

## 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 Bookings Stella Douglas	673173 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	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
Police	For non emergency calls please ring 101	
Post Office Van	Martin Nichol Stocksfield Post Office	01661 842110
Rose & Crown Pub		673996
Slaley Shop		673201
Slaley First School	Head, Mrs Debbie Brett	673220
Slaley Notes in Hexham Courant	Stella Douglas Helen Savage	673001 676852
Slaley Parish Website	<a href="http://www.slaley.org.uk">www.slaley.org.uk</a>	
Slaley Show Society	Chairman, Marge Rastall Secretary	673547
Slaley Red Squirrel Group	Margaret Bates	673461
Travellers Rest Pub	Ian and Darren	673231
Women's Institute	President Margaret Rowell Secretary Hilary Porteus	673589 673637



# SLALEY NEWS

## March 2021



### Slaley and Hexhamshire Oil Buying Group

February oil order volume was 45,200 litres and the price achieved was 37.5 ppl from Carrs Billington. Other quotes were from Boiler Juice at 41.3 pence per litre and Northern Energy who quoted 48.7 ppl

Deadlines for March are orders to me by (at the latest ) Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of March for delivery during week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> March assuming we have seen the last of the snow

Thank you all for your continued support

Neil Whatmough, [nbwhatmough@btinternet.com](mailto:nbwhatmough@btinternet.com) or by telephone on 01434 676949

Hello ladies, fellow members.

I hope you are all well. It is a long time since we all met. We missed out with Christmas and our 98<sup>th</sup>. Birthday last month. I hope we will be able to meet soon when it is safe to do so and we will have a big celebration then. Keep well and keep safe, you have not been forgotten about. Margaret Rowell



### Anyone for Origami?

I have several books about Origami and a lot of Origami paper for anyone who would like to try a new craft while we are in lockdown. Please contact Fran Pugh Tel: 673429

### Slaley, Healey & Minsteracres Local History Club

Pat intends to host a zoom meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup> entitled "The History of the B6306 - The Linnels to Colpitt Grange". Watch your emails for further details or contact her on 673388.

Contributions for April edition by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March please.

Editors: Jim Bailey 673352 [baileyjim128@gmail.com](mailto:baileyjim128@gmail.com)

Fiona McKendrick: 673281 [fionamckendrick@googlemail.com](mailto:fionamckendrick@googlemail.com)

## Parish Council Notes

The Parish Council met February 8<sup>th</sup> 2021. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Community Trust which has been dormant for some time. The PC is in discussions with the Community Trust regarding reviving the Trust because it can be a vehicle for accessing much needed funds and grants for Slaley.

Unsurprisingly, after the snow and very low temperatures, there were a great number of highways reports to be passed on to NCC. NCC have responded quickly but please do let the PC know if you see something which hasn't been dealt with.

Some super pictures were taken of the drifts at Reaston. Do look at the PC website to see them.

Since the snow has melted there have been several complaints about dog mess on the footpaths. Could dog walkers please remember to pick up their mess and place the bags in the bins provided?

## Slaley Commemoration Hall

Slaley Commemoration Hall is moving forward with Phase Two funding projects despite lockdown. **The Great Slaley April Fool's Silent Auction** is becoming amazing! There will be 100 'Lots' ranging from the useful to the exotic. The web page will become live on 18<sup>th</sup> March - <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/slaleyaprilfoolsdayauction>. Bidding will take place between 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April. The link will be available to click on the Parish website on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

The April Fool's Auction has some interesting items

- for a lady - a handbag from Norman James in Corbridge
- for a man - My Autobiography by Ian Botham
- for the gardener who loves flowers - Dahlia plants
- for the gardener who needs manure - a tractor load
- for the art lover - a David Hockney Canvas
- for someone needing a celebration cake - a rich fruit cake
- for a young tractor enthusiast - a pedal tractor
- for a Newcastle United fan - a framed signed strip
- for children - books, soft toys and games
- for someone needing exercise - squash taster sessions
- for a pet lover - a pet photoshoot
- for the whiskey lover - a 15 year old Glenlivet
- for a food lover who wants to reduce air miles - local duck or hen eggs
- for the home - a Georgina side-table or an Oak TV unit
- for the tourist - a guided walk on the south side of the Thames

These are just 15 items from the 70-odd pledged to the auction, we expect bidding to be fierce so everyone is advised to keep a watch once the Auction goes live.

