

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 PC Sue Cockburn	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	www.slaley.org.uk	
Slaley Show Society	Chairman, Marge Rastall Secretary Fiona Pattinson	673547 07766 467 455
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

OCTOBER 2020



Freddie Hedgehog and Slaley News.

On Saturday afternoon Jane entered the house carrying a tiny inert bundle that she revealed to be a very small and sorry bundle that was a very sick, nearly lifeless, baby hedgehog. What to do?

Google provided plenty of advice but we decided to turn to local expertise. From past editions of Slaley News we contacted Pat Wilson and Joan Jewitt to discover Pat had hedgehog food, but also remembered there had been an item in the spring about hedgehogs. This quickly revealed contact details of two contacts not so distant. A quick call to a lady called Sandra Lowe in Ryton (01914136927) revealed she was snowed under with poorly hedgehogs but of course would care for our little bundle.

A quick trip into Ryton and we found a cheerful welcome and the news that our little fellow was severely dehydrated and infected with maggots and would surely not have survived another night. It responded to some expert handling and was declared to be a little boy. As we left Sandra announced "all my hedgehogs have to be named, what are you going to call him?" I replied with the first name that came into my head and Freddie Hedgehog is now recovering in good hands.

The moral to this tale is that there is a boundless supply of information in this parish and in editions of this publication so all you have to do is ask and look.

Oil group

Our September oil order was again purchased from Carrs Billington at 26.95 ppl. This was the cheapest bulk buy price by 1.2 pence and by almost 2pence cheaper than Certas Energy. The volume this month was 30,200 litres

We are going out to tender every month now until June 2021

Deadlines for October will be- Orders to me by Friday 9th of October for delivery during week commencing 19th of October

Thank you all for your continued support

If you wish to join the group contact me Neil Whatmough either by email at nbwhatmough@btinternet.com or by telephone on 01434 676949

Contributions for November edition by Tuesday October 27th please.

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

Slaley Parish Council

Annual Parish Council Meeting and August meeting –

The main business of the Annual Parish Council meeting was to elect officers.

Anne Livesey was elected Chair and Debra Taylor was elected Vice-Chair. Anne thanked Robbie Hutchinson for his work as Chair. Steve Carson volunteered to be the emergency contact for Slaley First School.

There was a great deal of business discussed at the August PC meeting so just one or two comments here:

Speedwatch will resume and the PC will enquire as to the progress of implementing a 20mph limit in the village. It was noted that many people heeded the request to trim hedges to help pedestrians and a gentle reminder to keep up the good work.

September PC meeting.

This was a packed meeting, with public participation and the County Councillor present.

Infrastructure problems dominated: concerns were raised, and solutions discussed regarding broadband speeds at The Glen.

The CClr. was asked to raise the issue of the 20mph village speed limit with Highways as no progress had been made over the last month.

Considerable concern was raised about the inaction of Highways officials in addressing the dangerous Glen Crossroads: a meeting has been urgently arranged. The condition of Byways Open to All Traffic was raised with the CClr. too and actions put in place.

The agreement for use of the school field

Children have a right to play, and they need opportunities for physical exercise and interaction with other youngsters. However, everyone has a right to enjoy their home and workplace peacefully and know that their property is safe.

The following agreement and simple guidelines should ensure that the play and sport facilities can be enjoyed by all users, without disturbance to others.

* The Parish Council and the School will ensure that the facility is regularly inspected and kept in good condition.

* Parents and carers will be responsible for their children when they are in the school grounds and the play area.

* Users of the facilities will abide by the following common sense rules.

The school grounds should be left as children found them moving school equipment and furniture should be avoided.

The facilities are closed from 7.30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday to Thursday and from 7.30 a.m. – 3.15 p.m. on Fridays during school time. The facilities will be open at all times during weekends and school holidays, until dusk (when the village street lights come on).

During the Coronavirus pandemic there may be changes to this community agreement watch local notices for changes.

Only the school field to be used for ball games – there is restricted entry for very young children to the enclosed nursery play area and the school and the walls of these buildings must not be used for ball games.

Responsibility of children lies solely with parents and carers.

It is their responsibility to ensure that children arrive at and leave the field safely. Slaley First School can take no responsibility for any child using the field.

