

USEFUL NUMBERS & CONTACTS

Badminton Group	Fran Pugh	673429
Carpet Bowls	Jason & Jeannie Abdelnoor	673651
St Mary's Parish Church	Reverend Helen Savage	676852
Slaley Methodist Church	Reverend David Goodall	603139
St Elizabeth's Catholic Church	Father Jeroen Hoogland	673248
Commemoration Hall	Chairman Ros Doonan	673173
	Bookings Stella Douglas	673001
Community Trust	Chairman Norman Watson	673914
County Councillor	Colin Horncastle	618259
Craft Group		
Dial -A-Ride	A.D.A.P.T	600599
Film Club	Jean and Michael Elphick	673443
Friends of Slaley School	Emma Turnbull	673317
Hexham Hospital	0344 811 8111	
Ladycross Nature Reserve	Joan Jewitt	673245
Leek Club	Malcolm Goodwin	673408
Local History Group	Pat Wilson	673388
	Ian Hancock	673502
Mobile Hairdresser	Linda Johnston	673196
Northumberland CC	Report faulty Streetlights/Potholes	03456006400
Parish Council	Chairman Robbie Hutchinson	673107
	Clerk Pat Wilson	673388
Police PC Sue Cockburn	For non emergency calls please ring 101	
Post Office Van	Martin Nichol	01661
	Stocksfield Post Office	842110
Rose & Crown Pub		673996
Slaley Shop		673201
Slaley First School	Head, Mrs Debbie Brett	673220
Slaley Notes in Hexham Courant	Stella Douglas	673001
	Helen Savage	676852
Slaley Parish Website	www.slaley.org.uk	
Slaley Show Society	Chairman, Marge Rastall	673547
	Secretary Fiona Pattinson	07766 467 455
Slaley Red Squirrel Group	Margaret Bates	673461
Travellers Rest Pub	Ian and Darren	673231
Women's Institute	President Margaret Rowell	673589
	Secretary Hilary Porteus	673637



SLALEYNEWS JUNE 2020



While we are still heavily restricted by coronavirus restrictions this month's News may look a little strange. Hopefully some sort of normality will be resumed soon but that may be a different normal than the one we have been used to.

I have tried to garner a few contributions on the lockdown and hope that they will provide some encouragement from the fact that everyone's experience is probably similar to your own.

Mine are - Jigsaws - 5000 pieces so far, getting better at crossword puzzles, trying to remember what day it is, praise the Lord for so much sunshine, but as a farmer why could we not have had a little more rain (just overnight would be fine)? Gardens looking well tended, difficulty getting to the bottle bank, pleasure at seeing families exercising together (sometimes with an occasional reluctant member). Cyclists and dogs galore and so little traffic. When can I have a haircut! And finally admiration for the help and community spirit from everyone. Jim

When Jim asked me to write a piece about the highs and lows of lockdown I was reminded of a discussion we had at work last week. We were discussing how we can help people to look forward positively as we emerge from confinement. It goes without saying that, for many, this has been a time of worry and sorrow, but there have also been some positives. As we move slowly out of this period of lockdown we invited each other to think about what we would like to hold onto from this time and take forward with us. We had a lot in common - people talked about enjoying the slower pace of life and not feeling pressure to be sociable and busy. There was a lot of talk about increased connection with others, whether that be colleagues, local communities or friends and families far afield. We have all become more adept at using technology - who knew that you could 'zoom' a few months ago! I, for one, have finally managed to achieve my goal of daily yoga, enabled by a traffic free commute and a commitment to develop my skills. We talked about wanting to hold on to 'COVID days', days when you feel no pressure to get out of the house and instead just allow yourselves to be and not be doing. I hope that you can think about what you might like to hold on to and keep with you as we emerge from this strange and perplexing time. Fiona

Contributions for July edition by Friday June 22nd please.

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

SLALEY & HEXHAMSHIRE OIL BUYING GROUP.

Our May order was the last of the traditional season and achieved a tremendous price less than 20 pence per litre although there are already signs of rising prices

Our membership is currently 173 and during 2019 / 2020 season we ordered 490,000 litres saving our members an estimated £19,600 for the year

Our Summer top up is in July, **deadlines are orders to me by Friday 10th of July for delivery during week commencing 20th July** and from September 2020 we go out to tender every month until May 2021

Thank you all for your continued support

Full details from Neil Whatmough (co-ordinator) Slaley & Hexhamshire oil buying group by email at nwhatmough@btinternet.com or by phone on (01434) 676949

People Quiz An apology is due, but congratulations to those who spotted last month's deliberate error, of course Cramlington is the new town in Northumberland.

