

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

MAY 2021



We hope that you have all been enjoying the lovely sunshine and the lifting of some of the restrictions. It is lovely to see people enjoying time with family and friends again and to feel a bit more vibrancy. Lockdown has been hard and we have a piece this month that recognises the impact it has on mental health. There are some great tips about how to look after yourself and where to seek help should you need it.

Following Margaret Ward's letter in last month's issue we have received further messages of support for the founding directors of the shop board and recognition of all the work that has been done. It is so much more than just a shop, run by the community for the community. We particularly like the new recycling shed. With that, all the new tree planting, and the school signing up to Let's Go Zero 2030, Slaley's environmental credentials are up there with the best!

Contributions for April edition by Wednesday 26th May please.

Editors: Jim Bailey 673352 baileyjim128@gmail.com

Fiona McKendrick: 673281 fionamckendrick@googlemail.com

Slaley, Healey & Hexhamshire (CEG) Community Environmental Group,

Two of our members are writing to Guy Opperman MP re the £5,000 green-home grants initiative being cancelled by the government – what is the replacement? The subsidies on electric vehicles have also been suspended – what are the Government's plans to encourage car owners to change.

The new "shedquarters" at Slaley Community Shop is open 24/7 for people to drop off their recycle goods – currently batteries, printer ink cartridges and cheese wrappers – the latter is made into garden furniture. Latest idea is empty blister pack of pills will be taken by Superdrug at Newcastle with the money going to Marie Curie. Meanwhile Slaley Commemoration Hall is looking into an agreement with ziffit to recycle books, CDs and games - details of collections still to be confirmed.

Update on our first fruit trees - the buds are slowly opening we are hoping for frost free nights and wind free days when the bees can pollinate the flowers.

The next meeting is Wednesday May 12th at 6.30 by ZOOM if anyone wants to join.

Eating well? I do hope so; we have so much choice available to us through Farmers Markets, Farm Shops, a choice of several supermarkets and, not

forgetting, the variety of restaurants and gastropubs we have close to hand. Also most of us can manage well in our own kitchens. Unfortunately, a good deal of food goes to waste rather than into our stomachs.

Astonishingly one third of global food production is wasted before it gets to our tables! This is due to a combination of problems that include crop loss from inclement weather and spoilage during transport. Food can be discarded if it is not "cosmetically" acceptable although fruit and vegetables that are of an odd shape or a little small are perfectly edible and nutritious. Groceries are thrown out after overstocking in supermarkets and restaurants. Sadly the overproduction and wastage of food is responsible for over 8% of the total human-made greenhouse gas emissions.

It is worth reflecting on how much we contribute to this problem and whether we can do anything about it. Personally, I am easily tempted by the "savings" from BOGOF deals at the supermarket or the reduced price of larger quantities only to find that much of the purchase is not used. Probably better planning of meals would help me buy the required amounts. It is easy to be bullied into discarding good food because of a "sell by" date rather than considering whether the article is still wholesome. On the other hand I was happy to find and buy a bag of "wonky parsnips" today.

Finally, the environmental impact of food is substantially due to transportation over long distances invariably powered by fossil fuels. We are fortunate to be able to take advantage of locally produced meat and vegetables in our local shops – including, of course, our own village shop.

Slaley and Hexhamshire Oil Buying Group

April oil orders were disrupted by supply issues at Carrs – Billington. The orders should have been delivered week commencing 19th April, however the deliveries will now commence week commencing 3rd of May, meaning a 3 week delay on what was planned

Once they get back to normal I am expecting to be informed as to what happened, which I am not party to but will pass on to members by way of an email to the whole membership.

This whole episode has left a sour taste in my mouth and as such I no longer have the appetite for being the co-ordinator and I am standing down with immediate effect. Thanks for your support over the years (all eight of them)

If anyone wishes to take on the task please contact me and I will gladly explain what is involved.

Neil Whatmough 01434 676949

Hello Ladies

Has another month really gone by? I am hoping that we may be able to have a meeting in June, it all depends on 17th May and the lifting of restrictions and if we can by then use the Commemoration Hall. Watch this space and/or we will be in touch. Keep well and stay safe.