Please respect other residents' right to peace and a safe environment.

The school playing field is surrounded by private houses. Owners expect you to have fun and cause some noise, but bad language is not acceptable and its continued use will involve loss of privileges

Cycling on the school field will result in loss of privileges.

Tennis Posts and net. The posts and net will be stored in the wooden storage unit next to the wooden sheds. Please return them to the storage unit when not in use.

Outdoor Table Tennis. The * net and bats are stored in the wooden storage unit next to the wooden sheds. Please return them to the storage unit when not in use. * **Not available during Coronavirus**

Storage Box. The storage unit will not be locked and we hope that the community will appreciate this facility and not abuse its use.

For the protection of users, no pets/animals must be allowed on the site.

Please take litter home.

Please report any damage, graffiti or other signs of misuse to one of the people listed below.

Catherine Lincoln Tel: 0791 812 0125
Steve Carson Tel: 07757 686373

In case of serious vandalism or misbehaviour you should inform the Police on 101. You may need the postcode for Slaley First School, which is NE47 0AA.



Working with People for Nature – Working with Nature for People

Ladycross Nature reserve

Some people have done the Butterfly survey while others have just noticed the lack of butterflies in general this year. One person in Hexham (RW) reported seeing Peacocks, Tortoiseshell, Speckled Wood, Whites, Meadow Browns and an occasional Small Skipper. However there were no big numbers at all.

Ringlets have been spotted along the grass verges and lots of Whites. There have been very few Peacocks, Red Admirals or Tortoiseshells and possibly one Painted Lady and a Small Copper (AW).

In Riding Mill there has been a marked lack of butterflies and insects in general. When the Buddleias have flowered there have been more including one Comma. In the fields a few Meadow Browns and Ringlets have been seen (JM).

Whites and Tortoiseshells seem to be the most reported.

Could members let us know of any fungi they spot (we would have been having our fungus foray this Saturday.)

Badminton.

We are starting again on Wed October 14th at 9.30 am in Slaley Commemoration Hall. New players welcome. For more information please contact Fran Pugh Tel 673429

Exercise to music

Hello again. Thanks to all those who have been in touch to express interest in attending the Exercise to Music sessions when they recommence. I am keen to get back to seeing you at the Commemoration Hall for distanced Exercise. Unfortunately, Age UK, for whom I am an exercise to music volunteer, have not yet provided their Covid guidelines for these classes and I will have to adhere to these (in addition to those at the Hall). I will keep contacting Age UK regularly and will update you as appropriate. In the meantime, Keep Active! Carol Ferguson

It's wine tasting time again on Zoom!

By popular demand, Helen Savage will host another wine tasting on Thursday 22 October via Zoom – with two wines specially ordered through Slaley Shop. The idea is simple and already tried and very successfully tested – buy the wine, join the meeting at a set time and Helen will guide you through the wines as we taste them together and she'll suggest food pairings too. If you think it sounds like fun, please contact her on helensavage1@gmail.com and she'll send you full details. We have two 'sittings' at 5pm (fairly quiet) and 8pm (anything but).

A View from the Vicarage

In one of my August, 'thoughts for the day posted' on the Moorland Churches Facebook page I told the horrifying story of Oradour sur Glane, the site of a sickening massacre of innocent people on 10 June 1944 by a unit of the SS, 'Das Reich', which was rushing north to join the fight against the allies a few days after the D-Day landings. They had just hung 99 citizens from lamp-posts and balconies in the town of Tulle as a reprisal against the activities of the Maquis. Now they rounded up the villagers of Oradour sur Glane near Limoges. They put the men into the barns, shot them in the legs and set fire to the buildings. The women and children were rounded up into the church, which was first desecrated. Then grenades were thrown inside. 642 people died. The village was abandoned as a 'martyr-village' and left as a chilling monument to the horrors of which we humans are sometimes capable of descending.

Oradour was back in the news because last month vandals defaced the village with graffiti. Beside the entrance the word 'martyr' was painted over and 'lies' scrawled in its place.

