



SLALEY NEWS

JUNE 2025



At last: we welcome our new Parish Council!

On Monday May 19th, the new Sleafy Parish Council held its annual meeting for 2025, and heard from several members of the parish.

Here is the lineup, with from left to right: Councillors Nicole Dean, Julie Cole, Michael Ogle and Anne Livesey, County Councillor Colin Horncastle and the Parish Clerk, Samantha Dalglish.



We hope to be able to give more details in the July News, and perhaps hear more of their own concerns and interests

Lots more news about the Sleafy Show this month, and some thoughts about pilgrimages from Rev. Diana Johnson, as well as all our usual contributors.

Once again this edition of the News only appears thanks to a generous donation from an anonymous donor.

But future editions will be paid for by the Parish Council, as was previously the case in 2024.

***Contributions for the July & August edition by Sunday
22nd June or earlier, please!***

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

***The final countdown to the Beer Festival on June 7th ...
BUT NOW **CASH ONLY**!***

SLALEY BEER FESTIVAL



SATURDAY JUNE 7TH 2025

NOON - 11PM

TICKETS £8 IN ADVANCE OR £10 ON THE DOOR
LUCYKBRAIN@GMAIL.COM

**BEER SPONSORS AND RAFFLE
PRIZES GRATEFULLY RECEIVED**



**WITH LIVE
MUSIC FROM**



BEERS. CIDER. WINE. SOFT
DRINKS. CAKE. RAFFLE. ALL DAY
ENTERTAINMENT.

UNDER 18s WELCOME UNTIL 6PM

100% of proceeds will be shared between the Great North Air Ambulance, Cleft Lip and Palate Association and the Slaley Commemoration Hall roof repair fund.

This is going to be a fun filled community event and I can't wait to see you all there. Bouncy castle for children, live music from 2pm and plenty of options for non beer drinkers.

Tickets still available via lucykbrain@gmail.com or search 'Slaley Beer Festival' on Eventbrite

Cheers! Lucy

Fundraising success for the Hall!

To all those who helped in the success of the event in any way, baking, providing items to the stalls, helping to set up the Hall, serving food and clearing tables, etc. Thank you!

To those who came along and bought from the stalls and those who met up with others, to enjoy food and a chat, Thank you! Over £550 was raised and has been donated to Slaley Commemoration Hall, to help towards funds needed for necessary maintenance and improvements at the Hall.

Carol Ferguson (On behalf of Exercise to Music)

Slaley Show

Slaley Show members will be getting ready to hear when our usual 'bit of a do' in the village hall takes place; it's the day when membership badges and early schedules can be picked up. Many apologies, there's been a slight delay. We've had to put this back until the end of June due to a printing delay...but please be patient. There's a major overhaul of the website happening at the same time and we hope that the schedule will also be available online.

Existing members will be notified personally. Any new members? please keep an eye on the village noticeboard for news. So, this is an undisguised, unapologetic and rather blunt plea to please support us and become a member (£15 inclusive of entry). We offer an exclusive members relaxation area with refreshments on show day and to us having membership funds at this stage allows us a little bit of financial security should any unexpected costs occur. £15 covers the cost of one and a half of the competitive prizes! It's a small but important amount to the winners! With 163 years of shows under the village 'belt' costs have risen into outer space. Here's hoping the idea appeals and thank you to all existing members who have stuck with us through thick and thin. Membership forms are in the village shop and online at www.slaleyshow.org.uk Queries? contact secretary.slaleyshow@hotmail.com

We have two more committee members to introduce this month. One very familiar and one brand new. Both are giving us a hint of what's on offer at this year's show and encouraging us all to have a go.

Hannah Rourke is the newest and youngest recruit to our Slaley Show



Hannah Rourke

Committee and has taken on the Children's Section of Competitive Classes which attract ages to 16 and under.

Hannah, from Prudhoe, has always attended shows like Slaley as a competitor...but not in the children's sections, she's been far too busy competing with her pony/ponies from the age of ? (and still competes to this day in the ? and ? classes.)?

