – WI report



If you are reading this 'hot off the press' new newsletter on Wednesday 3rd ... look out of the window and wish any dark clouds away. Four of our members are currently walking 22 miles from Alnmouth to Bamburgh or Bamburgh to Alnmouth depending on wind direction, to raise funds and awareness of Motor Neurone Disease as explained in last months Newsletter.

Hoping to cover each mile in an estimated 20 mins and allowing for pit stops, its going to be a long day for President Catherine Myers, Heather Sewell, Nicky Jeffrey and Sandy Hatton, but they are fit as fiddles and have been in training and are no doubt spurred on by the promise of nearly £1,575 from their presence on the Just Giving page. Along with cash donations, plus a collection jar in the village shop and a grace period when further donations are still welcome, the result will be well worthwhile their stupendous efforts.

Results and pictures of the walk will be in the July issue as well as what we found at our extra trip a week ago to Errington Reay pottery at Bardon Mill ... will we be tempted by gnomes now that they have become a talking point at Chelsea Flower Show? Or are they still a bit Marmite?



Our May meeting didn't have a speaker, it was our annual meeting where we report (for the second year running) to Dee Ward, an official WI advisor. She assesses how we are doing as an organisation, a small one admittedly compared to urban environments, but considering the size of the Slaley Parish, we doing all right, We've got 23 members, a strong committee, a president who was voted in unanimously for the third year running ... and ... we are in a healthy financial state and have a variety of activities and opportunities on offer for our members.

Before we start to congratulate each other that we have 'passed' a yearly inspection it's sad to hear that nine regional branches didn't quite make the grade and have had to be 'suspended' due to lack of numbers. Northumberland currently boasts 95 branches and recently launched a new one called Haydon Hearts.

We do get to be entertained as well as educated, invited to a variety of extras within the Northumberland community and certainly within the local Moorland Group there's always something we can join in with and can call on the group for advice and cooperation. The new educational arm of the WI website called VIA is incredibly easy to access for a variety of subjects in talks and workshops all of which are either 'live' or are recorded and available to view for a limited period. So, in a nutshell, the WI is well worth the yearly subs for what's on offer.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm at the Commemoration Hall on Wednesday 10th June and we welcome Michael Gatherar, a popular 'hobby' speaker on local history. He's a retired police officer who studied local history at Newcastle University and his repertoire includes a variety of subject matters from the Herring Lasses and Fish Wives, Women at War, L. S. Lowry, Heroes and Villains and, what we have chosen for our talk ... Local Murders (Ovingham to Otterburn with everything in between).

Other June events:

- Thursday 11th June Shotley WI hosted 5 mile circular walk starting at Snods Edge inclusive of lunch
- Friday 19th June Quilling Workshop at Cresswell House
- Wednesday 24th June Northumberland WI Fed trip to Northallerton and Newburgh Priory Coach Trip £45 - pick up Hexham

- 24th June Slaley WI trip to Thornton Hall Gardens (more details at our next meeting)
- Thursday 25th June Video presentation of The Knutsford Millenium Tapestry, Cresswell House £8

July Regional events include:

- Regional Summer Quiz, Visit to Woodhorn Archives, 'Fabulous Floral Workshop' and Cambo WI Poetry Please and Afternoon Tea.

Northumberland Federation of Women's Institutes
Head Office is based at Blezard Business Park, Seaton
Burn, Newcastle Tel: 0191 217 0808.

www.northumberlandwi.org.uk Facebook.com/
northumberlandwi and email:

federationoffice@northumberlandwi.co.uk

For Information about Slaley WI contact secretary
vickypepys@btinternet.com Tel: 07802 572326.

Our What's App group is members only. New members are very welcome to join with an initial invitation to any meeting free of charge. We meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month at Slaley Commemoration Hall - 7.30pm start. Our presence on the Slaley Parish website is currently being updated.

Keeping in touch!

This brief article aims to remind our readers of the many ways in which you can keep updated on what is happening in Slaley with the many groups and organisations.

Printed newsletters

(Like these News) are still a valuable source of information, that need nothing more than reasonable eyesight. The Parish Council, WI, the Community Shop, Commemoration Hall all say that they find this newsletter valuable.

"The Council view local newsletters as absolutely vital. While digital platforms are excellent for real time updates, printed newsletters like the Slaley News ensure we reach everyone in the parish, including those who may not regularly use the internet or social media. It remains a cornerstone of our community communication."

Leaflets

The Community Shop have put together a “Welcome Pack” for newcomers to Slaley, in the hope it will help them settle in. This can be downloaded from their website: slaleyshop.org.uk/, or just ask in the shop. Others can also have a leaflet inserted in the Slaley News, but there may be a charge for that.