1. Please name the famous footballing brothers born in Ashington in the 1930s
2. Who is our local MP and which party does he represent?
3. Which fictional, local detective is based on the books by Ann Cleeves and who plays her character on TV?
4. We all know that Emperor Hadrian built a long wall just up the road, but what was the name of his life-long companion and love, who tragically drowned in the Nile?
5. A Newcastle born celebrity who has a son called Bear. Who is she?
6. Which Northumbrian philanthropist, whose trust recently gave a generous donation to the Commemoration Hall, died in 1934?
7. Now a National Trust property, Cherryburn was the home to which famous Northumbrian?
8. Who is the voice of Danger Mouse, BBC quiz presenter and distant relative of the original owners of Cragside?
9. Who is the author of the DCI Ryan mystery series which includes the books "Holy Island" and "Sycamore Gap"?
10. Which local member of our community has twice been nominated for the prestigious Louis Roederer International Wine Writers' Award?
11. Who am I? I was born in 1828 and played a key role in improving conditions for women in education and public health. I was the president to the North of England Council for the Higher Education of Women in 1867. I was featured on stamps released by the Royal Mail celebrating some of the UK's greatest humanitarians.
12. Even though we are geographically south of the Tyne, we have a mayor who covers our region. Who is the North of Tyne elected Mayor?
13. Back to Hadrian's Wall, which succeeding Emperor undertook reparative work around 208 A.D.?
14. Who is the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria?
15. Slaley Hall hosts the COCO children's charity annual golf day. Which Olympic sports personality is the co-founder of the charity?

News Update from Slaley First School.

Proposed Reopening of Schools – Phase 1.

As we enter the first stage of exiting lockdown, schools have been asked to prepare for a wider reopening. After much planning and risk assessing, we now have an initial proposal which has been agreed by governors and shared with parents. Our 'model' will involve 'zones' within the building and designated work/play spaces outside for 'bubbles' of children and allocated staff. It is therefore **vital** that members of the Slaley Village Community are aware that there will be **NO** community access to the school grounds from Monday, 1st June (or from when the government says it is safe to go to a wider reopening of schools). This is *extremely important* as we have been guided by the science in the planning of increased outdoor provision which is deemed safer for small groups. To ensure that the children, allocated to particular areas of the school grounds, and their families, are kept safe, we need to ensure that these children are the only people accessing the site.

Parents are our Superheroes

Our parents continue to be amazingly supportive in educating their children from home. Teachers have been providing weekly home learning packs via the school website, which parents have accessed and delivered at home. Our website is now full of fantastic photographs and reports showing the work children and parents have been doing during lockdown along with some super fun activities and projects too. Our staff, describe the emails and photographs from children as 'the highlight of their week'. Thank you!

Pillowcases for Scrub Bags – supporting our NHS

We are pleased to report that our community has donated over fifty pillow cases, quilt covers and fabric to be transformed into 'scrub bags' for the NHS. These bags have already been distributed and very gratefully received. They have been shared between care homes and hospitals and the staff in the care homes particularly loved receiving the pictures and messages from the children. An update (with pictures) can be found on the school website - many thanks to all who donated.

Mental Health

Now more than ever, we are aware of the importance of looking after each other and supporting those around us, especially those who may be suffering with mental health issues. We regularly update our website with lots of ways to support children, friends and family, who may be struggling, so please feel free to use these resources as you may find them helpful during this difficult time. Mrs. O'Neill has also received feedback from local residents that the colourful pictures in the windows and soft toys are making them smile on their daily walks. Those involved should be aware that this is helping the mental health of our community and is much appreciated. We are encouraging our children to recognise that their contributions during this time are valued and appreciated by everybody. For many residents, seeing the children cycling through the village and taking their daily exercise around our local area is a source of hope and happiness.

Finally, we just want to reassure you that we will continue to stringently follow government guidance in order to make sure that our plans and actions, going forward, continue to keep Slaley First School a safe place for our families and staff. We hope that it will not be long before we can resume teaching in an environment that is both safe and comfortable for our children. We hope you all remain safe and well at this time.

Best wishes from all the staff at Slaley First School.



