



# SLALEY NEWS MARCH 2024



This month we have news from the Shop about card payments, and an appeal to vote for them in the Countryside Alliance awards. Talks about moths and birds, and a special event at Ladycross, part of the Seeds of Hope arts project, bringing together Ukrainian and UK artists living in Tynedale to explore new pathways to peace. And Michael Darrington will spill the beans on Greggs!

Towards the end of March, Sleafy will be featured in the Tyne Valley Film Festival, when we are showing "The Imitation Game". Tickets for these events will offer half price for anyone under 25! This festival offers 36 films over 14 days, in 26 venues across the Tyne valley. Leaflets will be available in the Shop and the Hall.

And we now have a new volunteer, Simon Knight, taking over from Ken Bates for deliveries around Sleafy Hall!

## **Moths and Muffins**

You can still come along on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March at 10.30am to Sleafy Commemoration Hall to be **moth balled over** and **mothstonished**.

To book your free place (all welcome, spread the word) contact  
anneporter3@gmail.com

## **Traffic problems in March!**

If you're travelling into Hexham from the 18<sup>th</sup> March, watch out for the road closure at Eastgate on the B6306, where the County Council will be undertaking kerbing and resurfacing works. It is expected that the road will be closed as follows: 18<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> March, 7:30 am- 5 pm, 25<sup>th</sup> March - 7<sup>th</sup> April at all times, and 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> May 6 pm - 11 pm.

## **Contributions for April**

***Contributions for the April edition by Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March or earlier, please!***

Send by email to [sleafynews@icloud.com](mailto:sleafynews@icloud.com), or to  
[michael@elphicks.myzen.co.uk](mailto:michael@elphicks.myzen.co.uk)

## Ladycross Nature talk

**An illustrated talk by Martin Davison: "The Birds of Colonsay".**

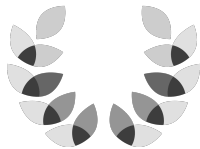
Colonsay is a small island with a diverse landscape and with that comes an exciting range of birdlife – the rasping Corncrake, Choughs playing on the wind, and the mighty White Tailed Eagle.

Martin is based in Kielder Forest but has been going to Colonsay for nearly 30 years to help survey its wildlife.

***On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm in Slaley  
Commemoration Hall.***

***Entrance is £5 (cash only: no cards) and a raffle ticket is  
£1 (to help with the ongoing upkeep of the reserve).***

**Countryside  
Alliance  
Awards**



**Slaley Community Shop!**  
**Countryside Alliance Awards**

We're delighted to have been shortlisted for a Countryside Alliance Award for "Best Village Shop". The Awards are known as the "Rural Oscars" and aim to celebrate rural businesses, and those who work hard to keep our communities and rural economy alive and well.

Our volunteers are a fantastic team, and are very much appreciated by the local community, but it would be wonderful for them to receive wider recognition for the amazing job they do.

The winners are chosen through a public vote, so we'd like to invite you to vote for us - just follow this link: <https://www.research.net/r/CAANMap>

Voting opened on Monday 19th February & closes on Monday 1st April. We're a small community, so every vote counts - please share the link if you can. We appreciate that people may not endorse some aspects of the Countryside Alliance's campaigning, but we would very much welcome your support!

## **Payments using Cash, Debit Cards or Credit Cards**

Since Covid, a much higher proportion of our sales in the shop are paid for by credit or debit card. We want to encourage everyone to buy from our shop, so we do not specify a minimum value for credit or debit card payment. However, we do not specify a minimum value for credit or debit card payment. But we thought that, as Members of our shop, you should be aware of the charges we incur, so you can decide how to pay for purchases.

The shop incurs no additional costs for payments made using cash but does when debit or credit cards are used.

These additional costs are

**Debit cards** - 0.52% + £0.06 for example a £1 purchase incurs a charge of £0.07 a £10 purchase incurs a charge of £0.11

**Credit cards** - 1.39% +£0.05 for example a £1 purchase incurs a charge of £0.07 a £5 purchase incurs a charge of £0.19

This may not sound a lot but over the last 12 months the shop has incurred over £1,000 in costs associated with debit and credit cards transactions. This is money that could be spent improving the shop and supporting activities in the local community through the shop's community fund.

So although we accept debit and credit cards we would be grateful if payment, particularly for small value purchases, is made using cash, then debit cards and lastly credit cards.

