

USEFUL NUMBERS & CONTACTS

Badminton Group	Fran Pugh	673429
Carpet Bowls	Jason & Jeannie Abdelnoor	67365
St Mary's Parish Church	Reverend Helen Savage	676852
St Elizabeth's Catholic Church	Father Jeroen Hoogland	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	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 Anne Livesey Clerk Pat Wilson	673787 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 JULY - AUGUST



2021

Slaley First School – July Update

As we come towards the end of another academic year, we look back with pride at all that we have achieved in very difficult circumstances. We know that we have only been so successful because we have all worked together and consistently offered support to each other.

Sadly, due to the continued restrictions, we are not able to end the school year as we would have liked, but we are determined this will not spoil any events for the children. Our Year 4s are busy preparing for their Leavers' Assembly and the next step in their educational journey and enjoying the fact that they can now help the younger children with their transition through the school now we are all back together in one bubble.

Transfer Day will go ahead, but only within school. The children will get the chance to spend a morning with their new teacher and new class mates, something we all enjoy.

Looking forward, we hope that when we return in September, life will be more 'back to normal'. It will be the start of another chapter in the life of Slaley First School as Mrs. Hayward takes over and continues to lead the school from strength to strength. She is very much looking forward to getting to know you all.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Slaley for making my time as Headteacher in the village school so enjoyable. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you all and I feel honoured to be part of Slaley's history. I'm sure I won't be a stranger to the village in the future! Have a lovely summer - keep well and enjoy the sunshine.

Best wishes,
Mrs. Brett

Contributions for September edition by Wednesday 25th August please.

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Fiona McKendrick: 673281 fionamckendrick@googlemail.com

July 2021 gardening column- Karen Melvin

Here I am in the middle of June writing this, poppies fully out, tall bearded irises, peonies and ceanothus at its intense best blue. But then, the bluebells are still in flower in the wood, the seasons all jammed together. The leaves are fresh on my golden trees, *Acer Cappidocium* and the golden cornelian cherry, both glimpsed in the same view as the variegated dogwood and *Acer Drummondii*, all lighting up the garden. To the front I have the fresh lemon yellow leaves of the full moon maple, a golden philadelphus, and a clipped yellow yew. Every view in the garden has some masses of bright leaves, along with shapes that hold interest in the dormant season - clipped forms, undulating or weeping tree trunks, coloured bark, silver needles, and the Northumbrian stone walls to contain and corral areas in the winter.



After the carpet of bright spring bulbs I look forward to seeing which of my cottage garden varieties of Granny's bonnets, aquilegia, have seeded and come into flower. I have a mixture of species from the National Collection, dainty alpine types, sweet doubles like pink Nora Barlow and Brown Barlow, named colour combinations like *Aquilegia Sunrise*, and the elegant yellow *Aquilegia longissima*. They are short-lived perennials that cross

Aquilegia crosses easily, so I try to keep different mixes in different parts of the garden and love to see each year's variations. The little doubles and the sharp spurs projecting to the sky contrast with the nodding geums, related to water avens. Some are bell shaped, some look up and some even glow from the back like *Geum East of Eden*. Poppies are out towering over these dainty flowers and the little explosions of alliums, along with elegant tall irises, like opera divas in fine velvet gowns, summer in full swing.

Back down to earth, I notice in the wild garden the rampant ground elder is actually being suppressed by woundwort, rose campion and creeping comfrey. I might plant some of the Tibetan lily seed down here. This year 4 spikes are shooting up to flower from the clump, meaning I probably won't have any for next year, as they take so many years to come into flower. The cornus trees, one of which I grew from seed, are starting to show their 4 pointed starry bracts, which will light up the summer garden. This

variety of *Cornus kousa* likes to line up all the bracts along each branch like waiting butterflies. I like these regular placings of flowers. The flowers of Solomons Seal below dangle in the opposite direction. A very small *Anemone pradesh obtusiloba*, from Harperley Hall, has been flowering since winter through snow and rain and now drought.



