



## **SLALEY NEWS OCTOBER 2025**



### **Welcome to our October Newsletter!**

These newsletters are composed and edited by Michael Elphick & Catherine Lincoln, printed in Hexham by The Hextol Foundation, and the printing costs are paid by the Parish Council - whose rather nice logo appears above!

We rely, of course, on the many groups & organisations around Slaley for most of the content, and to the 15 or so volunteers who bring it to your letterbox - our thanks to all of you!

This month we have an update from the First School, and news about the Commemoration Hall, who have welcomed Andrew Coney as the new Chair of the Committee.

The Parish Council have added another Councillor by co-option, but still have one vacancy.

The Rose & Crown is featured in Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice" Awards 2025, and are preparing for Halloween. Film shows are continuing in the Hall, with our next show on Friday 17th October: a romantic film.

And our usual regular contributions from the Community Shop (who would welcome more volunteers), Karen Melvin on visiting another remarkable garden, and the Women's Institute making sushi, and yet more poppies!

*Contributions for the November edition are due by  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> of October or earlier, please!*

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

## **Slaley First School**

It has been a busy half term at Slaley First School. The children have settled back into school well and have been working hard.

We have already had many exciting things in the calendar. The children all enjoyed an afternoon of fruit, vegetables and fun making vegetables creatures for our local leek show. Many thanks to Mrs Lincoln who came into school and worked with the children to produce some really imaginative creatures. After transporting them down to the Commemoration Hall held together by cocktail sticks, they made a lovely display for the community to admire whilst enjoying looking at all the other show entries. The children had the opportunity to display a leek which they had grown themselves. There were some lovely entries which had obviously been nurtured and attended to well throughout the summer.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> September the children in Pine Class will have the opportunity to take part in Bikeability. This is a practical course to encourage children to enjoy riding their bikes safely. They will learn how to ride confidently with a good understanding of the highway code. The children will be bringing their bikes to school and will also learn how to check their bike is safe to use.

We have already had some swimming lessons and will continue to take the children weekly to the Wentworth Leisure Centre as part of their P.E entitlement. They are wonderful at being independent and really enjoy their swimming lessons. We are always very proud of them as there are often lots of compliments on their behaviour from the general public, which is really lovely.

We are preparing for our Harvest Festival. The children have been finding out about the important job our farmers do and have prepared a lovely performance of songs, rhymes and Bible readings to give thanks for all we have at Harvest time. The performance will take place in school and the children have already been thinking about decorating their harvest boxes ready to fill with all sorts of goodies.

We are delighted to announce we have now Federated with Whitley Chapel C of E First School. This is an exciting development and we look forward to working together to provide opportunities for the children to share experiences. The schools will continue to have their own identities but have the flexibility to share resources and costs, enabling the children from both schools to access a wider range of activities.

Our first joint fundraising event takes place at Whitley Chapel Village Hall on the Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Our very own rockstar, Mr Charlton will be playing with his band 'The Glams' and the evening will include a Pie and Pea Supper. Tickets are available via 'just giving' link on Slaley First School Facebook Page. Doors open at 7pm and it is strictly over 18's.



We continue to work hard and enjoy all aspects of school. We aim to Nurture Ambitious Individuals and are very proud of the children and their achievements. We are keen to open our doors to new children and welcome anyone who would like to come and see what we have to offer. If you know any families looking for a super village school, please give us a mention. We now have a Facebook page and a newly developed website, which gives a super overview of our school.



## **Slaley Community Shop**

Your village shop is buzzing with activity. Catch up on the latest news, events, and ways to lend a hand.

### ***Wine Tasting - October 24<sup>th</sup>***

We're planning our next Wine Tasting event with Louise, our exceptional wine buyer. Please reserve Friday 24th October for an evening of individually selected wines and beers, perfectly paired with fresh baking, cheese and biscuits. Watch out for further details in the shop and on our Instagram and Facebook pages.

### ***Bake@Theshop - For Sale Every Thursday & Saturday***

We've got new bakes on trial: prize-winning carrot cake, sunflower & pumpkin seed soda bread, and sourdough rye crackers. You'll also find favourites flying off the shelves, including lemon drizzle cake, bakewell slice, and chocolate brownies. Fresh from the oven and straight to your table, our bakes are as popular as ever. Pop by on Thursday and Saturday mornings to treat yourself to something delicious.

### ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!***

Interested in lending a hand at your village shop? If you've got a few spare hours, we'd love to hear from you. Pop into the shop for a chat or get in touch to find out more.

*Open daily: 8:30am – 12 noon*

*Stay Connected*

*Keep up to date with shop news, offers, and community events:*



*Facebook: @slaleyshop*



*Instagram: @slaleycommunityshop*

## The Rose and Crown!

We have just been featured in Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice" Awards 2025!



## 🎃 Halloween at The Rose & Crown – Friday 31st October 🎃

The Rose & Crown invites you to a **frightfully fun evening** this Halloween! Join us on **Friday 31st October** for a night filled with spooky goings-on and plenty of treats.

🕷️ **Spooky Specials** on the menu

🍹 **Creepy Cocktails** to send shivers down your spine

🍴 **Ghastly Grub** with devilish twists

🕸️ **Terrifying Tunes** to set the mood

Come along in your creepiest costume – there's a **wicked prize** up for grabs for the best dressed. And for our younger visitors, there'll be **trick-or-treat sweets** to take home.

It promises to be a **hauntingly good night** for the whole family – so gather your ghosts and ghouls and join us at The Rose & Crown!

### 🍴 **New Buffet Menu Now Available** 🍴

We're also excited to announce the launch of our brand-new **buffet menu**, perfect for special occasions such as **wakes, birthdays, meetings, and other gatherings**. With a wide range of freshly prepared dishes, it's an easy and delicious way to celebrate or come together with family and friends.

*For more details or to make a booking, please pop in and see us, or give us a call at The Rose & Crown, Slaley on 01434 673996.*



## **Parish Council Report**

The Parish Council is now back in full swing and we're very pleased to see Parishioners coming to our monthly meetings, catching us in the Shop, or out walking dogs, to ask questions or draw attention to matters in the Parish which mean a lot to them.

Our meetings are held monthly, and last no more than two hours, at the Commemoration Hall. Any Parishioners are more than welcome to attend, we'd like to see you and hear your thoughts, so please do feel free to come along. You can always email our Clerk, Sam on [slaleypc@gmail.com](mailto:slaleypc@gmail.com) or Anne Livesey on [annielivesey@googlemail.com](mailto:annielivesey@googlemail.com) or call her on 07803 610077.

At our last meeting we discussed more planning applications, road safety issues, finances, the community play area, speeding in the village and other areas such as Wooley Road and the Coal Road.

With the lack of finances this year, we are sadly turning down fantastic causes asking us to support them. We're very sorry but we have no finance to offer for grants this year due to the gap in the Parish Council's operations, but we will be able to support our local charities again next year.

There is a new road traffic mirror in the Parish at The Glen on the Lead Road, and we're hoping it offers a great view of oncoming traffic and improves confidence at the junction.

We're working with other Parish Councils with an aim to improving response times and support from Northumberland County Council in issues which are important in our Parish. If there are any issues you'd like to find out more about or need our support, please do let us know, we're here to help.

We're working with our local MP, Joe Morris who is keen to work closely with us and provide us with support. We are also in contact and having a meeting with the local community police to work on safety and security in the Parish.



We hope you found the defibrillator sheet useful in last month's newsletter - pin it on your kitchen board or keep it handy in a drawer, you never know when someone might just need your help. There are defibrillators at the Rose and Crown, Colpitts Grange and at Slaley Hall. We have applied to the British Heart Foundation for another defibrillator in the Wooley area to extend coverage. However, if this is unsuccessful, the residents at Wooley and Wood Foots are currently being asked if they would like to contribute financially to buying and installing a defibrillator at Wooley. We have ten residents so far who are interested in contributing, please let Anne Livesey know (if you haven't already) if you feel you could contribute should we not receive a funded machine.

***We're very pleased to announce and welcome the co-option of Mark Osborne as a new Parish Councillor. We all look forward to his input and experience on the Coucil.***

***We still have one vacancy, so please do come and drop in at our next meeting or contact the Chair, Anne Livesey, if you'd like more information . . .***

*Could we also add that we are publishing a survey on the local Facebook page, administered by Councillor Dean. Visit Slaley Village News and Views on Facebook soon to complete the survey. Thank you!*

## **October 2025 gardening column**

**Karen Melvin**

One of my delights in a garden this year has been the visit to the 100 year old Japanese garden at Tatton Park, Cheshire. Alan de Tatton, 3rd Baron de Tatton, was introduced to the idea of a Japanese garden at an exhibition at White City, London in 1910. He afterwards commissioned a team of Japanese workmen to make his beautiful garden with all the traditional elements - water, stones, waterfalls, bridges, pottery, clipped plants and maples.