Notice boards

Are still in use, but not as prominent these days. In 2024 Slaley's Women's Institute installed a community noticeboard in front of the Community Shop to commemorate its 100th anniversary. Working with the shop, the displays will be changed on a regular basis.

The Parish Council have a board in the churchyard, which records election results, dates of meetings and some other information.

Emails

Emails, both sent and received, are another way of communicating quickly, with nearly all groups offering this as a way of requesting and receiving information.

Phones!

For more immediate requests and responses, the phone - now often a mobile - is a quick way of communicating. Almost all groups will provide a number for contacts

The last page of these News usually features a list of “Useful Contacts” with their phone numbers.

Websites

Can offer a more permanent record of past and coming events, but rely on an editor to maintain them. The parish website, funded by the Parish Council, is used by many groups to publish their services, dates of meetings and how to contact them.

The Council itself provides details of councillors, records of agendas and minutes of their meetings, and more about grants, etc.

Social media

These, such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and others have become the latest way of communicating widely. The most relevant group on Facebook is “Slaley Village News & Views”, used by the Rose & Crown, Traveller’s Rest, Parish Council, and others.

However Slaley WI doesn't have a website, or do Instagram or any other social media and their Whats App group is only for and

accessible by members. The Commemoration Hall is in the process of updating their web pages and social media platforms. Slaley Show organisers also use Facebook, particularly to give you updates in the run-up to the Show.

Slaley Show

Finding out more about Slaley Show - Saturday 8th August 2026



Our website is nearly ready - in the meantime, you can go to our Facebook page. When the website is ready, it will give you information on the Show, and access to the Schedule - the sections are split up into different files, and the entry forms are on there too.

And our Facebook page will give you regular updates in the run up to the Show. We also share information in this newsletter, and our contact details are on the back page.

Slaley Community Shop

Every year, the Community Shop puts aside 10% of its profits to support Community projects. In the past we've donated to Slaley Commemoration Hall, Slaley Show, Slaley First School, Ladycross Nature Reserve, Slaley News and the Slaley Christmas event, among others.



We'd like to invite applications from local groups, organisations, clubs and individuals who are working on projects that benefit residents, improve community life, encourage wellbeing, support young people, enhance local spaces, or bring people together.

Whether you are planning a community event, improving facilities, launching a new local initiative, or developing an ongoing project, we would love to hear from you.

The Community Fund aims to support projects that:

- Benefit the local community
- Encourage inclusion and participation
- Improve wellbeing and connection

- Support education, sport, arts, environment or local heritage
- Create a lasting positive impact

Applications will be reviewed by the Board, and funding will be awarded to projects that demonstrate clear community benefit and value.

For further information, or to discuss a potential project, please call into the Shop or email slaleyshopinfo@gmail.com

The Rose & Crown

Exciting Summer Events at the Rose and Crown

There's plenty happening at the Rose & Crown over the coming months, with great food, live sport and a brand-new festival for the village calendar.

Football World Cup Comes to Slaley

This summer we'll be showing all of England's World Cup matches live on the big screen in the pub. Whether you're a lifelong football fan or simply enjoy the atmosphere of a packed local cheering on the Three Lions, everyone is welcome.

England's first three group matches are:

- England v Croatia – Wednesday 17 June – 9pm kick-off
- England v Ghana – Tuesday 23 June – 9pm kick-off
- Panama v England – Saturday 27 June – 10pm kick-off

We will also be showing the huge clash between Scotland and Brazil on Wednesday 24th June, kicking off at 11pm, which promises to be another fantastic night of World Cup football at the pub.

We'll have full match coverage, a lively atmosphere, cold drinks and food available throughout. Early arrival is recommended for the biggest games.

Two Chefs French Evening – Tuesday 9th June

Following the success of previous special dining evenings, we are delighted to host a special French-themed night on Tuesday 9th June.

Our "Two Chefs French Evening" will feature a carefully prepared menu inspired by classic French cuisine, combining traditional techniques with the best local produce. Guests can expect a

relaxed and enjoyable evening with authentic flavours, quality ingredients and a few continental surprises along the way.

Booking is strongly recommended as places are expected to fill quickly.

Announcing the First Rose & Crown Beer, Cider & Sausage Festival

We are also excited to announce that the Rose & Crown will be holding its very first Beer, Cider & Sausage Festival on August Bank Holiday Monday 24th August

The festival will celebrate the best of local producers, featuring:

- Local craft beers
- Local traditional ciders
- A range of locally made sausages
- Outdoor food and festival atmosphere

Best of all, admission to the festival will be completely free, making it a fantastic day out for families, friends and visitors alike.