Margaret Rowell



Slaley Parish Council meetings

Slaley Parish Council met on-line on 12th April 2021. A good deal of discussion revolved around the tidying of the Parish after the winter with the renewing and cleaning of bins, seats and paved areas. This will have begun before you read this so I hope you can see a difference. The updating of the Parish Directory was reported upon. This is an on-going project which is supported by the PC. If you wish to be included in the paper and/or on-line editions, please contact the Parish Clerk. The PC also supported the idea of an Indoor Market at the Commemoration Hall: a project which will begin on 28th July as a taster session. The Parish Councillors were unopposed so there will be no PC election on 6th May although there are County Councillor and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting

will be held on Monday May 10th 2021 at 7.30 p.m. and will be administered by ZOOM video connection

Please get in touch with Pat Wilson (pat.wilson28@outlook.com) 01434 673388. Details of the agendas can be found www.slaley.org.uk - also the village hall AGM agendas

Slaley Business Directory and Where to Buy Locally leaflet has been in circulation since 2004/5 with infrequent updates the last being in 2013.

Producing a Reprint of the Directory came out of the Slaley Parish Plan, Action Plan reconvened meeting of February 4th 2021.

A lot of work has already gone into updating the Slaley Business Directory from Cllr SC Douglas on the web site, Michael Elphick doing the artwork for the printed copy and the PC Clerk contacting the old listings and getting new text for the Directory. Keeping this up-to-date will become 'good housekeeping' for Slaley Parish Council through the quarterly updates.

In the past 300 copies were printed and distributed with the Slaley News – the majority being recycled or misplaced. In future a very small print-run will be produced for Slaley Community Shop with copies available to download. The web site now has a very large display of listings. If you would like to place your business listing in the Directory and on the web site please send your text by email to the Parish Council Clerk or discuss your larger entry for the web page with Stella. For the 2021 Directory we would appreciate copy by May 31st please.

Slaley Parish Council: pat.wilson28@outlook.com

Web Site Editor: stellacdouglas@gmail.com

Commemoration Hall

Thank you to everyone who generously took part in the recent April Fools Online Auction - whether donating items or bidding. We are pleased to announce that over £3000 was raised.

Other news regarding the Hall: we have been awarded a grant to have the paintings of Mr and Mrs Hunting renovated, cleaned and new, non-reflective glass fitted. The work will be carried out by a team based at the



Laing Gallery in Newcastle. We still don't know who painted the portraits so if anyone knows anything about them, please let someone on the Hall Committee know.

It has been brought to our attention that someone has been on the roof of the Commemoration Hall and broken some roof slates.

There has also been an incident of fly tipping at the back of the hall, and dog faeces in the hall bins.

This is very disappointing as we are trying to improve the hall for all of the community. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the trustees.

R. Doonan 01434 673173

Would you like to resume meeting at Slaley Commemoration Hall?

From 17th May 2021 the newly refurbished Slaley Commemoration Hall will be open.

The rule of six applies to village halls. This enables several groups of six to sit two metres distant from other groups of six as long as groups do not socialise. So, no sharing of anything except with those in your group of six. The maximum number allowed to use the Hall is 55 people including the organiser/s. People should wear masks if they are moving about the Hall and cannot keep 2 meters from others. The kitchen would still have a limit of one person at a time for now.

For most people who use the Commemoration Hall this means that your activity can recommence in a nearly normal way. Some activities, especially those with an active element, will have to consider how they can modify things.

You will all know by now that the Hall is covid safe and that there are some additional conditions for hire. These can all be seen on the Village Hall page of the Parish website.

I have already had expressions of interest about resuming meetings and events. Some of you have already booked - so thank you. Please get in touch if you need any extra information or would like to book. I am normally available on 673001 although 6th May I am an election official so will only be contactable on 077838 866 976. Email is fine too - stellacdouglas@gmail.com

The Hall will need as much business as we can get so if you know anyone or any groups who might like to join us please do let me know.

Stella Douglas (Bookings - Slaley Commemoration Hall)

Badminton Club Fran will be in touch with existing members about starting again after 17th May. For any new players interested in joining us, please contact Fran Pugh, Tel: 673429.

Shop News April



- We have completed a tidy up outside the front and back of the shop getting ourselves ready for unlocking and increased opportunities for people meeting outside. The front garden is looking lovely so please encourage people to come

and meet friends for a coffee remembering the rule of six and 'hands, face, space'.