A Shinto Shrine was brought over from Japan and erected on an island in a lake connected by an 'almond eye' bridge, the shape being formed by the reflection of the bridge in the water.

A tea house was made from a mountain hut design with a window to the east facing the rising sun. Lanterns illuminate the paths along the little streams running past the tea house.



Towering conifer forest trees enclose the whole garden. The placing of these ancient trees throughout the Park grounds is quite beautiful, creating places of peaceful repose and visual inspiration, very different from more usual parkland.

The upper park land by the mansion has walled gardens, a rose and tower garden, ancient shaped yews, glasshouses, a maze, and long vistas through the arboretum. The Japanese garden is reached after walking under these old mature trees towards the meandering lake at the far end.



The Shinto Shrine island in the large pond is largely secret from the main park until it comes into view through trees along a path. Rounding the lake reveals the Shrine and bridges over the water in a sheltered steep little valley.



The Teahouse



Shinto Shrine

Aside the edge of the narrowing stream is the tea house approached by paths winding through the sculpted landscape. Gazing down into this wonderland, you walk around the perimeter, protected by an intricate Japanese wooden fence. There are thoughtfully placed stones, some representing mountains, among wide broad-leaved trees and tight clipped shrubs. Absent most flowers, growth is largely green; ferns, mossy mounds, shrubs, with other subtle colours; leaves of Japanese maples, a single flowering red azalea, dark clay jars, wooden fences, and grey stones.



Multiple paths lead to the tea house, stepping stones placed in the stream, zig-zagged steps and zig-zag bridges that suggest many pauses along the route to look, gaze and think. All the details are quite exquisite, nothing out of place, nothing to disturb the eye.

### **An appeal!**

*Wanted: for an elderly neighbour – someone to cut back a section of hedging. Also to cut some grass. Please ring 01434 673245 for details and to look at the jobs.*

### **The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Slaley**

As we head towards Winter, we seem to be experiencing an Autumn that right across the world seems singularly riven by conflict: from wars in Ukraine and the Holy Lands; through political acrimony across the world's democracies; to the tragedy of climate change and its effects, undoubted now by the scientists, that fall especially on the world's poor and vulnerable. As I write, we are planning Remembrance Day, which is a time when churches honour war dead and pray for peace. Yet the Gospel we read looks forward rather than backwards: to Advent, the Second Coming, the Judgement. The Greek word for this is *Parousia*. It is, Christians believe, the time when history comes to an end; when God will put right the wrongs of creation. As I long for that time, today I read of two quotes:

*We don't know when Jesus will return*

Headline, The Times, referring to the injured Arsenal striker Gabriel Jesus,

*He's not the only one*

*Graham Tomlin, former Bishop of Kensington*

For the *Parousia* is not yet, and in the meantime our duty is to make the world as good as we can.

As part of this year's Remembrance in Slaley, we will place wreaths at the war memorial, for our war dead - and as we read all the names I wonder what would have become of them had they survived? I contemplate the thousands of young lives currently

being cut off in the conflicts of Ukraine and Israel and Gaza. Who knows what they might have gone on to be? And how will they be immortalised?

My own experience of war reminds me that boredom, dirt and chaos are as much a part of warfare as courage, loyalty and sacrifice. More, in fact. One shivers in a muddy ditch rather than riding to glory. And I recall that for all the grand plans of the politicians and commanders, it is the young men and women who fight. So, remember before God the young soldiers who have few choices that as far as they are able, they may act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. And retain their humanity.

You may wish to pray, as the news rolls in of some new evil out of the Holy Lands. For prayer is powerful and we can all do it. I commend a prayer to you, should you be searching for words:

It's a prayer that comes out of the agony of Jerusalem

It's a prayer written by someone who knows the history of both sides, all too well.

It's a prayer whose words have been chosen carefully and skilfully. And as the situation changes and the words don't quite fit, then remember that God has a way of hearing the right words, whatever we say.