Anemone pradesh obtusiloba

Commemoration Hall Update

As always, there is a lot happening at the village hall!

The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Hunting have been sent to the Laing Art Gallery for restoration. We were successful in securing a grant for this from the Community Foundation.

There was a surprise when the team at the gallery dismantled the frame - they found that the portrait of Charles Hunting had been adapted to suit the frame and the lower part of his legs and those of the pet dog have been folded back within the frame! This has also revealed the name of the portrait painter: Charles Ernest Butler. Let's see what happens when they take Mrs. Hunting's portrait apart!

Other successful grant applications mean that the builders will be starting to renovate the Lantern in the next few weeks. The woodwork and general structure need repairing to make sure it is safe and doesn't start leaking.

Thank you anyone who brought books and CDs for us to scan. We have made about £130.

Fundraising continues for the extension to the hall - this is the new meeting room to replace the old committee room. There is now almost £60,000 promised and we need at least another £30,000. We hope that the Slayey community will continue to support this final stage and donate directly to help reach the final figure.

Thank you.

A View from the Vicarage

I risked derision (or instant dismissal) by talking about football on one of my weekly online 'thought's. What inspired me, however, was not the beautiful game itself but the claims of competing psychics that they could affect England's results.

Ever a fan of Daily Star headlines (I've yet to venture further into this august organ) I was intrigued by Yuri Geller's front-page claim that he could, 'have a say in who ends up winning Euro 2021.' He added, 'there are supernatural powers at play.'

Not into spoon-bending, at least not by thought-power alone, I was even more taken by the predictions of Sid the Seagull, who sadly failed to predict the result of the England-Scotland fixture correctly. He plumped for fish and chips rather than haggis and neeps, but as a wise seagull he probably knew, unlike the journalists who wrote about him, that many of Britain's most magnificent fish

suppers are fried up north of the border. I don't think Sid was confused for a moment. He knew the match would be a draw.

My slightly more serious reflections were about the real nature of freedom. I'm sure that we aren't controlled by the movement of the stars, spoon-benders or hungry sea-birds, but I also want to resist the notion that freedom should mean we can do exactly what we like. Indeed, I've never been more convinced that a distinctively and maybe typically paradoxical understanding of freedom as presented in the New Testament is just what we need now – in our communities here – and for all of us, including those who have little time for the church.

The big idea is that if we allow God's values to become the ruling force of our lives, in other words, kindness, forgiveness, love, hope and generosity, we'll discover a whole new and deeply fulfilling kind of freedom, based not on the pursuit of our selfish aims, but on the building up of community.

The highly distinctive Christian addition to this is that if we accept that we are God's alone, we don't have to prove anything. We *are* loved, we *are* accepted and we *are* valued. We're thereby set free from being threatened or feeling threatened by each other. We're free to be ourselves, but we'll discover this most fully when we show our love for one other.

Even if you can't subscribe to the Christian rationale that so excites me, I hope from the bottom of my heart that a similar dynamic may continue to sustain our community life into this critical time as we try to recover from Covid. So then, I offer no predictions, but real grounds for hope.

Helen

Church Services and News

We worship every Sunday at St Mary's at 10.45am.

At the moment we've retreated indoors, but when a glorious sunny Sunday comes our way, we'll gladly escape into the churchyard extension.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

Evensong is at Healey at 5pm on Sundays 25th July and 29th August.

Climate Sunday – 25 July

We hope to mark this – a national initiative – in a special way, including outdoor worship at 10.45, followed by a range of fun activities for all the family.

Weekly Sunday services are streamed on Facebook as well as 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 on our website: www.moorland-group.org.uk

Messy Church Picnic

Saturday 17 July at 11am at Minsteracres Monastery – lots of exciting activities and then a picnic for the whole family. For more information, please ask Helen: 01434 676852. All are welcome.

Vicarage Garden Coffee Mornings

If the weather plays ball, you are warmly invited (of course) to an al fresco coffee morning on Friday 9 July from 10.30am and then on Friday 6 August – a great way to enjoy a bit of company and a bit of home baking.