Sadly, she'll have to miss any early morning pony classes this year as she accepts entries within the industrial tent from 8am onwards which range from the traditional handwriting competitions to the more complex models and pieces of craft work. There will always be the popular animals made of vegetables and miniature model classes; they originated decades ago, but being only 17 years old herself she has a unique chance to evolve the section further and appealing to new entrants whose influences change faster than a speeding bullet!

She's also empathetic to the competitive nature of this section particularly in the young classes. "Older children understand friendly competition but judging in the 7 years and under section must be sensitive to little one's feelings" she says.

A children's section judge is still to be appointed, and classes will be revealed at the launch of the schedule in early May but Hannah gives a

heads-up on some exciting new classes “start saving yoghurt pots and ice lolly sticks now!” she says.

Entry is free to all children’s classes and entry forms are to be submitted to Hannah Rourke at childrens.slaleyshow@gmail.com by Friday 1st August. Also on display... a closed section of classes for pupils who attend Slaley and Whitley Chapel First Schools.

Slaley Shows Horticultural Secretary – Margaret Ogle

Flowers and vegetables have always been at the heart of Slaley Show and for Margaret Ogle, Slaley Show’s Floral Art and Horticultural Secretary, her floral art ‘hobby’ led to winnings and eventually something of a sideline.

Margaret, a farmer’s daughter in the North Tyne who became a Slaley farmer’s wife, belongs to Hexham and District Flower Club “I just love flowers of all varieties” and in her role at Slaley Show, is “aiming to enthuse, encourage and simplify our shows floral art section to encourage more people to try” she says.



Margaret Ogle

“What I think is off putting to new exhibitors” says Margaret “is that Floral Art is thought to be costly. Of course, special or rare flowers are expensive to buy because they come from all over the world. Growing your own means, you can only plan for the few days ahead of a show... because the weather may ruin everything! So, we have an Arrangement class using a supermarket bunch of flowers, any variety, costing no more than £8. There are five trophies overall to be won so it is worth having a go!” she says

There's a difference between the 'Exhibit' and 'Arrangement' term which needs a bit of explaining. A Floral 'Exhibit' is a celebratory, ornamental or symbolic display of flowers and foliage "You take into consideration colour, texture, composition, appropriate props, interior design and measurement restrictions...it's an experimental art form. An 'Arrangement' is centred on the flowers whereas 'Exhibit' requires props to complement the flowers to tell a story" Margaret explains.

Running alongside these works of art are the traditional show flower and vegetable classes, which are prey to weather conditions perhaps even more so. These are the sweet peas, the gladioli, the dahlias, the pansies, the carnations, the pot plants, and for those not daring to attempt floral art, the vases of garden, cottage and annual flowers. The fragrance created by these exhibits means that visitors are reluctant to move on. It's a very slow perambulation section of the tent.

The vegetable classes are often astonishing in their display methods and draw sighs of appreciation particularly with the collections of vegetables, soft fruits, salad and fresh herbs in a trug or a basket. Over the years many new vegetable varieties are now grown and the care taken to display them mirrors the care taken in the growing. This section also incorporates Farmers Classes. Closing date for entries is Friday 1st August although Margaret is happy to accept entries on the day as the weather has been known to flourish or destroy entries in equal measure! Entry forms are situated within the Schedule, to be launched at the end of May.

Clarkson's Farm and the Rose & Crown!

David Elphick and Samantha Charlton , proprietors of the Rose and Crown in Slaley, have played a role in guiding television presenter Jeremy Clarkson in his latest business endeavour running a traditional British pub. Clarkson, renowned for his work on "Top Gear" and "Clarkson's Farm," recently opened The Farmer's Dog in Asthall, near Burford, Oxfordshire. The pub, which debuted in August 2024, attracted significant attention, with hundreds queuing for hours on its opening day .

Prior to opening Clarkson sought the expertise of David Elphick who trained him and his business partner in Licensing Law in order to gain their Personal Licences to operate a pub.

Elphick and Charlton who recently took over the Community owned Rose and Crown spent the day at Diddly Squat Farm and had a great time

chatting to Jeremy and the Amazon team filming Season 4 of Clarksons Farm — and were pleased to see Jeremy pass his exam with flying colours !!

They even agreed to stock Jeremy's draught beer Hawkestone IPA at the Rose and Crown as a gesture of support and even invited Jeremy and Caleb to come to the Slaley Show - they are awaiting a reply still !!