Archbishop Naoum of Jerusalem writes:

*"O God of all justice and peace we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering: we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children, to all of us, you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray."*

*Rev'd Diana Johnson*

## **Services**

Services at Slaley Church are at 11.15am each Sunday. Everyone is welcome, whether a regular churchgoer, or not. Slaley Church is there for the whole community.

Dates to particularly note are:

**5<sup>th</sup> October 11.15am** The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne will license the Reverend Diana Johnson as Priest in Charge of Slaley and Healey churches. This in place of the usual Holy Communion, as it is a special service.

**9<sup>th</sup> November 10.45am** Remembrance Service starting at the War Memorial for the Silence then moving inside – come for either or both.

**23<sup>rd</sup> December 5.30pm** Carol Service at St Mary's, Slaley

**24<sup>th</sup> December 6.00pm** Carol Service at St John's, Healey

**25<sup>th</sup> December 11.15am** Family Communion Service at St Mary's

**24<sup>th</sup> January 2026 9.30am** Messy Church in the Commemoration Hall

### **October Slaley Notes from WI**

Who'd have thought that you could learn how to make sushi in Slaley? Not us, for sure...until we met Maureen Haney, from Langley WI, at our September meeting, who made it all look so easy...and it was, under her guidance (not so good when attempting at home!). We understand it takes up to seven years to become a sushi master, so ours may not have been perfect but it was all delicious, whatever it looked like. Our thanks to Maureen for a delicious evening and for lessening our fear of wasabi. (see pic)



We're having a boozy month at the WI this October; all in the name of research of course, to plan for the festive season ahead! Our 8<sup>th</sup> October meeting welcomes Louise Bartholdi, wine buyer for Slaley Village Shop who has proven her excellent taste and repartee at a fair few 'tastings' in the village in the last couple of years.

She's explaining the process of wine tasting to us; the 'how to'; why a wine tastes the way it does; explaining different styles of wine and different grape varieties and bringing along the special glasses, spittoons and tasting notes. At previous tasting sessions some of us ditched the spittoons and had a very jolly time...but we

must try at our meeting to have a little decorum and to learn how it should be done!

And then, our 'to be confirmed' extra visit, at the end of October (Weds 22<sup>nd</sup>) is a trip to Ad Gefrin, the Anglo-Saxon Museum and Whisky Distillery at Wooler. We intend to have a late brunch/early lunch, visit the museum and from there have a guided tour around the distillery and a wee 'snifter' tasting. If we get at least a party of 10 together we can get a discounted rate on ticket prices (£20) so that's one of the hot topics, we'll be discussing on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

At the time of writing we are preparing to host the popular Macmillan Coffee morning for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running. Last year's event raised £730 which we hope to surpass this year. We will have been joined by Christine Milligan, whose vintage buys are now a popular attraction at the village shop (and who, with pal Gill Hall, successfully ran this event in the past and did so much to popularise it)...and there will have been our usual raffle, a book stall, Tropic skin care and our exciting spread of cakes, real coffee (and tea) and lots of chit chat.



The poppy covered net continues to grow and we did a test run of one of the three or four panels we hope to have ready on the church wall for Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. (See pic). It really does look very striking. We are now confident that we will reach our target of 1,000 poppies which have, and continue to be, knitted and sewn by both our

members and many people in the community who are often anonymous. Schoolchildren from Slaley School have glued, cross-stitched and sewn buttons on varying felt designs as their contribution and regular collections continue to be made from the poppy box in the shop, a big thankyou to all the busy bees in the area. We're spending an equal amount of time sewing them on now! (See pic)



And an advance warning: Christmas is on the way. We've organised a special Christmas Fair on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 10am to 2pm as a fundraiser for the Commemoration Hall like so many

other local groups who are regular users of the space and facilities. It's a bit early to talk about the details but just to say there will be a wide variety of stallholders and it's a great opportunity to do a little bit of shopping with THE day being only 7 weekends away...sorry! Keep an eye out on the various village noticeboards for further details.

Next issue: new gardening trends from our visit to Harrogate Autumn Flower Show; news from our Lunch with the Northumberland Federation Chairman Marjorie Read with special Sewing Bee guest and fund-raising results of the Macmillan Coffee morning.

