



SLALEY NEWS SEPTEMBER 2026



After our long period of hot weather we can hopefully have a more normal autumn! For meteorologists Autumn begins on 1 September and ends 30 November, while for astronomers it starts at the autumn equinox: 23 September.

This autumn we can look forward to the resumption of the Local History talks featuring Metal Detecting, the Leek Show, the new season of films in the Hall, and some special new evenings with varied cuisines at the Rose & Crown. The Blaydon group of detectorists also have an article explaining what they do.

We have reports on the successful 164th Sleaford Show, and from the First School, who have been very successful in growing sunflowers! And Karen Melvin's regular gardening column features some magnificent trees.

The Community Shop would like to hear your views in their Annual Survey.

Sleaford Community Trust

Some people may remember that Sleaford had a Community Trust; it was formed in March 2005 following the adoption of the Parish Plan, and membership was open to all residents; at one point this editor was even the Chairman!

Now a decision is needed about the remaining funds. And the future of the Whist sessions is also in doubt, so get in touch with Pat Wilson if you are interested or able to help.

As always we welcome contributions from anyone who has news they would like to share!

Contributions for the October edition by Tuesday 22nd of
September or earlier, please!

Send by email to sleafordnews@icloud.com, or to
michael@elphicks.myzen.co.uk

Parish Council Report



We hope you've all coped with the heat over the past two months as we approach autumn with the nights closing in!

Our Parish remains pretty dry, at the time of writing, so please take all litter home - a piece of litter thrown out of the car can start a fire. Disposable BBQs are currently banned, and cigarettes must be extinguished really carefully. There have been some devastating fires around the country this summer.

Your Parish Council did not meet in August, but have kept in regular contact via email and message. We've had planning applications to look at (don't forget there is a link on our website straight to the Northumberland County Council planning portal), and a number of issues have been discussed such as fly tipping, and ongoing problems in the Forest with illegally dumped, burnt out caravans and cars. The road through the village remains in need of repair and Wooley Grange is still not adopted. These issues both sit with the Highways at County Hall and we are working hard on trying to achieve resolutions to the issues.

Northumberland County Council's Green Dog Walker Scheme has ended distributing dog poo bags to local community centres and these can now only be collected from your local library. We all like to keep our paths and walks dog poo free and our Parish is pretty good at collecting and taking home to throw away used bags. Thank you all for being such responsible dog owners, everyone appreciates it.

Our waste collections appear to be changing in spring 2027, with the addition of another bin - black with a maroon lid - this will mean we will be able to recycle glass and more plastic from home. We expect the Council will send out more information in the New Year. we will post information on our website, and our Facebook page.

In the village there are some overhanging trees and large shrubs. If the vegetation from your garden covers up a road sign, or hangs low over the pavement across your boundary, it would be great if you could just keep an eye on the growth and trim it back in the autumn to make sure everyone can see road signs, and pedestrians can walk along the pavement safely.

We have been looking at various funding applications and will be deciding if we have any residual funds this year which projects we can support. The Commemoration Hall is used by many parishioners but given its age, is now in need of some restoration, particularly the roof. We hope to be able to support this initiative alongside the Hall

Committee fundraising and applying for grants. The Hall offers a very busy schedule with something for everyone, so make sure in the autumn you pop along and see if there's something you might like to join! They also have great facilities to hire for parties and meetings.

As a Parish Council we work towards making Slaley Parish a safe, pleasant, friendly place to live. If there are any ideas you feel would be nice to implement in the village or have any issues, we are always happy to hear from you either through the Clerk (clerk@slaleyparishcouncil.gov.uk), or the Chair (annielivesey@googlemail.com).

The 164th Slaley Show



Thanks from the Show Committee to everyone who came along to Slaley Show. It was a successful day, with lots of visitors enjoying the lack of the usual breeze - although not enjoying the insect infestation.

A big part of the show is the competitive element. There were over 1,600 entries in the various sections. The secretaries commented on the support that taking part brings to the show:-

- "great to see over 100 entries in the flower and veg classes"
- "the children's section was very well supported, with 200 entries, which was fantastic to see, demonstrating so much involvement from the local community"
- "the Horse & Pony section welcomed both local competitors and those who travelled from further afield to take part"
- "the support the new fun dog show section got was superb, with dogs of all shapes and sizes taking part!"

The show cannot take place without the support of people from both Slaley and Hexhamshire, coming together to put it on - thanks from the Committee to all who helped.

Slaley Community Shop



We've had a really busy time @theshop this summer with new locally sourced beers and crisps becoming firm favourites. Our Bake@TheShop team launched new products including Sausage Rolls whilst their old favourite

Choc Chip Cookies, Bakewell Slice and Brownies are ever popular. Our AGM will be held on 30th September, 7:30pm in the Commemoration Hall, everyone is welcome. We'll be sharing our highlights from the financial year and outlining plans for the coming year.