One of the six survivors of the massacre. Robert Hébras, now 95 years-old, hid under the burning bodies of his friends. He has devoted his life to reconciliation between France and Germany and to keeping the memory of Oradour alive, based on a deep commitment to revealing the truth of what happened that day. He said, in horrified reaction to the desecration of the site: 'For me, it's an open wound. I've wanted to keep the memory of Oradour alive over all these years, but we always tend to forget. Remember that women and children died in a horrifying way in that church. When I go back inside, each time, I wonder where my mother and sisters were. I've wished all my life to know that they died as quickly as possible. What I now fear is that the whole world will talk about Oradour for 48 hours and then stop, and we'll forget.'

I later talked to a friend in our village who knows Monsieur Hébras well (there's another story that links our village to the Resistance and possibly to the horrors of Oradour that I told in my 'thought'). Marie-Paule has worked with him over many years in supporting the work of veteran's associations in the area. She told me that he's an amazingly positive character, almost always ready to smile and greet everyone, but recently he was unusually downcast. He told her that he'd been receiving hate mail accusing him of lying about Oradour. Words failed me.

I have never plucked up the courage to visit the site of Oradour or the new village built alongside the martyr-village. Marie-Paule says that the new settlement leaves her cold and that even the new church seems soulless and un-welcoming. Somehow I'm not surprised. Sometimes the evils of the past leave their trace, and attempts to deny them, no matter how disgusting, hurtful or crass will fail.

Does the church have any answer to this? In the years after the Second World War, theologians, numbed by what had happened, concentrated on the story of Jesus's own unjust and horrific execution and found it hard to talk about resurrection. They found a grim comfort in the idea that even God may share our worst nightmares.

What now impresses me, is that people of faith, and Robert Hébras is one such, do not deny the tragic evils of the past. They still cry out to God in grief and total non-comprehension. The mystery of evil remains unsolved. But their faith in the power of self-giving love sustains them. It does not provide all the answers. It's not an escape, but it gives them the strength to keep going. If ever there was a lesson from history worth learning and clinging onto, whatever crisis we face, whatever, perhaps, the suffering involved, it's surely this.

Helen

Church services and news

Sunday worship takes place every Sunday at St Mary's at 10am. The weather being what it is, unless we get a quite unexpected spell of mild, dry weather, all our services will now be indoors. Please rest assured that we are following all the advice given to us to ensure that the building is Covid-secure with socially-distanced seating. It may not be as warm as we'd like (because we have to ensure there's adequate ventilation) but at least the service doesn't last too long (around 25 minutes)! What is essential, please, is that you should wear a mask in church unless, of course, you have a medical reason not to.

We'll mark Sunday 4 October as Harvest Sunday – it won't be quite the same, of course, but we'll do our best to make it special.

The church remains open every day for private prayer between about 10am and 5pm.

Holy Communion still remains very tricky to arrange because hygiene rules strongly advise us to have access to hot, running water, but we will make some provision for this very soon, very probably on a weekday in the Commemoration Hall.

You'll be able to find full details of the new arrangements as they're updated on the church noticeboards, on our Facebook page (below) and our website: www.moorland-group.org.uk.

We continue to stream our weekly Sunday services on Facebook. They go live at 9am each Sunday and there's a weekly 'thought for the day' each Wednesday, also usually 'live' by 9am.

To find them please just click on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/moorlandgroup/>

You don't need to join Facebook and you can listen to them all at any time of your choice.

If you know of anyone who needs a call or would like Helen to pray specially for someone, please phone her on 01434 676852 or email helensavage1@gmail.com. Under the government guidelines it is still possible for Helen to visit you if have a pastoral need as part of her work – and as long as we respect social distancing – of course.

Our weekly ecumenical study group on Friday's at 11am via Zoom has just begun again. The sessions have been very worthwhile and thought-provoking. If you'd like Helen to send you a Zoom invitation, please let her know.

St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will take place after the morning service at 10.30 am in the Church on Sunday 25 October. All the papers will be available online beforehand – details will be posted on the website. It's everyone's opportunity to ask about the life and work of the church – and we'll need to elect churchwardens and the Church Council. If you would like to stand, and would like to know more about what it might mean, please do have a word with Helen.

Events at Minsteracres Retreat Centre.