We're looking forward to creating a brilliant community event that brings together great local food and drink with a lively festival atmosphere and warm village hospitality. More details will be announced soon.

We hope to see both familiar faces and new visitors at the Rose & Crown over the summer months.

Water problems

Robert Thompson reports that "as part of the ongoing project to get a backup generator for the pub I contacted Northumberland Water about the lack of water in the village during power cuts and the lack of maintenance of the backup generator for the pumping station"

Their reply (from Robert Noble) gives more confidence that it will work when we get the next power cut: "I'm aware that last year we had a couple of instances where the pump went off causing no water in the village and that the generator onsite failed to start. Since then we have had our maintenance teams check the generator and carry out some essential maintenance work on-site and can confirm that the generator is now in full working order. "

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Slaley

Practising Discernment

I have been reading a very useful little book recently, by an academic theologian with her feet firmly on the practical ground of political reality, Hanna Reichel. Her book is called *For Such a Time as This – an emergency devotional*. In the chaos of the news at the moment; with wars, political turmoil, economic dislocation, and fear, it seemed like a good idea.

She urges her readers to practice discernment. What she means by that is based on the first letter of John, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4.1). It reminded me that everything needs to be interpreted: my own intuitions and emotions, public opinion, media reports...even scriptural interpretation. Everything needs to be tested.

I know that I will have to distinguish all the things: God from idols, and faith from ideology - well, I would say those two as a vicar. But I will add: I need to distinguish violence from true power, the quiet of fear from true peace, noise from threat.

Hanna Reichel urges the reader, “Do not let yourself be deceived by those who under the banner of truth tear down reality. Do not let yourself be deceived by lip service to truth, by committees, by statements, by promises. Sometimes they avoid reality, sometimes they try to hide it. Put them to the test. Hold onto truth. Disregard for truth is worse than lies.”

The liar cares about truth and tries to hide it. The bullshitter (yes, I know I’m a vicar) only cares about persuasion. Bullshitting is quick, easy, and effective: it requires no knowledge, only a goal. The goal is to win the argument. Where only persuasion counts, discourse quickly deteriorates into power play. Opinion follows particular trigger paths until we all end up living in different worlds.

If nothing is true, nothing can be done.

So how should I react, I asked myself? You might be asking yourself that, too, amidst the unrelenting news cycle of the world as it is out there. Hanna Reichel offers this advice.

Do research. Find facts. Read widely.

Read long rather than short forms. Check several independent sources, right and left, local and national and international.

Seek out contrasting viewpoints and compare differing opinions. Contrast helps to see things more clearly. Karl Barth, who was a Christian living in Germany on the 1930s, talked about holding the newspaper in one hand and the Bible in the other.

Discernment is best done in community. I say this not because community achieves consensus, but because I know that community will force me to contend with contrasting experiences and perspectives. So, I believe I must:

- Seek the wisdom of friends and those who are unlike me. After all, I am under commandment to love my neighbour (even if I disagree).
- Seek the wisdom of your elders and those who have come long before.
- Seek the wisdom of children, the most annoying truth sayers of all.

So I pray that this Summer may be for you a Summer of practising discernment, and loving our neighbours.

Reichel, Hanna. *For Such a Time as This – an emergency devotional* (Grand Rapids, 2025)

Rev'd Diana

Services in June, 2026.

7th First Sunday after Trinity

11.15am Holy Communion

14th Second Sunday after Trinity

11.15am Holy Communion (Methodist)

7.30pm St James' Taizé worship – in the Church Cottage
Riding Mill

21st Third Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Holy Communion

Celebrated by Rt Rev'd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of
Newcastle

(Joint service with Methodists; for Riding Mill, Slaley and Healey) in St James' Church, Riding Mill.

All welcome – please join us. Please note the start time and that this will be the only service of the day in Slaley, Healey and Riding Mill.

28th Fourth Sunday after Trinity
11.15am Service of the Word

Dates for your Diary

4th Oct: Harvest Festival

8th Nov Remembrance Sunday

Rev. Diana Johnson

The Commemoration Hall

Thank you to all those who supported this year's Beer Festival which despite horrendous weather was a great success offering a cleverly selected range of beers, live entertainment, tasty food and dancing late into the evening. Many thanks to Lucy Brain for all the hard work in organising the event, raising funds for FOSS, Maggie's Cancer Care and the Commemoration Hall.