You can help us by completing the Slaley Community Shop Annual Survey 2026. Paper copies are available in the shop with pens and a posting box or you might prefer to submit your thoughts online using this QR code .

We'd really like to hear your view of how we might further develop the the range, offer and services your shop provides the community.

Remember 10% of our profits are held in a Community Fund. Applications are invited and will be reviewed by the Board with funding awarded to projects that demonstrate clear community benefit.

Slaley Shop would like to do more with our social media presence. We post regularly on Facebook and Instagram but would like to do more. If you can help we're keen to learn. Please get in touch via slaleyshop@gmail.com or leave your contact details @theshop.



Thank you for the ongoing support of our amazing volunteers and, of course to you as customers, we look forward to seeing you in September.

Slaley Community Trust

Slaley Community Trust has been dormant for several years. Multiple previous attempts have been made to revive it but to date insufficient people have come forward to form a new committee. Because the Trust lacked properly elected officers, and we were unable to provide proper providence to the bank, its bank account was closed. However, the funds in the account at the time, £420, have been kept safe. As a village, the time has come for us to decide what to do with that money.

Here are some options:

1. Use it to fund future issues of Slaley News
2. Donate it to Slaley School
3. Donate it to Slaley Commemoration Hall
4. Give it to Slaley Parish Council
5. Something else?

Alternatively, if enough people come forward to form a new committee, the Trust could be reformed.

Please complete the online survey here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VXT8LP5>
Or alternatively email d411sop@gmail.com and let us have your views.

Margaret Weatherly (Former Treasurer), Norman Watson (Former Chair),
David Allsop (Former Secretary)

Slaley First School August 2026

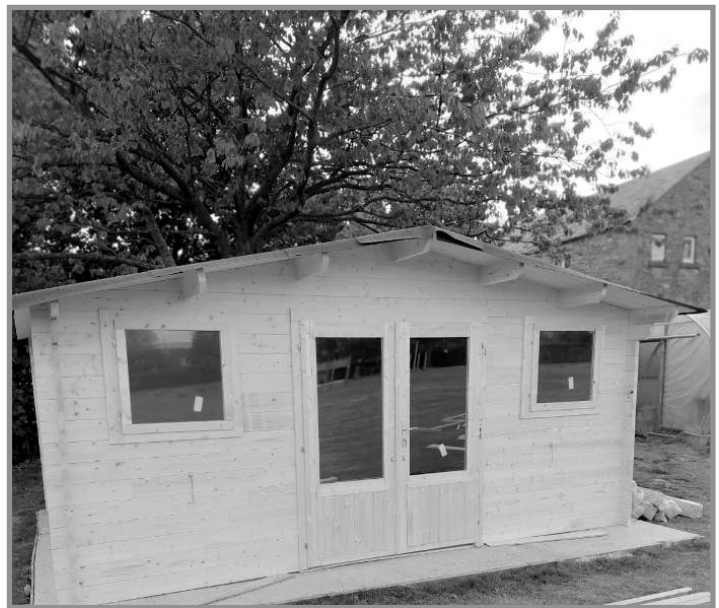
We are delighted with the outcome of our latest project '*Little Hands, Big Flowers*'. The sunflower plot on the school field does not disappoint. We have the most beautiful display of sunflowers which are stunning and gave us inspiration for our Slaley Show entries this year. Our school grounds are open to the community so if you have a moment do pop in and see the plot in full bloom!



Slaley Show was well supported and the children's work was admired by many. There have been lots of positive comments regarding the entries by the children, which have been appreciated. We are delighted that so many people could share in the beautiful work the children produce in school.



We now have our long awaited 'Cosy Cabin' which has been an ongoing project for the school over the year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their support, we have been overwhelmed by the donations and the contributions we received to make our vision a reality. The children will benefit enormously and will enjoy using it in outdoor education.



Our school fair was also very successful this year. Many thanks to those parents who worked so hard to make it a lovely occasion for our children and their families. The weather was amazing and it was really lovely to see our community enjoying the activities and socialising in the sun. Each year brings new exciting opportunities for our children and families. We are looking forward to September and the beginning of a new school year!