- Meanwhile out the back we have rejuvenated the greenhouse. The school are going to take over running the greenhouse this year and we look forward to seeing the fruits (and veg) of their labour later in the summer.

- There is now a Slaley Shop Instagram account. This is a great way to make connections with local businesses and promote the activities of the shop so why not take a look and follow us at @slaleycommunityshop. We plan to use this alongside the Facebook page.

- We are looking at renewing the signage on the shop and are in the process of getting quotes for this so will keep you updated.

- The kitchen should hopefully be finished in the next couple of weeks. This will give us much better facilities for making refreshments and cleaning. Meanwhile we are setting up the green cabin as office and meeting space when rules allow.

- As always we would like to hear your suggestions so please feel free to email me on fionamckendrick@googlemail.com.

- We will also have a suggestions box in the shop for customers and volunteers, so please use this and encourage customers to share their thoughts.

Enhance your well being! (by volunteering)

Did you know that volunteering is proven to enhance your well being and boost your mood? As lockdown eases and people begin to take trips away, Slaley Shop is looking for new volunteers. There are many ways you can help: working behind the till, delivering papers, opening up at the beginning of the day and helping out with purchasing and admin. Working in the shop is a great way to get to know people in the village and to feel part of something positive. Shifts can be very flexible and you do not necessarily need to make a regular commitment.

We appreciate that people may have questions or concerns about taking these roles so please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you want to have a chat. My mobile is 07817 993767 or email fionamckendrick@googlemail.com

Managing our mental health and wellbeing



In some way all of us have been touched by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We have been severely challenged by it and even as we navigate our way out of lockdown personal anxieties, fears and concerns about so much remain. This is normal, but under such strain our mental health and wellbeing can suffer, which is why we must do all we can to look after it and stay healthy.

If you feel your mental health and wellbeing has suffered because of the pandemic, please reach out for support. There is so much available now in so many forms, no matter who you are or what age you are. Just a few of them are listed below:

- **Mind** (this country's leading mental health charity) – <https://www.mind.org.uk/>
- **Farming Community Network, the** charity that supports farmers and families within the farming community through difficult times – <https://fcn.org.uk/>
- **NHS England** – <https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhsbirthday/get-involved/live-well/mental-health-and-wellbeing/#mental-wellbeing>
- **Samaritans**, "Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will face it with you. We're here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year". Samaritans can be reached by calling their freephone number 116 123 or via <https://www.samaritans.org/>
- **Young Minds**, the UK's leading charity fighting for children and young people's mental health – <https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Even if you're not someone that likes to ask for help you can improve your mental health and wellbeing in just five simple ways according to Mind:

1. Stay close to friends and family
2. Take regular exercise
3. Interact with things around you, take notice of them
4. Learn something new or challenge your mind
5. Help and support others

If none of that works for you then on a personal note I would ask you to share how you're feeling with someone you can trust. Good mental health and wellbeing is something we deserve and should strive for.



Slaley First School – Update for May 2021

What a busy time we have all had! The beautiful weather has enabled us to get out into the school garden and experience all the wonderful signs of spring. The Village Shop has also offered school the use of their greenhouse which has inspired both staff and pupils to begin growing a wide range of plants and flowers. We will also be able to record the changes in our plants on our laptops, which now have new batteries paid for by a very kind donation from the Village Shop.

As you can imagine, logging on for small children is time consuming and has been a race against time before the batteries run out! So, if there are any 'Computer Specialists' in our village, who would like to help and support our children, staff would welcome the help. Obviously we will need to wait until the world opens back up again and restrictions have been lifted, but if you would

like to express an interest, please contact the school via phone or email (see website for contact details).

Slaley School has also received £250 from the Co-op Community Fund following an application by Mrs. Dixon. We are very grateful for this grant as we plan to use the money to buy maths equipment for pupils across the three key stages. On a slightly less cheery note, our school has been left feeling a little bereft after Mrs Brett announced her plans to retire from teaching at the end of this academic year (August 2021). However, we are very happy to announce that we have successfully appointed her successor who will take up the post and start with us in September. Mrs Brett will carry out a very comprehensive handover to ensure a smooth transition for the school, equipping the new Headteacher with all she needs to know ready to lead the school forward in September. Our new Headteacher is aware of the tremendous support the school receives from the village community and is looking forward to meeting you all.