**The Slaley Parish Wander SUNDAY JULY 11TH 2021 HAS BEEN POSTPONED.** The Commemoration Hall Committee have reluctantly taken the decision to postpone this event owing to the continuing uncertainty over the covid restrictions and hope it will definitely take place in 2022.

## SH&HC Environment Group.

The first AGM of the Environment Group will take place Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 at 6.30 p.m. on-line. If you would like to join the group and/or attend this meeting, call Pat on 673388. The agenda is on the Parish website.

## Green Issues



Clothes, shoes and textiles should not be put into the recycling bin.

They can be recycled at the Hexham site (in a closed bag) or in the Scope bin at the village shop

Or try [www.loveyourclothes.org.uk](http://www.loveyourclothes.org.uk)

Tin foil and foil trays should not be put into the recycling bin ..... but watch this space, we may have a solution soon!

## Percy Pigeon

Following on from the Freddie the Hedgehog saga.... There has been another rescue!!

While the weather was doing its worst to dampen our spirits we (my neighbour and I) had a beautiful pigeon appearing bedraggled and exhausted in the garden. No ordinary pigeon this, it had a tag and was clearly lost/ exhausted. It spent the night under the bench (air bnb) and by the next morning it was blizzard time.

The situation was serious and needed action, so a local pigeon fancier was contacted (why are they called fanciers!!). However, before the newly named Percy could be caught, he disappeared! He truly was fancy, white with a few black markings making it especially hard to find in the snow. After searching our gardens with no success, Percy then appeared on a window sill, looking forlornly into the warm house. This time he was enticed into a warm dry box and then transported to a secret location near Prudhoe to be handed over to a fancier who pronounced that Percy had lost 2 tail feathers, the most likely cause being an attack by a hawk, making flying home a

problem. After searching the national pigeon tack register it was found the owner lived in Consett, this was evident from the tag.

The pigeon and owner are reunited and Percy is being cosseted in his cove while the tail feathers grow. We are waiting for the reward but it's coming by pigeon post.

ANON.



### Slaley Show AGM

The Show AGM took place 7.30pm, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Trustees were appointed and it was decided to meet again in June to evaluate whether some sort of Show could go ahead. Would you like to help? There are interesting vacancies for anyone who would like to broaden their experience. For youngsters in the village, there are opportunities to build some extra community experience for their CV. Call Marge on 673547.

### Slaley First School – March Update.

In School, we continue to follow the government guidance in order to keep Slaley First School a safe place to be as we prepare to welcome all our pupils back on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March.

It is an exciting time for the children to return to school as our School Council are about to start planning events for Red Nose Day, a day when we raise money for 'Comic Relief' through fun activities.

Next week, the children have World Book Day to look forward to. This is a really important date in our calendar as we celebrate the importance of literacy in our lives and appreciate that not all children have access to books in the way that we do. As in previous years, we will aim to fund raise for Book Aid International who provides books for children out in Africa.

Thankfully, we are beginning to see the early signs of spring. We are looking forward to warmer days and lighter nights and the opportunity to take part in a range of Easter Activities. This is the ideal time of year to make the most of our outdoor areas to ensure that the children have many opportunities to experience the seasonal change as it happens.

We hope you are all continuing to stay safe and well as we slowly move to a more 'normal' way of life.

### Slaley Shop.

Notice of AGM Thursday 18th March 7.30pm. Members will receive details by email. Members of the public may also join the meeting but will be unable to vote. For further information please contact D.Alsop

### Gardening column- Karen Melvin



We've had a truly beautiful snowy winter with many days of snow balancing on every little twig and needle in the sun. I've been enjoying the obliteration of all greenery and the subsequent sculptural forms of trees and the landscape; I don't want to think about gardening. And it is so hard to believe what is to come. Sometimes in February there is a rise in temperature and you can notice the scent of early flowering plants. It is so welcoming to stand transfixed on a still day by scent in the air. We have a winter box, *Sarcococca hookeriana*, by the kitchen door and the scent can be strong for meters around. With our strange climate change we had spring flowers at Christmas including the winter flowering cherry, but the snow put a stop to it and we wait for it to re-emerge.