Slaley Weather Report for June

The rainfall for the first five months of the year are as follows: January 113mm, February 81mm, March 19mm, April 22mm and May 64mm. However, the dry spell we are all experiencing in Slaley began at the end of May. We have had 24 consecutive days without rain except one, when the rain gauge measured 0.1mm, and on the summer solstice, 0.5mm, but my little weather station measured nothing! Normally in June, Hexham (our nearest climate data) would expect on average 82mm of rain.

Anyone who watches the local weather forecasts on a daily basis will also have seen that we have often enjoyed sunnier weather this month than forecast. This has often been accompanied by moderate to strong drying winds, though during the last week, the winds have been light. This variation is explained by the position of the high-pressure cells which have influenced our weather. The nearer the centre of the high, the lighter the winds, but we've often experienced moderate or even strong winds where the isobars have been more tightly packed, positioning us on a pressure gradient.

Where these have blown from the East with a cold North Sea, the winds have often been cool, but the sunlight strong. A perfect combination for causing sunburn!

The maximum temperature this month was on 9th June when it reached 23.7°C.

Olwen Savage



Many Slaley Show members will have received an email message or letter from Marge Rastall, the Chairman of Slaley Show expressing regret that yet again, the Show cannot go on. If you didn't receive a communication maybe you would like to update your details as our last secretary has left. Please let Catherine Lincoln or Stella Douglas know and we will do our best to keep you in contact with Show business.

catherine@reaston.plus.com stellacdouglas@gmail.com

The Show is now looking for secretaries to join the committee and others willing to help in any way they can so that the 2022 Show is really successful. Can you help? Call Marge on 673547.

Hog Roast Saturday 21st August.

Slaley Show committee wish to invite everyone from the community - young and old - to join them in a free complimentary evening to enjoy a Hog Roast, meet friends, listen to music and enjoy drinks from the bar in the Show field on Saturday 21st August.

Children's sports will take place from 5pm followed by entertainment for the grown ups.

Entry will be by ticket only. Please ask any committee member or simply call Marge Rastall on 07834612900 or 01434 673547 to reserve your tickets.

The show wishes to recognise all the support and help provided by you all over the many years and provide an evening where you can socialise, meet friends and try and make up for missing our third show since 2018.

"The Slaley Leek Club Flower and Vegetable Show was due to be held on Saturday 11th of September this year. It is with regret that the Committee has taken the decision not to hold an open public show this year. We have to commit to our schedules by no later than early July and the situation with Coronavirus in the UK is currently too unstable for us to be able to risk putting a full public show on. We haven't taken this decision lightly but it is in line with the vast majority of other similar shows in Northumberland.

In addition our finances have taken a significant hit in the last 15 months or so with no fundraising having been possible. We very much hope that the situation with Covid will ease which will then allow us to start to repair our financial position and will hopefully therefore be in a position to put a full show on in 2022.

We will still be allowing the members only to bench just their leeks on the 11th of September and will also work with the School to decide which junior classes may still be able to proceed. We will be getting a note out to that effect in the September Slaley Newsletter.

Malcolm Goodwin. Chairman, Slaley Leek Club Flower and Vegetable Society

Slaley's Artisan Market Day

Wednesday July 28th 2.00 - 6.30p.m.

Artisan products for sale in Slaley Commemoration Hall
There will be breads, Northumberland cheese and meats;

Organic Vegetables, soft drinks and chocolate.

Slaley School has the charity stall selling delights made especially for you while our Community Environment Group hope to tempt with its "green themed" goods.

Haberdashery from the Woolly Van, Plants from Hollybush and Artworks for sale, there will be plenty to view.

Slaley will become the hot-spot for eating out!

Special market day menus at

The Travellers Rest and The Rose and Crown

Lunches, afternoon drinks or evening meal the choice is yours. (both our inns have children's play areas)

School holidays need not be boring: come to Fire and Dough Pizza van at the Commemoration Hall car park!