Clarkson's commitment to using British ingredients at The Farmer's Dog aligns with the practices upheld at the Rose and Crown, emphasizing the importance of supporting local farmers and producers .

Their collaboration underscores the value of community and shared expertise in sustaining traditional British pubs amidst a changing economic landscape.

PS - watch this space for details of the Rose and Crown Christmas Day Lunch !!!!

David and Samantha

Pilates classes

Slaley Commemoration Hall holds Pilates classes every Monday evening at 7pm. This class is open to all levels and abilities, all you need to bring is a mat!

Please message Katie on 07872449405 or email cgcpilatesteacher@gmail.com if you would like more information.

Slaley Shop: Your Local 'Go-To' Right Here in the Village

We're here for all your everyday essentials, and a few treats too!

Pick up milk, eggs, newspapers, bread, cheese, snacks, cupboard staples, greeting cards, stationery, and much more.

Every time you shop with us — even just for a few bits — you're helping to keep our village shop running and supporting the whole community. Pop in and see what's on the shelves this week!



Blister Pack Recycling

We're pleased to let you know that the shop will now accept empty medicine blister packs for recycling. Where possible, we'd like to encourage residents to use the dedicated recycling point at Boots, but we're happy to provide a convenient local drop-off for those who need it.

Would You Like to Volunteer?

If you've got time to help, we'd love to hear from you! We have two new volunteer roles that could make a big difference:

Help Bank Coordinator

Could you set up and coordinate a *Help Bank*: a simple list of local people willing to help neighbours with small, practical tasks? That could include things like assembling flat-pack furniture, changing a lightbulb, hanging pictures, or even helping with the odd emergency plumbing job.

Your role would be to connect local helpers with the people who need a hand. It's a great role for someone who enjoys getting to know others and helping things run smoothly.

Fruit & Veg Coordinator

We also need a volunteer to manage our fruit & veg supplies: keeping an eye on stock levels, placing regular orders, and helping us keep the shelves stocked with fresh, high-quality produce.

Both roles are flexible and fully supported and they'll make a real difference to the shop and the wider village.

Interested? Pop into the shop or drop us an email:
slaleyshopinfo@gmail.com

Need a Boost for Your Local Project?

Slaley Community Shop's *Community Fund* supports local groups, events, and initiatives that benefit the community.

In the past we've contributed to Slaley Commemoration Hall extension; a Slaley Show marquee; Slaley School laptop batteries; a Village noticeboard and many more projects.

If you're part of a not-for-profit group, organising a one-off event, or running a local initiative, we'd love to hear from you.

To apply, just send a short written request to the Board at least eight weeks before funding is needed. If you're unsure where to start, drop us an email, we'd be happy to help.

Bake@TheShop – Thursdays & Saturdays

Thanks to our amazing volunteer bakers, we've got fresh homebakes every Thursday and Saturday morning. From lemon drizzle and raspberry bakewell to carrot cake and chocolate cookies. They sell out fast, so come early to grab a slice!

Stay Connected

Don't miss out on the latest shop updates, special offers, and community news:

Open daily: 8:30am – 12 noon
Email: slaleyshopinfo@gmail.com
Facebook: @slaleyshop
Instagram: @slaleycommunityshop

Pilgrimages!

Dear Friends,

When that April with his showers sweet
The drought of March has pierced root deep,
And bathed each vein with liquor of such power
That engendered from it is the flower,
When Zephyrus too with his gentle strife,
To every field and wood, has brought new life
In tender shoots, and the youthful sun
Half his course through the Ram has run,
And little birds are making melody,
Who all the night with open eye do sleep –
Nature their hearts in every way so pricks –
Then people long to go on pilgrimage...

Geoffrey Chaucer, opening lines of 'The Canterbury Tales'

We've made it through to Summer ... it was a pretty cold and dry Spring, wasn't it? And I wonder if, like the inhabitants of this fair county in the 14th Century, you suddenly feel nature stirring you to 'go on pilgrimage'?
As someone said, 'I just have to, *have to*, get out of here this weekend!'