Ladycross Nature Reserve

Working with People for Nature – Working with Nature for People

The nature reserve continues to stay closed and walks and talks are cancelled. Hopefully we can resume the walks later in the year. It is difficult to stay social distancing on the walks – it is OK while walking but when the leader is speaking it can be difficult for those at the back to hear. We continue to monitor the situation. Members and friends have been sending in their recordings of what they see and hear from their gardens and on their walks. Ian puts them on the nature reserve website www.ladycrossnature.org.uk There has been quite a few more unusual sightings and some really great photos. We hope you all continue to stay safe and hope to see you again in the not too distant future. Stay safe, Joan



Quiz Answers

1. Bobby and Jackie Charlton. 2. Guy Opperman, Conservative. 3. DC Vera Stanhope and Brenda Blethyn 4. Antinous. 5. Cheryl Tweedy/Cole 6. Sir James Knott 7. [Thomas Bewick](#). 8. Alexander Armstrong. 9. L. J. Ross 10. Helen Savage 11. Josephine Butler 12. Jamie Driscoll 13. Septimius Severus 14. Kim McGuinness 15. Steve Cram

Looking for something new to read?

If anyone would like any of the books from the Commemoration Hall collection we have listed them on the village website (www.Slaley.org.uk). Please contact me via the Hall email address: SlaleyCH@gmail.com and we can arrange collection/distribution. There are over 150 titles to choose from! Thanks Debra

Commemoration Hall £100,000 for 100 years



As everyone knows the proposed stage 1 work on the hall, the replacement of the toilets, was postponed due to the COVID19.

The builder Ryton Construction will be commencing work sometime in the week of the 25th of May this work will take about 10 weeks to complete.

We had our first Zoom trustees meeting on the 20th May, a chance for us all to catch up. Margaret Weatherly our Treasurer for the past 27 years? has decided not to carry on so retired at this meeting.

I wish to thank her on behalf of the trustees for the work she has done over the years to support the hall. Stella Douglas has agreed to take over the role of Treasurer

Sadly Brenda Hutchinson a trustee for many years who had retired as a trustee has died. On behalf of the trustees, we send our condolences to Vickey and the rest of the family.

The proposed launch of fundraising for phase 2, the new small hall has been delayed but not postponed. We are all working to develop ideas to continue raising money so that we can continue refurbishment of the hall.

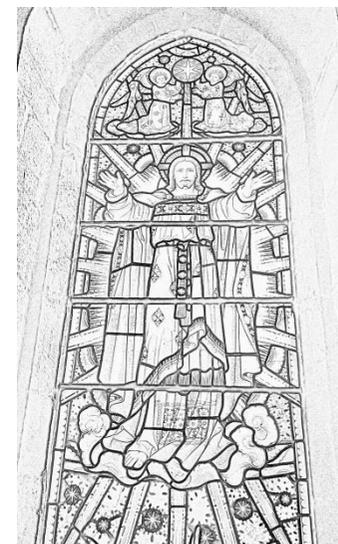
Thank you for all the support we have had in the past, we will need it in the future.

Rosaleen Doonan

Notes from the Vicarage

I'm sad that for the time being we aren't allowed to leave the church open even for private prayer, but we've not stopped praying. As a sign of this you may have heard the church bells ringing out most mornings as well as every Thursday evening at 8pm when we have clapped for carers. One small concession and privilege is that when I check the building every day, I'm now allowed to stop and say my own prayers there.

Although I find that I'm far busier than I imagined I might be, I do have a bit more time to sit and think and I'm noticing things that I've never quite done in the old, more hurried days. One of these is the stained glass window behind the altar. Just like the fictional priest Dom Camillo in the wonderful comic novels by Giovanni Guareschi set in Italy's Po Valley, I find myself talking to the Jesus I see there,



especially when things aren't going too well or when I'm a bit down. He doesn't reply (at least not straight out), but I'm surprised how much these rather one-sided conversations help.

I began to look more closely at the window. Its imagery is fairly conventional and, if I'm honest, a bit sentimental, but something about it is compelling. It's all very discreet, but if you look closely the risen and glorious Jesus still bears the faint scars of his execution. There is pain behind that apparently immaculate imagining of a Jesus - who almost certainly bears no resemblance to the real person.

Read the inscription at the base of the window and the pain suddenly becomes more acute and real. The window, we learn, is a memorial by grieving parents who lost their first child, a daughter in infancy and then a twenty-one year-old son at sea in 1906. The family were successful timber merchants. They lived in style at Highclere House, but their lives had been torn apart by grief. I do so hope the window that they gifted to the church gave them some comfort and hope.

If the conventional images of Christianity may sometimes seem a little sugary and sentimental in a Victorian, keeping-up-appearances kind of way, the true story of Jesus addresses the harsher realities of human existence, just as befell the Blaxland-Atkinson family in our window. When we are thoroughly fed up and desperate that Covid-19 and everything else that spoils our lives would just go away it's maybe worth remembering that our prayers are to a God who also knows what it's like be tired, confused and even abandoned. My God is therefore no plaster saint or sentimental stained-glass image and that's why I feel that the conversations I have in church as I look at that very same image on the window have real meaning.