Buy a drink - Gin and Tonia are there and tea and coffees also served.

Invite friends and family to Slaley on July 28th there will be so much to see and do.

In addition to the market



We have ordered 2 compost bins to sell on at the market in July. As promised I have made some bears that are made completely out of recycled wool products that can be sold. Also I am going to send you some pictures of some flowers I have done made out of old plastic bottles, again I will do some to sell.

Anne

Recycling Notes and News

Used razors and razor blade recycling (any brand) scheme. Collect **at home** and place inside the free envelope than return the envelope to Gillette. Each envelope holds a maximum of 16 razors and/or razor blades. You can request 4 envelopes each year. It has taken 4 weeks for the first envelope to arrive

If anyone would like to take part in this please send your email address to Pat Wilson or Andy Hayden and the link to get started will be provided.

Thanks to everyone for the recycling so far, ie cheese wrappers (which will make garden furniture), batteries (to recycle lithium), printer cartridges (in support of the Great North East Air Ambulance Service), empty pill blister packs (in support of Marie Curie) and old clothes and shoes (in support of Scope in Hexham), all of which are exceeding initial expectations.

Other recycling, via TerraCycle, is regularly being considered, details of which will follow.



The board and key members of the shop workforce met on the 5th June to discuss the business plan. This is now being finalised and we hope to publish this in the next month.

Following the recent survey, the design of the shop sign is underway. Also from the survey, the top choices for new products were cakes and scones and bread. We are looking in to how to source these locally and will make sure we let people know when the 'scone drop' will be!

We are delighted that more volunteers have come forward to help in the shop. There are still plenty of jobs both in the shop and behind the scenes so please get in touch if you are interested in helping out.

We have some great new products in the shop including an eco friendly range from Suma and burgers and bacon from Robson's butchers.

By the time you read this we will have had our seedling swap. We are hoping that this will be the first of many pop up events at the shop so look out for details of these in the shop and on social media.

Badminton Club

We will not be playing badminton in July or August, but will start again in September.
Fran Pugh Tel: 673429

Marge Rastall, Chair of Governors

Debbie Brett, our wonderful head at Slaley school, is leaving us at the end of term to spend more time at home. She has worked tirelessly, with great enthusiasm and dedication over the last 6 years she has been in charge. This has been especially so during these testing times of the pandemic. She leaves a happy school where the children are nurtured and cared for and progressing well in all aspects. The governors, staff and above all the pupils will miss her greatly. We wish her well in the future.



GRATITUDE, PROPHECY & HOPE

During this retreat we will reflect on our encounters with gratitude, prophecy and hope, with reference to the lives of some of the Passionist saints. The retreat itself will offer a balance of input from the retreat team – personal time to reflect on where these perennial themes

have been and are present in your life – shared reflection. Friday 10 September, 7pm to Sunday 12 September, 2pm. Suggested donation: £150

EMBODIED CONTEMPLATIVE WITH TERRY DOYLE

Encountering the practise of mediation through the language of the body. Using breathing exercises, gentle stretching and slow Tai Chi movements along with seated meditation periods, the weekend will be nourishing for mind, body and spirit. **Suggested donation: £175**

Suitable for all ages and abilities . Please wear loose clothing. **Friday 22nd October, 7pm to Sunday 24 October, 2pm.**

HORROR AND HUMOUR IN THE BIBLE WITH JOHN BELL

To the casual reader, humour in the bible can be totally lost-but the humour is there, in the Old Testament and in the New for those who have ears to hear. Horror-as bloodshed, lightning bolts ,the cursing of enemies-is more commonly known, and we may well wonder what its doing there if God is a god of love. By taking a cool at these awkward texts, we can find in them resources for faith rather than for doubt. In this retreat we will deal boldly with both. Rev John Bell is a member of the Iona Community's wild Goose Resource Group, hymn writer, author and occasional broadcaster. **Friday 19 November, 7pm to Sunday 21 November, 2pm. Suggested donation: £175**