### **Newspaper Deliveries**

We would like to apologise to all our newspaper customers for the delivery problems we have been experiencing. The long-standing Smiths delivery driver for our area left at the beginning of January due to ill health and his replacement, a contractor, proved unreliable. He has now gone, and deliveries will be made by the Gateshead depot's own staff. We hope the delivery situation will now improve. Thank you for bearing with us, and special thanks to our delivery volunteers for coping with the erratic deliveries cheerfully.

Have you spotted our new range of stationery for children? Great value entertainment and an ideal pocket money alternative to sweets!

### **Louise's Wines for Easter!**

It's coming up to that time of year again, our first long bank holiday of the year – Easter. Here's hoping it will be that start of Spring too, I'm not sure about you but I feel like this Winter has lasted forever! I've suggested three wines from Slaley Shop which would work perfectly with your Easter Sunday roast lamb dinner, with your indulgent chocolate eggs or simply to sit back, sip and enjoy.

**Veramonte Chardonnay** - What do you get when you combine a beautiful sunny Mediterranean climate with one of the most isolated countries in the world? Chile, a wine maker's paradise. Veramonte very much believes in preserving this paradise and are wholly committed to sustainability so their wines are all organic and vegan. Their Chardonnay is beautifully elegant, with a lovely crisp acidity, hints of green apple and supple, delicate oak. Goes really well with chicken, or just as an aperitif. £12.65

**Beronia Crianza** from Rioja in Spain. In Spain the traditional Easter celebration dish is roast lamb, and the perfect wine match for it is a Rioja. Beronia Crianza is aged for 12 months in oak barrels, then for another 12 in bottle before it's released for sale, and the resulting wine is silky smooth, with vibrant red berry fruit, rosemary & thyme and soft vanilla notes. £10.95

**Quinta do Noval** LBV Port from Portugal. This Late Bottled Vintage Port is made from premium quality grapes from Noval's own vineyards in the Douro Valley in northern Portugal. Think tons of plush red fruit, blackberry and a hint of tobacco. Great with those indulgent, dark chocolate Easter eggs! £19.75

### Slaley WI notes

With Easter at the end of the month our March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting just had to be about eggs! We're going to be decorating them; learning about why they came to represent Easter, experimenting with traditional techniques using wax and dyes and modern acrylics and trying a modern method of marbling. Some art materials will be available but if members can and want to bring their own then yes, please, do! Wooden eggs will be available for a small donation and please bring an old egg box to carry your egg safely back home.



For those who might be interested in joining us at the WI, the next meeting on March 13 is the very best time; it's the beginning of our financial year so a whole year's membership is something of a bargain! With a whole year's activities, talks and visits already planned. Reiki, Foraging, Self Defence, Forensics, and Crafts plus speakers and outings on offer our president Catherine Myers is happy to have a general chat if any of that appeals (01434 673023). And finally, a big thank you to The Travellers Rest, to Jed and his family for opening the restaurant especially for our 101th birthday evening meal. One word: Delicious!



# **“Departure” at Ladycross Quarry**

Ukraine / Tynedale artists collective

presents an immersive performance

## **Departure**

*A journey to the unknown*

**Ladycross Quarry  
Slaley NE47 0BY**

**Sunday March 17**

**11am for 11:30 am  
12:30 for 1:00 pm  
2pm for 2:30 pm**

Tickets available on the day  
£10 adults, £7 concessions  
(cash only) children free

Includes mini guided tour  
of Ladycross Nature Reserve  
&  
Exhibition of related art  
work by the collective

BURNLAW CENTRE

Northumberland  
County Council

tst  
théâtre sans  
frontières  
WORLD THEATRE

TYNEDALE LIONS

Ladycross  
Nature Reserve

### **Sunday 17th March**

A group of strangers, displaced by war, make their way overland... walking to the unknown, searching for safety. But where might that be?

What lies ahead? They can't go back... they must keep moving forward through a wild and unpredictable landscape, carrying their memories and dreams with them.

Departure takes place in the environment of Ladycross Quarry - the earth, rocks and tracks lending realism, poignancy and a growing sense of community.

## Important information

**Sunday March 17**

- **11 am for 11:30 am**
- **12:30 for 1:00 pm**
- **2pm for 2:30 pm**

Tickets available on the day: £10 adults, £7 concessions (cash only), children free.

Includes a mini-guided tour of Ladycross Nature Reserve, and an exhibition of related artwork by the collective.