Whenever you hear that bell ring, I invite you stop for a moment, and really notice who's around you and remember the complex stories that make up all our lives; and even if the Christian message rings no bells with you, to still then hope, from the bottom of your heart, that we may all find healing and hope.

The church is still here!

Although we are still required to close all our buildings, you can join any of our weekly Sunday services (they go live at 10.30am each Sunday) and access Helen's weekly 'thoughts for the day' by clicking on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/moorlandgroup/> You don't need to join Facebook! You can listen to them all at any time of your choice.

We hold 'coffee after church' by Zoom every Sunday at 11am. If you'd like to take part, please drop Helen a line. We're even thinking about re-starting similar Saturday morning monthly coffee mornings. Trouble is, you'll have to bake your own scones!

If you know of anyone who needs a call or would like Helen to pray specially for someone, please phone her on 01434 676852.

Slaley's Pyramid of Care – we're still here for you

If you're self-isolating or unable to go out for any reason and need help with shopping, especially from Slaley Community Shop, posting (necessary) mail and collecting other urgent supplies; or if you'd just welcome a friendly chat on the phone, please remember to let your area rep know.

If you **can't** find the card with details of who your area rep. is and how to contact them, please contact Olwen Savage on 01434 676852. She will arrange for someone to attend to your needs.

Prescriptions from Corbridge Medical Centre Pharmacy

Please don't forget that if you would like your regular prescription to be delivered to you from Corbridge Health Centre, we can arrange this through the Pyramid of Care. Prescriptions are collected and delivered every Friday.

If you would like to join the scheme please phone the Medical Centre on 01434 632011 and ask for the dispensary – after 2pm and ideally by the Wednesday of any week –and they will arrange for your prescription to be added to the Slaley Box.

Slaley Community Shop News

Our new, daily, restricted opening hours from 9am to 12 noon continue to work well and our amazing volunteers are utterly fantastic. Thank you all so much!

We continue to maintain a fairly comprehensive of basic goods thanks to the generous willingness of the Tyne Valley Ices team to collect our orders every week from Booker in the Team Valley. In addition, we have a thoroughly fine, indeed expanded, selection of high-quality items from a range of local suppliers. These include meats from Robson and Sons (Hexham); cheese and yoghurt from Slack House Farm and, of course, the wonderful Northumbrian Pedigree milk and cream from Marley Cote Walls as well as fresh eggs. You don't need to brave the supermarket queues!

Zoom into another wine tasting with Helen

Helen Savage will host a wine another tasting on **Thursday 11 June** via Zoom – with two wines specially ordered through Slaley Shop. The idea is simple and already tried and very successfully tested – buy the wine, join the meeting at a set time and Helen will guide you through the wines as we taste them together and she'll suggest food pairings too. If you think it sounds like fun, please contact her on helensavage1@gmail.com and she'll send you full details. Last month we had two 'sittings' at 5pm and 8pm. We'll almost certainly repeat what seems like a winning formula.

After 8 weeks in lockdown, these things I know:

1. I don't want my lockdown bubble with my husband and mother to end.
2. My husband and mother do.
3. My husband and mother have secretly named me 'Maj' (her majesty) which probably explains points 1. and 2. above.
4. Jigsaws tell you a lot about people's personality.
5. Slaley people are truly amazing; kind, caring and funny.
6. Slaley shop sells much more than you think.
7. My husband is Monty Don in the garden, Keith Floyd in the kitchen and Stig of the Dump in all other zones.
8. Hairdressing should be left to the professionals.
9. Eating meals together at the table can be very instructive:

Mam: "what bird eats its own body weight in food every day?"

Us: "is it a small bird?"

Mam: "yes"

Us: "can it be found in the UK?"

Mam: "yes"

Us: "how many letters?"

Mam: "5"

Us: "we give up"

Mam: "The humming bird" (work that one out! The Editor)

10. I'm the luckiest person on earth.

Life in Lockdown (with Young Children!)

I have been asked to try and capture a feel for what is like in lockdown with two young boys (age 5 – nearly 6, counting down the days!! - and 8). I think we have been luckier than most, living in a village like Slaley and both having jobs that we can do from home but here's a bit of a taster....

I think the best way to sum up the last few weeks is like being on a big exhausting emotional roller coaster that you can't get off! There have been some ups and downs along the way – here are a few

Down – worrying about the schools shutting and how to manage home school and work (then worrying about the schools going back!!)