Sadly Lucy & Carys, our Booking Clerks have decided it is time to move on and therefore we are looking to recruit someone or another pair of people to take on the responsibility for managing the Hall booking calendar. It is not an onerous task, especially as we are in the process of streamlining the on-line booking process, but vitally important for ensuring that events are scheduled efficiently, keeping the Hall active and purposeful within our community. For more information please contact Andrew Coney (aconey25@gmail.com) or Pat Wilson (pat.wilson28@outlook.com)

June Gardening Column

Karen Melvin

For me the special garden treats are the magnolias and wisterias, very grand plants. Last week I saw a wisteria in a Hexham garden, only 10 years old, and in full generous flow of blooms. It was in a very awkward location, constrained in a long narrow corridor on a hillside. Nevertheless the gardener built a stone arch for the wisteria to climb, which divided the space in a Romantic way, the

arch being like a folly. It created a pause in the long corridor. The Wisteria was beautifully pruned to drape over the stonework and already showed signs of twisting mature trunks, not easy to manage gracefully. I was quite envious of the skill shown.



The drama of wisteria is also evident in the mature stems which thicken unexpectedly quickly. I waited for many years for my wisteria to flower, not thinking about the growing stems which wound themselves around a metal grid just like the clematis next to it. I had no idea they would age and thicken so quickly. I might need to cut some of those down that are getting choked around the grid before it is pulled off the wall.

I've done rather better pruning my 35 year old dwarf elm to look like a miniature landscape in the rockery surrounded by ground cover plants including *Veronica gentianoides*, in the speedwell family, with pretty faces. Bordering it is *Clematis alpina Willy* smothering an old box pyramid. Some late dwarf tulips, *Tulipa batalini Bronze Charm*, have pushed through the mossy saxifrage. This tulip is long lasting, at least 50 years old, as I can remember my young daughter's horror when a visiting playmate picked the first single lone tulip. They've all grown up to be delightful - tulips and children.



Maple stamens



Japanese maple

I have to remark on the blossom this year - so magnificent - cherries and crab apples. A huge Rhododendron at Howick garden this May surrounded a seat with beautiful blooms. Crab apples in gardens and hedgerows are full of blossom. All spring I couldn't help noticing the little details of common hedgerow trees with their small flowers coming out just before the leaves. They seemed to be brighter this year with more flowers covering the trees with dusty yellow pollen. On Japanese maples the female parts come out before the male stamens (to stop self-fertilisation). Then the fluffy stamens open ready for pollination and the seed parts develop quickly. In fact by the time the stamens were showing seed pods were already developing. The bright red winged seeds light up the maples. The attendant handkerchief trees at Howick were in full flower, still showing all their stamens surrounded by the handkerchief bract. This is a rare tree stunning in flower with its large bracts like butterflies, sometimes called the ghost tree.

And more gardens to visit at the end of June!



Hexhamshire Garden Trail

21st June, 2026
Sunday 10:30 - 4:00

Big Daddy Butties 9:45 -10:45am
Teas, scones, cake 11- 4:30
Raffle with lovely prizes
Tickets £5 (children free) from

Whitley Chapel Parish Hall
NE47 0HD

USEFUL CONTACTS

Badminton Group	Fran Pugh	673429
Carpet Bowls	Karl Beckett	07914 693199
St Mary's Parish Church	Rev. Diana Johnson	682768
St Elizabeth's Catholic Church	Father Emmanuel Kabinga	673248
Commemoration Hall	Chairman: Andrew Coney	07990 041324
	Bookings: slaleych@gmail.com	
County Councillor	Colin Horncastle	618259
Dial-A-Ride	A.D.A.P.T.	600599
Electricity	Power cut?	105
Film Club	Michael Elphick	673443
Friends of Slaley School	Andrea Foster	634865
Hexham Hospital		0344 811 8111
Ladycross Nature Reserve	Joan Jewitt	673245
Leek Club	Catherine Lincoln	07918 120125
Local History Group	Pat Wilson	673388
Mobile Hairdresser	Linda Johnston	673196
Northumberland CC	Report faulty Streetlights/ Potholes	0345 6006400
Parish Council	clerk@slaleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Post Office Van	Martin Nichol, Stocksfield Post Office	01661 842110
Police	For non-emergency calls	101
Rose & Crown Pub	David & Sam	673996
Slaley Community Shop	Shop enquiries	673201
	Sandra Innes (Chair)	673845
Slaley First School	Head: Mrs. Hayward	673220
Slaley Parish Website	www.slaley.org.uk	
Slaley Show	Vice Chair: Gemma Common	
	Secretary: secretary.slaleyshow@hotmail.com	
The Travellers Rest	Lucy & Jed	673231
Women's Institute	President: Catherine Myers	673023
	Secretary: Vicky Pepys	07802 572326