As always, if any ladies are interested in joining in, please contact President Catherine Myers on 673023 or Secretary Vicky Pepys on 07802 572326. New members very welcome.

### **The Commemoration Hall**

The Hall now has a new committee, with Andrew Coney as Chairman, Karl Beckett as Vice Chairman, Jim Bailey as Treasurer and Pat Wilson as Secretary.



Andrew says:

I am very pleased to take up the role of Chair of the Commemoration Hall committee and am looking forward to working with all the members to maintain and develop this key hub of our community.

For more than one hundred years the Commemoration Hall has been here as a venue for events that have been highlights in the lives of local families.

It was here I took my toddler daughter to parties and more recently watched her cast her first vote in a general election. I've danced (badly) there, tasted wines and beers, admired vegetables, enjoyed the Young Farmers entertain, watched movies and even bet on pig racing ! Some of you go there to get fit, play sports and others to learn or simply connect through the many clubs and organisations that make use of the facilities. It really has been and will continue to be at the very heart of life in Slaley.

So, my ambition is to primarily ensure that the fabric of the Hall is taken good care of and that we attract more local events and activities. So do please make use of the facilities and if at any time you have thoughts on how we can build upon what we offer, do please let me know.

### **Exercise To Music**

The 2 groups, sponsored by Age UK Northumberland, have recommenced from Monday 1st September. New members are welcome.

The first group is for those able to move around freely, although some of us may have some minor ailments! This group is held between 9.30am & 10.30am on Mondays.

The second group is for those who are limited in the amount of standing exercise they can manage. It runs from 10.45am to 11.45am on Mondays.

*If you think you might like to take a look, why not join us to try a session? If you would like more information,, call Carol Ferguson (01434 673585}*

“Snack & Chat” is back, starting on Tuesday 30th September and every fortnight thereafter. The dates for your diary: 14 & 28 October; 11 & 25 November; and 9 December (Christmas!).

Come to the Commemoration Hall 12.30-14.00 for a light lunch and friendly chat!

### **Slaley Badminton Group**

Slaley Badminton Group is starting again on Wednesday 24th September at 9,30am in Slaley Commemoration Hall. New players are welcome to join us for exercise and fun.

Contact Fran Pugh on 01434 673429 or fmpugh@btinternet.com

### **Carpet Bowls**

The Carpet Bowls Club meets in the Commemoration Hall every Tuesday from September to April from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Christmas Craft Fair  
Commemoration Hall  
Slaley NE47 0BQ  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November  
10am to 2pm  
Free Entry • Refreshments  
!W-i-d-e variety of stalls!



Hosted by Slaley W.I. as a fundraiser with  
proceeds going to Slaley Commemoration Hall



## 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. Diana Johnson</b>	<b>682768</b>
<b>St Elizabeth's Catholic Church</b>	<b>Father Emmanuel Kabinga</b>	<b>673248</b>
<b>Commemoration Hall</b>	<b>Chairman: Andrew Coney</b>	<b>07990 041324</b>
	<b>Bookings</b>	<b>slaleych@gmail.com</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>Electricity</b>	<b>Power cut?</b>	<b>105</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>Mobile Hairdresser</b>	<b>Linda Johnston</b>	<b>673196</b>
<b>Northumberland CC</b>	<b>Report faulty Streetlights/ Potholes</b>	<b>0345 6006400</b>
<b>Parish Council</b>	<b>slaleypc@gmail.com</b>	
<b>Post Office Van</b>	<b>Martin Nichol, Stocksfield Post Office</b>	<b>01661 842110</b>
<b>Police</b>	<b>For non-emergency calls</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Rose &amp; Crown Pub</b>	<b>David &amp; Sam</b>	<b>673996</b>
<b>Slaley Community Shop</b>	<b>Shop enquiries</b>	<b>673201</b>
	<b>Sandra Innes (Chair)</b>	<b>673845</b>
<b>Slaley First School</b>	<b>Head: Mrs. Hayward</b>	<b>673220</b>
<b>Slaley Parish Website</b>	<b>www.slaley.org.uk</b>	
<b>Slaley Show</b>	<b>Vice Chair: Gemma Common</b>	
	<b>Secretary: <a href="mailto:secretary.slaleyshow@hotmail.com">secretary.slaleyshow@hotmail.com</a></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: Vicky Pepys</b>	<b>07802 572326</b>