## Riding Mill Drama Club

### “The Old People Are Revolting”!

A light-hearted, fun production with some adult humour showing determination and ability to take on the powers that be!!

**Please join us on Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd or Saturday 23rd March in Riding Mill Parish Hall, starting at 7:30 pm. Tickets £10.00 (Students £8.00) are available from Christine Andersen \*(01434 682535) or from [www.ridingmildramaclub.com](http://www.ridingmildramaclub.com)**

## Upcoming Elections

Northumberland County Council have a scheduled election on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. If you are going to cast your vote at a polling station you will need to show an accredited form of photographic identification in order to receive your ballot paper(s). To find out more about this new requirement at

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id).

Please note that this requirement does not affect electors who vote by post.

## Upcoming Election Role Opportunities

Northumberland County Council are currently looking for people aged 16 and over who would be interested in filling election vacancies for the upcoming polls in May. These are paid roles, the details of which can be found at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/elections](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/elections) (please scroll to The Information On Upcoming Election Role Opportunities section).

## Household DIY Waste Changes in Northumberland

In response to new Government legislation, Northumberland households can now dispose of limited DIY waste for free at Northumberland Household Waste

Recovery Centres (HWRC) for free. To do this a pre-booked permit is required. You can find out more by visiting [www.northumberland.gov.uk/Waste/Tip.aspx#householdwastepermits](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Waste/Tip.aspx#householdwastepermits) and scrolling down to the DIY Waste Section.

This new legislation relates to DIY waste only and has no impact on the household waste can currently be disposed of at Household Waste Recycling Centres.

## **Messy Church**

Our next Messy Church is on **Saturday 9th March, 09.30 - 11.00** in the Commemoration Hall, when we'll be "Celebrating Mums" in advance of Mothering Sunday on the 10th. As usual we'll have stories, lots of crafts and of course food. All welcome!



## **Church Services**

St Mary's, Slaley - Sunday worship each week at 11.15 am, lasting about 45-50 minutes.

St John's Healey - Sunday worship at 5 pm on the Second and Fourth Sundays of the month (Feb 11 and Feb 25) lasting about 45 minutes.

## **Slaley, Healey & Minsteracres Local History Group,**

### **"Greggs: a Local Success Story", by Sir Michael Darrington**

The history of an iconic North East company, Greggs, from the perspective of Sir Michael Darrington, a resident of Slaley for 30 years, he was Managing Director of Greggs for 24 years and will spill the beans!



***Monday March 26<sup>th</sup> 2024, at 7.30 pm  
in Slaley  
Commemoration Hall.  
£4 adults, 50p anyone in full time education.***

For more information contact Pat Wilson 673388, email:  
[pat.wilson28@outlook.com](mailto:pat.wilson28@outlook.com)

## Mothers Day at the Rose & Crown

***Come and join us to spoil that special someone on Sunday  
10th March!***

*Booking essential*

*Phone :01434 673996*

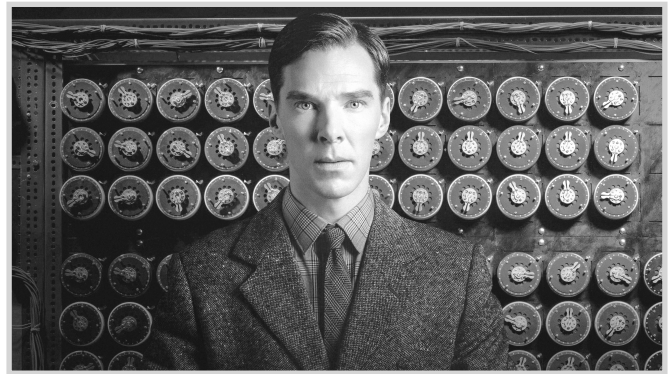
*Email: [traceyroseandcrown@outlook.com](mailto:traceyroseandcrown@outlook.com)*

*We look forward to seeing you all.*

## Slaley Film Show

### **“The Imitation Game” (12)**

In 1939, MI6 recruits Cambridge mathematician Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch) to crack Nazi codes, including Enigma -which cryptanalysts had thought unbreakable. Turing's team, analyze Enigma messages while he builds a machine to decipher them. Turing and his team finally succeed and become heroes, but in 1952, authorities reveal he is gay and send him to prison.