We continue to be carefully guided by the on-going COVID-19 restrictions, maintaining our bubbles and making sure everything we do is safe for both children and staff in school. However, we are looking forward to a time when our parents can be involved to a greater extent in our events at school and our children can come back together as one big family community. Hopefully, this is not too far away.

As always, we hope you are all remaining safe and well as we begin to come out of this pandemic.

May 2021 gardening column- Karen Melvin

It is such a cold week as I am writing this, with hail, snowfall and night frosts, but the leaves of shrubs, small maples and mountain ash can't help themselves coming out. At least here the magnolia blossom is restrained, though I have seen beautiful magnolias in flower down in Hexham. I am holding off sowing my next batch of vegetable seeds, waiting for the pots to be free of hardy annuals, broad beans, spinach, seakale, rocket and lettuce. In the morning light, the fresh snow on the butterfly cherry tree takes on a pink tinge, the mountain ash beyond a pale green. A new muscari called Grape Ice is performing very well in spite of the cold. Here it is with my new epimedium cantabrigense. I have quite a few locations for epimediums, with their delicate airy blooms, as they like dry shade.



Muscari Grape Ice



Marsh marigolds by the stream flowing north into Letah wood are vibrant yellow; lowly wood anemones, battered by the recent snow, make a restrained show together with a few celandines. I found some golden saxifrage there, very similar to a larger variety I have in the garden, saxifrage chrisplenium alternifolia. In spring the centre of each tuft turns an almost iridescent yellow. It likes a damp shady place but in my garden has spilled over onto a rock heap quite happily.



saxifrage *chrisplenium alternifolia* of species on other upland sites.

One really respects the management of mature hay meadows, especially when trying to assemble a mixture of wildflowers in bits of waste ground as we have been doing in the garden the past few years. I have collected seeds from hedgerows, meadows, and woodland around Hexhamshire, Allendale, and Weardale and scattered them on cleared earth to little effect. Now I sow into trays and plant out as plug plants. Rose campion is invasive unless competing with tough grass; woundwort (which I bought as hyssop) is out competing ground elder! White comfrey and inula are rampant even in tough grass, so one needs to be careful. I love wood cranesbill, sweet cecily, devils-bit scabious, mountain pansy, selfheal, great burnet, knapweed, and melancholy thistle, and am trying to get a balanced mix growing in my newish wild area. I know some gardeners have mini- meadows with yellow rattle and all the rest, but I haven't managed that. I have been mixing rampant plants from the garden into this area, so it is more of a wild garden/glade.

Karen Melvin

A View from the Vicarage

I can't tell you how much I'm look forward to 17 May. If all goes to plan, it means we'll be able to see our family and even stay with them for a few days. We've not seen them since August. Other people, I know, have been separated far longer and the wait for us all has seemed like a long cold winter.

And yet, of course, getting back together brings all too obvious risks. Do you remember, this time last year, when even without the incredible vaccination programme, we were looking forward to the freedoms of summer and beyond, confident that the virus and its restrictions would soon be behind us? On 17 May last year Boris Johnson wrote, 'I hope that, when we look back, the changes we have made this week will be seen as an important moment on the road to our nation's recovery.' But it wasn't to be. Surely this year must be different?

To many of us, the last 14 months been a bit like an exile from ordinary life. It's gone on so long that we've almost forgotten what we used to regard as normal and, of course, some things will have changed for ever.

It's not unhelpful, I think, to reflect on the lessons of other, more literal exiles. One of these, in the sixth century BCE saw Judeans exiled in Babylon for over 40 years. When the Persian king Cyrus II defeated Babylon and allowed them to return to Jerusalem, they were in a state in which excitement, joy, anxiety and confusion were all churned queasily together. The prophet Isaiah tried to

give them advice: 'Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?'

In the maelstrom of their conflicting emotions they couldn't quite see it – any more than we can imagine what the world will feel like in even six months' time, never mind this time next year. But the challenge remains. The months and years ahead offer us a chance to make a new start, just as it did to the ancient Judeans.

What have we learnt this last year that we don't want to forget? A deeper sense of neighbourliness? The beauty of our own place? The pointlessness of dashing around for meetings that can be done in other ways far more easily and at less cost to the planet?