*Woodland Snow/ Winter flowering cherry*

In years past I would visit my sister in Florida in the winter and enjoy her sub-tropical garden and the wonderful botanic gardens. Here in the UK at East Rushton, one of the grand theatrical gardens in Suffolk, there is a lush tropical feel in some of the garden rooms they have created. This planting is in a sheltered walled garden so I was surprised to see some *echium pininana*, giant viper's bugloss, growing up here in Northumberland at Capheaton Hall - and in the ground, not a pot. This very interesting garden was open with masks, distancing and pre-booked tickets last summer. Giant *echium* are native to the Canary Islands and Madeira and take at least two



years to flower, are tender and need well drained soil. So the strategy might be to grow them in a pot until they look large enough to flower and then plant out. The crown should be about a meter across when they flower. Two huge flowering stems at Capheaton stood up tall and another one equally dramatically landed its tip on the ground a few meters away. They scatter seed, then die. Well, I have just joined the Hardy Plants Society and find they have a seed exchange included so I am trying some *echium* as well as some other things I have never heard of. Watch this space.

*Echium pininana at Capheaton Hall*

On another more mundane note, March is the time to dig out Spanish bluebells from flowerbeds, just as they start to appear before they have put out roots. They are vigorous and will choke more choice plants. This is also the time to prune old coloured stems of *Cornus* to encourage the young coloured growth rather than the duller mature woody stems, also last year's flowering stems of *buddleia*.

## A View from the Vicarage

As the editors have called for more joyful and uplifting stories, I thought I tell you a bit about the first church holiday I tried to organise. I'd been well used to taking wine and archaeology tours to France by coach, so worked out that we could offer a bargain holiday for 36 parishioners on the same basis. We soon had a waiting list. And it all went terribly well. Even the on-board communion service as we whizzed through the channel tunnel was a success. The week shot by with visits, lots of laughter, time to relax together and eat great French food. We even entertained the group for tea at our tiny cottage, though forced by a sudden downpour to huddle in the barn for shelter.

On the way back north, I'd arranged an overnight stop in Auxerre with a wine-tasting supper in the cellars of friends who make delicious Chablis and other local delights. All felt well with the world, although we were running a wee bit late. I thought I'd better phone the hotel to check that all was OK, only to receive the heart-stopping news that they had no record of our booking. The bus company had forgotten to do it. And there was no room. Fortunately, I knew the hotel well and they helped me out (by now I was in tears) by phoning round friends in the business, and by the time we reached Auxerre with the group little the wiser, we'd been accommodated in two other hotels not too far away.

All was well and the party in the wine cellars went with a swing. We thought we'd taken a bit of risk, but the elderly members of the group, some of whom were tasting fine Chablis for the very first time, took to it like lemonade. They also bought quite a lot. So much so that our friends had to deliver it the next morning in a white van. I don't quite know how we crammed it all into the boot.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. The party broke up around midnight with the group singing their hearts out all the way back to our hotels about 10 miles away.

Somehow, they all got off the bus. Some fell, some floated. Olwen and I didn't sleep a wink: we were petrified that some of the oldies were so well oiled that they'd die in the night. I could just imagine the headlines. Not a bit of it, of course. One old soul, almost ninety, and one of the lustiest singers for whom we'd feared most, claimed she'd had the best sleep of her life. The breakfast bars were devoured with relish. And we had to organise another holiday the following year. This time I booked the hotels myself and ensured that any wine tastings were far more carefully monitored – a quick hour before lunch.

And the point of all this? Well there isn't one, beyond, of course, the obvious one that you shouldn't ever judge folk by their appearance – as our wine making friends were the first to say the morning after the party. And if you ever thought that the church is a place of dreary singing and not much fun, think again.

## Church Services and News

We have decided that gathered public worship should begin again at Easter. If the weather permits, the feeling of our church councils is that we should meet outside at first, but we will try to ensure that there's an opportunity for an Easter celebration of Holy Communion.

Until then, we continue to stream our weekly Sunday services on Facebook and YouTube. They go live each Sunday and there's a weekly 'thought for the day' each Wednesday. To find them please just click on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/moorlandgroup/>

**Coffee after Church** takes place by Zoom every Sunday at 11am for an hour – it's a great way to catch up on the local news, and no-one even asks if you've been to church first. If you'd like a link, please ask Helen.

**Our weekly ecumenical study group** continues until Easter on Fridays from 11am to noon via Zoom. If you'd like Helen to send you a Zoom invitation, please let her know. Everyone is really welcome.

## Messy Church for Easter

We're hoping and planning to manage an Easter event for families – much as we did at Christmas. Please see the Messy Church Facebook page (and that of the Moorland Group) page for more information – very soon!