I think Chaucer was onto something when he identified late Spring as a time when '*nature our hearts pricks*' and that we '*long to go on pilgrimage*'. We need something new after the winter. We want to make the most of the good weather. We want to be part of the spectacular rejuvenation of nature.

In the Middle Ages, this was the time people would plan trips to Canterbury, to Holy Island, to Walsingham or (for the more ambitious) Jerusalem, Rome or Santiago de Compostela.

Yet these trips were much more than just 'getting out of Northumberland'...

... There's a spiritual element to a pilgrimage (and there can be of course to any holiday): it's a getting in touch with nature and with God. There's also a communal element, for these are journeys which tend to be made in the company of friends and strangers. Even if you go alone, you meet people along communal pilgrimage paths. A fundamental aspect of a pilgrimage is that they are not just about your 'well-being'; but about conversations with people you meet along the way. When medieval people left Northumberland on pilgrimage, they would be spending time with their families and neighbours and bumping into friendly strangers along the way. Pilgrimages could therefore be opportunities to find a mate; or strike up a business relationship; or explore new trading opportunities.

Pilgrimage was a time to swap stories. (Chaucer famously collected these in '*The Canterbury Tales*.')

And therefore pilgrimage (as opposed to 'holiday') really values the journey – even over the destination.

'not in his goals, but in his transitions, man is great' – Ralph Waldo Emerson

This month at I shall be walking off on a journey of about 200-250 miles: Wainwright's '*Pennine Journey*'. It's a chance to do all the things I have written about here, and even maybe get fitter. And I shall be raising funds for the churches at Slaley, Riding Mill and Healey.

I'd encourage you to go on other pilgrimage type journeys, too – alone, with friends or family. Getting stuck is no fun at all. And bad for your spiritual health. It is in the transitions that we find greatness – and a great God too!

Here's to anticipation of powerful journeys this Summer as we walk with each other, and with Christ.

Are you thinking of working flexibly within the local area?

On behalf of the Riding Mill Parochial Church Council (PCC). and because of the kindness of past parishioners, the church there has the possibility to employ an administrative assistant for a couple of days a week. The process of advertising and recruiting is a little way off, but the PCC welcome expressions of interest - and Rev'd Diana is very keen to have conversations with interested people to scope what might be the best contractual arrangements before we start the formal processes. Her email is diana.johnson@cantab.net.

Church Services

A full list of services may be found on our "Church Near You" web page at:

<https://urlvanish.com/d314ca34>

And for Healey:

<https://urlvanish.com/e7be1b91>

June gardening column

Karen Melvin

It has been such a glorious spring that I have had flowers continually carpeting our lower spring garden since late January. Now is the time of blue and pink bells, three different kinds of honesty with the double celandine. Wild honesty has the most intense colour but the variegated forms have leaves that light up the wooded area. The blossoming trees continue with late cherries and early deutzias; *Deutzia longifolia Veitchii* looks pretty with the blue bells. *Magnolia Leonard Messel* is still showing its beautiful full cupped flowers. It is getting larger than I ever thought a magnolia would manage up here. I am having to cut back some branches of a slow-growing Persian Ironwood to allow light to reach the magnolia. And a large flowered cornus is shooting up in the foreground, quite beautiful in flower but with not quite enough space to ever become a huge tree. All these things are so much more vigorous than expected. The Persian Ironwood likes to droop dramatically so I will let it do its thing only on one side.

The clarity of light and sunny days have made this spring a season to really notice the many shades of green leaves: the ochre green of young oak, the lemon of young elm, the finger-paint green of sycamore, the silver of sorbus, the black green of ash shoots and the white sparkle of lime flowers. I first noticed a lime tree in flower while looking down the Pontburn valley from the Derwent Walk viaduct. It was an unusual view and I didn't recognise the beautiful white linear pattern of the flower bracts from above.

In the herbaceous border early plants like geums and geraniums are in flower; they are so easy and reliable in most positions. Since I started making notes a week back, the bearded irises have shot up, a surprise when it is so cool at night. I have an early dwarf bearded iris which always got flopped on in the herbaceous border. Since I moved it to the rockery, it is such a star and looks so exotic and glamorous.