I have been unable to confirm the effect the new covid restrictions are having on events at Minsteracres so please check their website <http://www.minsteracres.org/come-on-retreat/> for information or call on 01434 673248



Commemoration Hall £100,000 for 100 years

Building work has finished, the entrance floor, kitchen and corridor floors have been varnished.

Next Monday the 28th the painter starts work and it will take about 2 weeks to complete the decoration of the main hall. We will launch fundraising for stage 2 (the new small Hall) at the beginning of October, we already have £25,000 in the pot. We had the first draw of the 200 club on Saturday and the winning number was 37. Congratulations to the winner, you can see a video of the draw on the Parish Web site. We are working very hard to open the hall and we had the Leek Club last week. Local restrictions are causing us a few headaches but we are remaining positive that we will be able to be in the hall as soon as it is safe to do so.

Rosaleen Doonan

Car Clue Decoding Hunt Sunday October 25th 2020

British Summer Time Ends today and we are still under the threat of COVID-19.

Fund-raising is difficult, the Government says we should not mix outside our bubble or mingle with friends, so to entertain you and your bubble we have organised a short car ride with clues for you to find.

£5 per car – call at the Commemoration Hall between 1 – 3 p.m. on Sunday 25th to collect your route and question sheet and off you go.

Alternatively, you can pay £5 into the Hall bank account on Thursday October 22nd and the clues will be emailed to you on Sunday morning.

Barclays Bank. Acc Name: Slaley Commemoration Hall.

Acc No: 10808342. Sort Code 20 40 09

Then forward your email address to pat.wilson28@outlook.com for the route & clues

There will be a free entry into the Christmas SCH 200 Club Draw for the winner of the Hunt.

Slaley Commemoration Hall would like to exhibit Cribs from Around the World

November 26th/27th/28th 2020

Can you help us?

We would love you to take part with your crib

Telephone Rosaleen 01434 673173

The 200 Club

The Slaley Commemoration Hall Lottery is up and running and the first prize draw took place in September. The lucky winner was Joan Cleall-Harding. If anyone would like to take part numbers are still available. Details are on the village web site (www.slaley.org.uk) or contact Pat Wilson for more information. (673388).

Don't forget: By taking part, not only are you in with a chance to win, but you are also helping raise funds for the village hall's renovation programme. Thank you!



SLALEY FILM CLUB

Slaley Film Club – (which is not actually a club anyone can come along) held the first show of our 16th season, with a reduced audience of just 14 people. The film

was "Mrs Lowry and Son", which told the story of L S Lowry's life with his cantankerous mother in Pendlebury near Manchester.



We missed the opportunity to mingle and talk over a cooked supper, but enjoyed watching a film together, and are looking forward to the next seven performances. As usual, we will have our film show on the third Friday of each month, but you will now have to book your place in advance as numbers are limited to 25 maximum.

Just go to www.slaley.org.uk/bookings/ and choose your options.

More details of the forthcoming films will be posted on the website and elsewhere, and if you would like to join our mailing list just send a request to michael@elphicks.myzen.co.uk.

Eventually we hope to be able to resume providing a supper, but this will be subject to the latest guidance.

Please get in touch with us if you have suggestions for future films, or if you would like to help in any way.

Slaley Carpet Bowls

No news , we are **not** going to re-start bowls at the present time.
Brian

Slaley Leek Club

Despite the covid restrictions we were, with the agreement of the Village Hall Committee, to allow our 25 members to bench their best two leeks for judging early in September. Congratulations to David Innes who won for the third time. A big shout out to Ian Stevens of Winter House- in his first year of membership he came in a close second. Well done also to Ros Doonan who won the prize for best leek benched. We also let the Slaley School children put their leeks outside the Hall to be judged with the winner this year being Izzy Hunter.

Like so many other things we do hope that we are able to put our full Slaley Leek Flower and Vegetable Show on next year. It's great though that growing vegetables seems to have taken off in the village in the last 6 months with quite a few new requests for membership coming in. If you fancy growing some big leeks for fun speak to one of Malcom Goodwin, David Innes or Brian Wilson. You will be made more than welcome.