Up – finding that it is possible (sort of)

Down – the boys missing playing with their friends. Everybody missing spending time with family and friends.

Up – lots of calls with the grandparents, family and friends on line, pub quizzes and drinks evenings, support and fun on What's App groups (including Slaley Mums!!), boys' conference calls with their friends (much helpless laughter – don't ask me what they were discussing!). Watching the boys spend hours chatting and playing together around the house and garden. Getting to know our new neighbours (at a distance, of course!)

Down – feeling guilty for not doing a good enough job at work, feeling guilty for not doing a good enough job schooling the kids and making the time 'special'

Up – Lots of cuddles and when the boys say this was the 'best day ever', or 'I love my life'

Down – doing a recorded training session with customers on line, with a full blown tantrum going on in the background! Days when everyone is winding everyone else up. Abandoning simple persuasion and going to full blown bribery to get your child to write 'Just one sentence!'

Up – The flexibility and understanding shown by work colleagues and customers alike to the situation. No rushing around, time focusing on teaching the boys new things, rediscovering and playing with long discarded toys

Down – cancelled holidays to far away places

Up – Rediscovering our love of Slaley and the surrounding area, finding new walks and getting the boys out on the bikes on the road for the first time. Going rainbow and teddy bear hunting in the village and joining in 'Clap for Carers'

Final Up – Cake (lots of it), great meals with the family, cooking on an open fire and the Majestic Wine Delivery!!!!

Parish Council Notes

The Parish Council met via a Zoom on May 11th.

All members managed to access the meeting this month although the County Councillor was not able to attend.

Many of the regular issues were discussed especially those which involved infrastructure.

The PC continues to keep in constant contact with NCC about these problems and works hard to find solutions.

Home - by Edward Irish (Age 8)

Home is writing stories,

Home is playing games with my brother,

Home is building things from Lego,

Home is getting crafty!

Home is happy at the moment,

Home is writing birthday cards,

Home is dressing up in silly costumes,

Home is painting pictures,

Home is learning how to cook,

Slaley Garden Column June 2020 Karen Melvin

This spring has been a glorious bubble of bright glowing light and the drama of emerging leaves and blossom amidst all the catastrophe. These times have shown that we need to "rewild ourselves" as I read somewhere. Never the less, we are all missing friends and family. I am writing this in mid May so don't really know what will be happening next month. Slaley forest has been a surprise, as I walk there nearly every day. Under the mature Scots pines are carpets of heather and bilberry. The bilberry bushes are full of swelling fruit, acres of them.



A friend with a beautiful double walled garden with fancy parterres and pleached fruit trees said if she collected anything it would be geraniums. (I mean garden geraniums, not those indoor pot plants, pelargoniums. The double naming is Linnaeus's fault in 1738). I was shocked; such a boring little plant, thought I. Then later down through the years of gardening efforts, I found out how useful they are. I have a lot of them in my borders, probably a different one every few metres. They flower all season, or like geranium pratense Mrs Kendal Clark accommodatingly die down and make space for my white oriental poppy and

then Japanese anemone Queen Charlotte. Geraniums have colours that blend and join the garden up, filling in gaps for a full tightly packed cottage style that is easy to look after. In the herbaceous border they give a meadow look which I love. If I see one in a pot that I don't have I will buy it, as there is always a place they will fit, from the lush front of the border to the dry shady spaces under trees or behind the house.

They come in sizes from the 3' tall floppy geranium Armenum and geranium sylvaticum Blue Cloud and variegated Splish Splash to the small 6" high rockery Geranium Sanguinum, both Lancastrienne and striatum are lovely. The new Geranium Roxanne with a white centre is large and showy, quite beautiful. Cut them all back to avoid seeding. I usually forget to be so ruthless.

I also like the garden species of water avens and have many named varieties that seed around into odd crannies like their wild counterparts. I collected seed of wood avens from the hedgerow by mistake, a very rampant seeder, but I read in George Proud's "Wild Flowers" that the dried roots smell of cloves and can be left in cupboards to protect cloths from moths. I have already tried lavender flowers under the couch and bed, maybe I'll give this one a go.

Post Office Van A reminder

The current hours for the van's visits to Parkside are:-

Monday, Thursday & Friday 4.15 – 5.30 pm
Wednesdays & Saturdays 8.30 – 9.45 am

And don't forget if you still prefer to have cash you can get topped up here using one of your cards



Congratulations to Dennis and Maureen Clark on their 60th Wedding Anniversary. Lots of love from all their friends and family.