And what do we want to reclaim in new ways? Time to really enjoy one another's company, without having to say, 'must dash!' The magical bond that occurs only in live performances of the arts? The value of family relationships that we've often taken for granted?

I won't risk saying that we'll all be back together this Christmas, just like we used to be. Who knows what lies ahead? All I do know is that 17 May represents another baby step along the road to a life that can - and must be better for us all.

Helen

Church Services and News

We worship outdoors (so we can all sing!) every Sunday at St Mary's at 10.45am.

In addition, this month, we'll celebrate Holy Communion in Church on Wednesday 5 May at 11am.

Evening Prayer will be at Healey on Sunday 23 May at 5pm.

Weekly Sunday services are streamed on Facebook as well a 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

Our weekly ecumenical study group begins again (via Zoom) on Friday 30 April. Everyone, as ever, is really welcome. If you'd like a link, please ask Helen.

More Amazing Coffee mornings!

Our home baking team will spring back into life to bring you boxes of goodies sold in aid of our churches – this time for a rather less virtual event on Thursday 3 June. Please order as many boxes as you like (£5) each and invite your friends and neighbours to join you (6 indoors, 30 outdoors) - yes you can! And we'll raise lots of money! To book a box please email olwensavage@gmail.com

Parish Annual Church Meetings

We're getting back on track this year with our annual meetings. Slaley's APCM will be held after worship (but in the church) on Sunday 23 May at 11am and similarly Healey's the same day at 5.30pm. Papers will be circulated by email. Please ask Helen if you would like copies. Electoral Roll forms (to enable you to vote) are at the back of both churches – or can be emailed to you. Again, please ask!



Churchyard – Second call for volunteers!

The Churchyard at St Mary's is maintained by volunteers. If you want to join in the fun of grass cutting then please contact Brian Wilson (673043). You don't need to commit to any specific time just to find a couple of hours now and then. All the equipment is provided.

Slaley weather report

Those of us who love our gardens are only too aware of how dry this month has been so far.

The precipitation totals for the last 3 months are January 113.3mm, February 80.5mm and March 18.75mm, so April's staggeringly low total of 5.8mm in the 23 days so far, has come on top of the existing March deficit. Out of 23 days, we have had 16 days with no precipitation. However, the snowfall on April 10th and subsequent melt contributed 4.1mm out of the total of 5.8mm.

High pressure has dominated our weather for most of the month, with mainly light winds and plenty of sunshine. Most of our cloud has come in from the east coast when the position of the high-pressure cell has shifted to allow that to happen.

Frost has been a hazard, though it is interesting that the minimum temperature has often been a little higher than forecast by the BBC for Slaley. Our minimum overnight, for example on April 21st -22nd was -1.9°C when it was forecast to be -3°C. I think this is because of our relatively high location. It would have been more severe in the valley bottoms and frost hollows.

The highest temperature this year was an amazing 20.1C on the 31st March.

Olwen Savage



Rose and Crown

We have started opening up and would like to thank everyone for their support. The Beer garden is ready and waiting,



with beautiful views of the country side.

Outside drinking and dining,

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 4.30pm - 7pm

Friday and Saturday 4pm - 7pm food / 4pm - 9pm drinks

Sunday 12 noon - 2.30pm food / 12 noon - 4.30pm drinks

What's next:

W/C Monday 17th May inside dining and drinking.

Open every day except Wednesday, look on web page, Facebook or contact us for opening times and for bookings.

Booking is essential, telephone 01434 673996

The Rose & Crown is one of the top 5 places to eat around the Hexham area on Trip Advisor

as reported in the Hexham Courant,

Exercise to Music (For those over 50)

Thanks to all who responded to my request for interest in indoor Exercise to Music in the Hall. I am waiting for confirmation from Age UK Northumberland that we can go ahead and will be complying with their guidelines as well as those set by the Hall and Government.

I suspect there will need to be 3 groups to keep the class sizes down. These may all be on a Monday (2 in morning and one in the afternoon) or 2 on Monday morning and 1 on Tuesday morning. I will contact those who have expressed interest when I have a start date and have allocated participants to classes. In the meantime keep well and active!

Carol Ferguson abcarnolferguson@gmail.com or 673585

Slaley, Healey & Minsteracres Local History Group

Following a very interesting talk on the early history of the Egger plant in Hexham the group will be taking a little time out.