## Slaley weather report

The Slaley Vicarage weather station has continued to fascinate us through February so far.

Total precipitation for the last 23 days is 80.3mm. However, 37.85mm fell on just 2 days, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. On the weekend of the 12-14<sup>th</sup> February we were cut off. After all, Smith's News failed to deliver the newspapers! Owing to the dry, granular nature of the snow and the strong, gusting winds on the Friday night, the snow was blown off the fields and into deep drifts on the roads and in our gardens. By the morning, the wind was still gusting more than 35 mph, force 7, on the Beaufort Scale (force 8 is gale force). We have all benefitted from the considerably higher temperatures of recent days. The maximum temperature, so far, has been 12.3°C and the minimum -7.9°C.

*Olwen Savage*

## Lockdown Living

Like many of us I have found lockdown challenging to say the least. I hate being dictated to and have really missed family, friends, freedom and fun. We are all in the same boat, but some of us are in rickety rowing boats and others in five star ocean liners. I consider myself very lucky to be in the latter and, as I'm repeatedly told, I should be grateful for what I've got. I cannot imagine what it must be like to be cooped up in a flat in the city.

*Christine Milligan*

Nevertheless these past few months have been quite the test! Here are a few of the things that have kept me going:

My Shepherd's Hut at the bottom of the garden is my 'go to' place – and just for the record DC I got mine first. It is full of my favourite things and there certainly isn't room to swing a cat. With the wood burner on and sounds from Spotify I can retreat from the world.

Walking is wonderful in itself, but walking **and** talking with one friend at a time in such special surroundings has kept me sane. Thank you to all my friends and for suggesting so many good things to watch on Netflix – quite a change for someone who used to say that they didn't watch much television!

Food has been a major focus with the 'what are we having tonight?' question being contemplated at breakfast. When in doubt bake cakes. Like Vianne in Chocolat I now know my friends' desires. The girls in the village eagerly await their doorstep delivery of a coffee and walnut wedge, while almond and orange has proved to be a particular favourite of another cake deprived family. A certain someone is greedy for gingerbread and the next door neighbours are grateful for anything. On to bread -- although I haven't scored with the sourdough, I've lost count of the number of focaccias that have graced the kitchen (see recipe)

I have always been obsessed with the bins but I think I have got worse over the last months. One snowy Tuesday morning I heard the sound of the bin wagon – music to my ears! But – horrors! – they were early. Still in my fluffy sheep onesie (lockdown chic) I grabbed the bin and rushed down the drive only to skid and fall flat on my face in front of the disbelieving bin man. You couldn't make it up!

Home haircuts: the less said about them the better. My fringe trim is just about passable but I got more than slightly carried away with my husband's very short back and sides... and top. Linda we salute you!

Thankfully it looks as though there is light at the end of this tunnel. Spring seems to be round the corner and wild primroses are starting to flower. Maybe one day we'll look back and wonder what it was all about

### FOCACCIA

Well worth the time and effort – Good Luck!

500g strong plain white bread flour, 7g sachet fast action yeast  
10g salt, 40g olive oil + extra for drizzling  
400 ml tepid water Rosemary and sea salt

1. Place all ingredients in a large mixing bowl and mix well to a wet dough
2. Cover the bowl with a damp tea towel and prove in a warm place for 40 mins
3. With an oiled hand and keeping the dough in the bowl fold over a few times
4. Cover again and leave for 50 mins or until doubled in size
5. Liberally oil a baking tin (I use 32 x 26 cm) and tip the dough into it

6. With an oiled hand fold in half and half again and press the dough well into the edges of the tin
7. Cover and leave to prove for 50 mins
8. Preheat the oven to 220 °C
9. Drizzle the dough with olive oil, stud with rosemary and sprinkle with sea salt
10. Cook for 20 mins or until risen and golden

ENJOY !

### Stay connected to your community

**Are you living with sight difficulties** and finding it hard to read the local newspaper? Perhaps you know a relative or friend who is visually impaired who might enjoy listening to local news?

The Tynedale Talking Newspaper (TTN) sends out a free audio recording of local news each week, courtesy of the Hexham Courant. Every month there is also a new recording of The Tynedale Talking Magazine or The Northumbrian. Recordings arrive by post on a USB memory stick which can be listened to on a computer or Smart TV. No computer? No problem. TTN also has easy-to-use audio players to loan out to people who are not on the internet.