***15th March 2023 in the Commemoration Hall at 7.30***

***Doors open at 7.00 pm***

**ADMISSION £6 (£3 for under 25's)**

**Supper provided, but to confirm supper numbers please  
ring Catherine on 07918 120125 !**

## Karen Melvin

## March Garden Notes

Here comes the snow - on top of all my tough late winter flowering trees and shrubs. The pink of winter flowering cherry, *Prunus subhirtella Autumnalis Rosea*, is always a surprise. It came so early this year, Feb 1st, and lasts so long, the colour getting gradually more intense as the weather improves. I have two of these trees in my south view, one in contrast to dark conifers in the distance. The Cornelian cherry, *Cornus mas*, is just as tough and carries lots of small yellow flowers braving the wind and snow. The golden variety, *Cornus mas Aurea*, has

subtle golden leaves following the blossom lighting up a dark space to the north of the house. And last year were many small oval red fruits dangling. In Asia they make them into jam and pickles, fruits that can be eaten raw, cooked or dried. If it happens again, I'll have a go.

I pruned my two golden yew spirals late because I need to cut deeply into the golden foliage to keep the growth controlled and at a manageable height. The larger of the two will get cut back this autumn as it has now reached 6 foot.

Yews are so accommodating, tolerating drastic pruning and useful as topiary. Just behind the spiral is a beautiful winter flowering shrubby honeysuckle, *Lonicera elisae*, covered in dangling, delicate scented bells. It's in a shady position next to the path, in the shelter of the large yews. Its lovely scent would make it a good choice for a back door position.

This is a good time to thin out and move biennials into new places. Biennials are valuable and easy. They grow one year, flower and set seed the next - then usually die. Most people know foxgloves, honesty and teasels as biennials; all are



Yew spiral pruning

quite easy to recognise as seedlings which need to be allowed to grow all summer so they can flower the following year. Plants are managed so that there are always some seedlings and some mature plants; they do the seed scattering work themselves and I like the natural wild look. A famous short lived perennial (which I treat as a biennial) is *Eryngium Miss Wilmot's Ghost*, a plant said to have been scattered surreptitiously in friends' gardens by this famous gardener. I wish I was more successful. The silver glow and geometric form is magnificent.

I have a beautiful variegated honesty, originally from the Lawleys at Herterton House, near Wallington, both white and purple forms. In a generous mass, they light up the border in late spring. I like clumps of a dozen or so plants for this early display, leaving a few to set seed in their translucent honesty “discs”. There is a



Miss Wilmot's Ghost

conflict here as Joe thinks **one plant in total** is sufficient. We have lost the white flowered one through over zealous weeding. Every now and again we get what I call the “mole spurge” (named for its supposed anti- mole properties) springing up in odd places. It is also known as the caper spurge, *Euphorbia lathyris*, a biennial with a tall cross shaped geometric pattern of leaves with toxic milky sap. It's not native but is used for anti-cancer and other research. It was growing dramatically well before the snow came, and survived, but not quite photogenic enough.

## Slaley Parish Council

### Speeding Traffic

A number of residents have shared views that there are an increasing number of vehicles breaking the speed limit through the village and on other roads in the Parish. Indeed Guy Opperman MP has recently got involved in the debate too.

As a Parish Council we review this issue on a six monthly basis and at our meeting in February it was discussed in detail. The debate drew upon telemetric data (that derived from black boxes in modern cars and through in car navigation



devices) from the County Council and the latest Speed Watch operations in the village.

The analysis of the telemetric data indicates that the vast majority of vehicles travelling through the Parish does so below the permitted speed limits. Indeed the County Councils own interpretation of the data is that it suggests “there is no issue with speed” in the Parish and nothing that would warrant police intervention. The Speed Watch operation conducted in the village by police volunteers in January also supported this view. That of course is not to say that some drivers do break local speed limits which again the data highlights. These drivers are in the minority however.

Having reviewed the data, whilst recognising that speed limits are broken in the Parish at times, Councillors on balance came to the conclusion that ‘speeding’ was possibly more of a perceived issue than a widespread problem. That said, they were keen to keep monitoring traffic speed through the village to stay on top of this issue - to that end the next Speed Watch initiative will be conducted this month. The next review of traffic speed will be undertaken by the Parish Council in August.

### **Do you need a grant for a good cause?**

Slaley Parish Council are inviting individuals or organisations to apply for grants from its community fund, details of which can be found at [www.slaley.org.uk](http://www.slaley.org.uk) . The fund has been established to allow the Parish Council to support worthy causes within the community and those outside it which may directly benefit community members. If you would like to apply, why not have a chat with one of the Parish Councillor’s by dropping a line to [slaleypc@gmail.com](mailto:slaleypc@gmail.com).