Lime tree flowers



Tibetan poppy *Meconopsis grandis*

The glorious Tibetan poppies are out in the border along side new flowers almost every day. I favour combinations like white *Centaurea 'Amethyst in the Snow'* next to dark leaved *Phlox Firecracker*. I still allow the wild perennial cornflower, *centaurea montana*, in a few places in the garden.

A month ago I was waiting to plant out the french beans and sweet corn. Well, a month later and I am still waiting; it is so cold at night for early May. The courgettes were planted a while back covered in fleece, but show no growth. At least we are cropping early lettuce, spinach, seakale and asparagus broccoli. I am letting the broccoli go to seed as I do every year, saving it to plant in the spring,

as it is not available commercially. I am going to package some of this seed for Slaley Shop, too good a plant to lose.



**Centaurea montana Amethyst in the Snow
& Phlox Firecracker.**



Cream yellow dwarf bearded iris

June News from the WI

Annual Meetings are perhaps the most important date on the WI calendar as its where all members get to choose who is in charge. The proceedings at May's meeting were overseen by WI advisor and Shotley Bridge member Dee Ward who congratulated us on recruiting a healthy number of new members over the last couple of years after listening to the official round up minutes, Catherine's report of our year of activities and Helen's financial report. She also advised us of new developments within the organisation.

In a nutshell the voting was clear cut. There were 3 key re-elections; Catherine Myers was re-elected un-opposed for a 3rd year term as president, Margaret Rowell as vice president and Helen Colbourne as Treasurer. All committee members agreed to continue with the addition of newly joined Heather Sewell (welcome Heather) and Hilary Porteous stepped down from her secretary post (thanks for all your hard work, Hilary) with Vicky Pepys taking on that role.



Catherine Myers & Dee Ward

At the time of writing some of our members are looking forward to a boat trip to the Farnes and excited to perhaps glimpse the recent pod of Orcas that seems to appear every time Billy Shiel's boat crosses the water. Although it would be a shame if the family have moved on, the proximity of the puffins will make up for it when the ladies land. We've advised them to wear stout hats, Tern's beaks are very sharp!

The annual W.I Conference is online this year on 4th June. Special speakers are Angel Strawbridge (of Chateau fame) and Emma Bridgewater (of pottery fame) with the main resolution subject 'Bystanders or Lifesavers? It's to highlight the lack of feminine shaped dummies as Defibrillator training aids which can sadly lead to women receiving less aid due to embarrassment. Of course!

Why didn't it cross our minds before hearing this? We will be sent log on details any day now but if anyone without access to a computer would like to watch please contact us and we'll arrange an online pal for the day.

Our 11th June meeting brings together ourselves and members of the Whitley Chapel WI to meet and hear Author Emily Payne who was a worker 'in the oldest profession in the world' (not her description for the sake of a family friendly village newsletter described as thus) before turning to writing about her experiences. She describes her new book by simply saying 'forget the myths'. We don't know what to expect but it will certainly be enlightening.

A reminder that the Ukrainian Evening organised by the Moorland Group of WIs at Whitley Chapel Village Hall is on Friday 13th June 7pm for 7.15 start Tickets £5 from Catherine. It is presented by refugees hosted in the Northeast and it's an opportunity to learn firsthand about their music and dance, culture and food with updates from their homeland.

And another reminder that anyone wishing to go to the Moorland Group organised Autumn Harrogate Flower Show trip at Newby Hall on Friday 19th September must book asap with Catherine on 07530 439978. The ticket and transport is subsidised for WI members at £30 and non-members £40.

Our poppy knitting project continues but shows a few signs of slowing down understandably with such lovely weather conditions recently. Please keep at it though, it promises to look spectacular and it's something we'll all be proud of, come November. There's a knitted poppy class especially for WI members at this year's Slaley Show on August 9 and a trophy to be won; that should spur us all on!

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: Christine Johnston	682270
Bookings	slaleych@gmail.com	
County Councillor	Colin Horncastle	618259
Dial-A-Ride	A.D.A.P.T.	600599
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	slaleypc@gmail.com	
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	Chairman: Dale Holden	
Secretary: Fiona Pattinson	secretary.slaleyshow@hotmail.com	
The Travellers Rest	Lucy & Jed	673231
Women's Institute	President: Catherine Myers	673023
	Secretary: Vicky Pepys	07802 572326