To find out more please contact Ed, the Registrar, on 07400 096937 or [www.ttnweb.uk](http://www.ttnweb.uk) or check out Facebook.

TTN is a charity (1034087 ) run entirely by local volunteers, helping people to stay connected and feel part of the community.

### From Hexham & Slaley to Leeds & West Yorkshire ...

For the last 6 and a half years it has been my privilege to serve as the Methodist Minister in Slaley. At the end of March Tara, Jethro and I are moving from Hexham to Leeds where I'll serve as part of the district (Methodist word for regional) team as the Missional Communities Enabler. It's an exciting new role in which I'll be helping Churches to think about their mission and discipleship and in particular how that can be helped by adopting the Methodist Way of Life ([www.methodist.org.uk/mwol](http://www.methodist.org.uk/mwol)). I'll also be involved with the work of Leeds Methodist Mission in Leeds City Centre where we are seeking to develop a new Christian community following the closure of the Methodist Church in the City Centre.

Whilst being the Methodist Minister in Slaley has only been one part of my ministry in Tynedale it has been a significant and important part. I have been immensely blessed by getting to know Slaley through those who worship and have worshipped in the chapel and the church but also through meeting families at school and Messy Church, meeting regulars in the Rose and Crown

and many more members of the village at special events and activities. The Slaley show has been a highlight each year.

As I look back over the last few years we have seen so much transformation in Slaley. The commitment of the community to the Rose and Crown, the Commemoration Hall and the Village Shop has brought so much new life to the village which has helped the community to grow together. For me though the biggest transformation has been the step of faith to bring the chapel and church congregations together to form The Church in Slaley. Before lockdown, the Sunday congregation was regularly over 30 which we'd never have dreamt of 6 years ago. God has richly blessed our stepping out in faith and I have every confidence that in the power of the Holy Spirit the Church in Slaley will go from strength to strength in the years ahead.

The transformation we've seen in the village wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of so many people who give their time to make Slaley the wonderful village it is. There are too many of you to name but there is one person I want to name and that's our wonderful Vicar and my fantastic colleague Helen. Helen you give so much to life of Slaley, and the rest of the villages in the Moorland Group, it has been a privilege to work with you over the last six years. In writing this I want to publicly to say I thank you for all that you do for Slaley but particularly for your openness to work together and your commitment to a truly ecumenical church flourishing in Slaley.

As I say farewell to Slaley I want to say a huge thank you for all the blessings that you have given me over the last 6 and a half years. Northumberland has certainly stolen a piece of our hearts and we can say with confidence we'll be back to visit.

As I leave please be assured that I will continue to hold you in my prayers and to pray for God's blessing and peace on you all especially as you emerge from lockdown and discover the new normal that God has in store for you.

God Bless, David Goodall.



### Rose and Crown lockdown support

Why not let us give you a night off from cooking! Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday 4-30pm until 7pm last order. Pizza's, Stir fry's, Curry's and lots more, check the menu on our Facebook or webpage. Special requests and any dietary

needs supported.

Look forward to cooking for you.

Take care, be safe and hope to see you all soon at your pub.

Contact 01434 673996

## Slaley Community Trust

### Slaley Community Trust (the Trust) was launched in March

2005 and has as its principal aim "to help promote the quality of life in Slaley Parish." It does this by working with other local groups and organisations. It has achieved a lot since its inauguration. Achievements include:

- Saving the Community Shop
- Installation of the village site map;
- The millennium seat and time capsule;
- Planters at Parkside Cottages;
- Slaley now and then book;
- Parish business directory;
- Newsletter production and distribution;
- Acquisition of the Rose & Crown
- Refurbishment of village signage;
- Donations supporting various activities and groups;
- Play facilities at the school;
- The Oil buying group;
- Campaigning for better broadband.

### The Trust is now seeking to formalise membership and to recruit new people onto its

Executive Committee. Membership of the Trust is free and is open to all adults who live in Slaley Parish. We would like to encourage everyone to join by completing the form below.

Slaley Community Trust Membership Application Form

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone number.....

Email address.....

I would/would not be interested in becoming a member of the Executive Committee

Once completed please return this form via the box in the shop or the one in the Rose and Crown or email it to the secretary at [d411sop@gmail.com](mailto:d411sop@gmail.com) or post it to The Secretary, Slaley Community Trust. Ashtree House, Slaley, Hexham, NE47 0AA