### **Don’t forget:**

Parish Council Meetings are open to the public. The next will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 19;30, in Slaley Commemoration Hall. The agenda can be found at [www.slaley.org.uk/spc-meetings-and-minutes-2022-3](http://www.slaley.org.uk/spc-meetings-and-minutes-2022-3), [seven days in advance of the meeting](#).

Should you have any concerns or issues relating to our Parish, please contact the Parish Council at [slaleypc@gmail.com](mailto:slaleypc@gmail.com).

## SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

|                                          |                                                   |                         |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Badminton Group</b>                   | <b>Fran Pugh</b>                                  | <b>673429</b>           |
| <b>Carpet Bowls</b>                      | <b>Karl Beckett</b>                               | <b>07914 693199</b>     |
| <b>St Mary's Parish Church</b>           | <b>Rev. David Kennedy</b>                         | <b>633012</b>           |
| <b>St Elizabeth's Catholic Church</b>    | <b>Father Antony Connelly</b>                     | <b>673248</b>           |
| <b>Commemoration Hall</b>                | <b>Chairman: Ros Doonan</b>                       | <b>673173</b>           |
|                                          | <b>Bookings: Stella Douglas</b>                   | <b>673001</b>           |
| <b>County Councillor</b>                 | <b>Colin Horncastle</b>                           | <b>618259</b>           |
| <b>Dial-A-Ride</b>                       | <b>A.D.A.P.T.</b>                                 | <b>600599</b>           |
| <b>Film Club</b>                         | <b>Michael Elphick</b>                            | <b>673443</b>           |
| <b>Friends of Slaley School</b>          | <b>Andrea Foster</b>                              | <b>634865</b>           |
| <b>Hexham Hospital</b>                   |                                                   | <b>0344 811 8111</b>    |
| <b>Ladycross Nature Reserve</b>          | <b>Joan Jewitt</b>                                | <b>673245</b>           |
| <b>Leek Club</b>                         | <b>Catherine Lincoln</b>                          | <b>07918 120125</b>     |
| <b>Local History Group</b>               | <b>Pat Wilson</b>                                 | <b>673388</b>           |
|                                          | <b>Ian Hancock</b>                                | <b>673502</b>           |
| <b>Mobile Hairdresser</b>                | <b>Linda Johnston</b>                             | <b>673196</b>           |
| <b>Northumberland CC</b>                 | <b>Report faulty Streetlights/<br/>Potholes</b>   | <b>0345<br/>6006400</b> |
| <b>Parish Council</b>                    | <b>Chairman: Ian Stevens</b>                      | <b>07395 566997</b>     |
| <b>Post Office Van</b>                   | <b>Martin Nichol,<br/>Stocksfield Post Office</b> | <b>01661<br/>842110</b> |
| <b>Police</b>                            | <b>For non-emergency calls</b>                    | <b>101</b>              |
| <b>Rose &amp; Crown Pub</b>              |                                                   | <b>673996</b>           |
| <b>Slaley Shop</b>                       | <b>Enquiries</b>                                  | <b>673201</b>           |
| <b>Slaley Community Shop</b>             | <b>Sandra Innes (Chair)</b>                       | <b>673845</b>           |
|                                          | <b>(mobile)</b>                                   | <b>07710 726338</b>     |
| <b>Slaley First School</b>               | <b>Head: Mrs. Hayward</b>                         | <b>673220</b>           |
| <b>Slaley Notes = Hexham<br/>Courant</b> | <b>Stella Douglas</b>                             | <b>07838 866976</b>     |
|                                          | <b>Catherine Lincoln</b>                          | <b>07918 120125</b>     |
| <b>Slaley Parish Website</b>             | <b>www.slaley.org.uk</b>                          |                         |
| <b>Slaley Show</b>                       | <b>Chairman: Stella Douglas</b>                   | <b>07838 866976</b>     |
| <b>The Travellers Rest</b>               | <b>Lucy &amp; Jed</b>                             | <b>673231</b>           |
| <b>Women's Institute</b>                 | <b>President: Catherine Myers</b>                 | <b>673023</b>           |
|                                          | <b>Secretary: Hilary Porteus</b>                  | <b>07803 268947</b>     |