Malcolm Goodwin Chairman, Slaley Leek Club

Results 1-10

1 David Innes
2 Ian Stevens
3 Trudie Jennings
4 Kevin Doonan
5 Billy Mitchinson

6 Rosaleen Doonan
7 David Robson
8 Mark Jennings
9 Clive Weatherly
10 Jean Elphick

News Update from Slayey First School

On behalf of all of us at Slayey First School, we hope that you continue to be safe and well. The children have all arrived back at school ready to learn and are enjoying being back with their friends. We are organised in our two bubbles and the school continues to have 'zoned' areas to keep our bubbles separate and the children safe. We would ask that everyone adheres to our request of NOT using the school grounds after school during the week, however feel free to access them at the weekend.

We are trying to be creative and keep as many of our extra-curricular activities in place for the children. This month we have our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday the 25th September. The children will be enjoying a beautiful cake baked by Mrs Seymour, in their classroom, and we will be using a new method of receiving donations from parents, as unfortunately, parents are not able to join us in person this year.

We will be celebrating European Day of Languages on the 1st of October. Mrs Seymour will be cooking a delicious Italian Meal and the children will be taking part in planned activities in the classroom to celebrate countries around the world.

This term, Year 3 and 4 are taking part in 'Inamojo' a creative dance programme which helps to develop methods of relaxation and meditation. It encourages children to practice techniques to help maintain good mental health. They are enjoying the sessions and have embraced the techniques. We have also been able to offer our children the opportunity to attend multi-skills and tennis again this term. These clubs take place after school and are being well attended. FoSS has been 'wracking its brains' to come up with creative ways to raise funds for the school and have had some amazing ideas, so watch this space!

It is lovely to all be back together in school and returning to some kind of normality. However, our main priority is always to keep the children safe so we will be constantly reviewing our systems and procedures in accordance with Government Guidance.

There will be no meetings of the W.I. until further notice.



The NHS recently announced that, for the time being, they would no longer be carrying out routine hearing and ear procedures. Clare Bates, an NHS trained specialist would like it be known that she can provide ear wax removal, dizzy treatments and ear protection and hearing tests. At the moment she can do emergency visits or appointments at Naturel Therapies, Warden.

Her contact number is 07801336416 email clarebates468@gmail.com

Oct gardening column- Karen Melvin

Preparing for the Garden Wander next year on June 13, I have been adding to my plant collection. The drop-dead showy things in June are irises. So new frilled irises have been planted and seedlings of more choice things than the overgrown London Pride, variegated deadnettle, rampant bellflowers and tired Michaelmas daisies that I have been digging out. In have gone special Jacobs ladder "Purple Rain", a large flowered catnip, some very pretty geraniums from the collector and breeder Robin Moss in Hexham. He told me the name of my very tough spreading "geranium x magnificum" which is a luminous blue and dies down in the summer leaving space for the blowsy deep pink oriental poppy that flops forward into its space. My strategy, as you can gather, is plant collecting and squeezing them in somewhere.

However there are other fabulous gardens that will be open, especially Paula Darrington's garden in the village. She has a true designer's approach starting from a blank canvas in a field.

The entrance to her garden is through a series of enclosed spaces with seats, giving space to pause, if not physically to sit down, then at least mentally slowing one down and gazing. There is a well, some urns, fallen and upright, tall trees, weeping trees. To the south a high pleached line of trees and hedge in front further contain the space. The journey continues to the gravel garden with verticals, arching lines, clumps of huge leaves, statuesque plants, spiky eryngiums and wild plants seeded around. It sets a scene of sculpted exuberance backed by clipped hedges of various greens. This sense of containment gradually opens up as hedges are angled and cut through, offering dramatic glimpses of what will come.



Alliums, eryngiums and urn

The main wide expanse of lawn has three architecture features- a pergola, a seating circle and a large curved terraced bank. Turning to look back at the house you see the pond with stepping stones leading to the patio and seats. The planting around the pond hides half of the house so you feel that nature is the dominant characteristic. The water reflects nature and the stepping stones invite you into it. They are wide with submerged stones between which give some protection. Every feature in the garden offers places to sit. It feels contemplative as well as social depending on the circumstance. It can contain a party or one solitary person very happily.



Pond and pergola