The Blaydon Search and Recovery Association

You may have seen a small group of metal detectorists in the surrounding fields of Slaley over the last eight or more years,

The Blaydon search and recovery association was set up by a group of people interested in History and Archaeology over 25 years ago, The Blaydon metal detecting club for short, we have worked on many important archaeology projects, helping Archaeologist's to discover the history beneath our feet, working on projects at piercebridge, catterick flodden newburn Nevills cross and many more, we have many coins and artefacts on display in museums around the north east and London, the club is out in the Fields every Sunday rotating around the different seasons and crops



Viking horse mount

What first led us to Slaley was a great archaeologist and author called Raymond Selkirk who wrote books on Roman transport and roads in the North east, he tracked a road from stanhope to corbridge roman fort, crossing the roman bridge at Baybridge then travelling through Slaley to Corbridge Roman fort, we are still looking to find evidence of



Gary's Axehead

the road through slaley and have found a few roman coins and artefacts but still not found the route yet

We will be doing a talk at the Slaley Commemoration Hall on Monday Sept 28th at 7.30pm if anyone is interested in history and artefacts, we will be bringing a large collection of coins and artefacts, to display so come along and see some amazing finds

We have a facebook page where you can read some of our stories and see some amazing historic finds: Blaydon search and recovery association

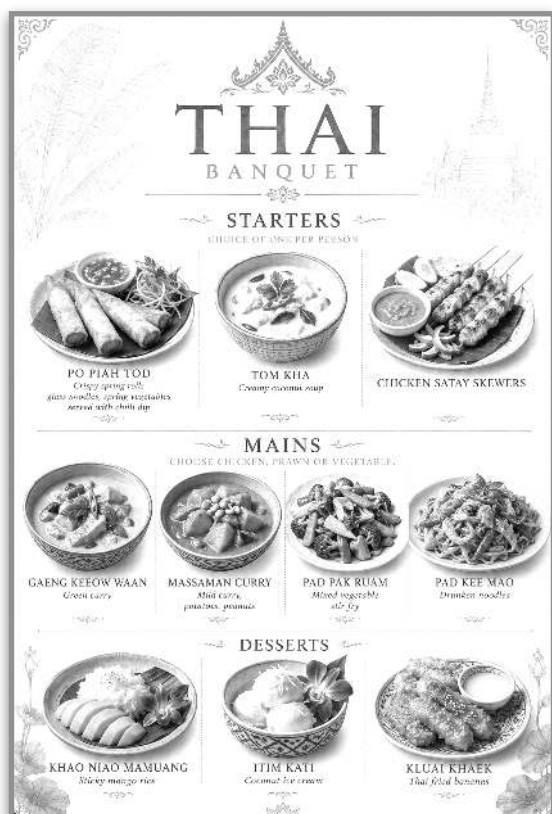
We would like to thank all our Slaley farmer friends for letting us search their land and discover the History, we really appreciate it! - With regards, Alan Chapman.

The Rose & Crown

A Taste of Thailand Comes to Slaley!

Get ready for something a little different at the pub, as we bring the flavours of Thailand to Slaley with a special Thai Banquet evening on Tuesday 8th September.

For just £39.95 per person, enjoy a delicious three-course Thai banquet, including a Sabai Sabai welcome drink.



Start the evening with a Sabai Sabai
Your welcome drink is a refreshing Thai cocktail made with **Mekhong Thai spirit**, fresh lemon juice, a touch of sweetness, Thai basil and soda water. Light, citrusy and wonderfully refreshing, it's the perfect way to start your Thai dining experience.

A Taste of Thailand

Choose from a selection of Thai-inspired starters, including crispy Po Pia Tod spring rolls, Tom Kha coconut soup or chicken satay skewers.

For your main course, choose from Gaeng Keow Wan green curry, Massaman curry, Pad Pak Ruam mixed vegetable stir-fry or Pad Kee Mao drunken noodles, with a choice of chicken, prawn or vegetable where applicable.

And to finish, there's a choice of sticky mango rice, coconut ice cream or Thai fried bananas.

Book Early! This is sure to be a popular evening, so early booking is **strongly recommended**. With limited tables available, we don't want anyone in the village missing out.

Gather your friends, bring the family and join us for a taste of Thailand right here in **Slaley**.

 Tuesday 8th September

£39.95 per person

Includes a Sabai Sabai welcome drink



To book: [01434 673996](tel:01434673996)

And there's plenty more to come...

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and the events advertised in the pub for more special evenings and events coming up over the next few months.



Gin Night – Saturday 10th October



Halloween Party – Saturday 31st October



Psychic Supper – Tuesday 10th November

And if you're thinking about coming to the Psychic Supper, don't hang around – tickets are selling ridiculously fast (but you probably knew that!) 🙻🔮

There's plenty happening at the pub, so follow us on Facebook, keep an eye on the noticeboards and pop in to see what's coming up.

We look forward to seeing you!

Slaley Film Shows continue in 2026 & 2027!

As we are still using the MPLC Umbrella License for showing films, we can only advertise the actual title inside the Hall. But if you are on our email list we will let you know what the film is and provide more details as before.

***Doors open: 7 pm Show begins: 7.30 pm
Donation £8 (£4 for under 16)***

For suppers we will ask you to order in advance - use the WhatsApp group: "Film Club supper" or contact Michael on (01434) 673443 or email: michael@elphicks.myzen.co.uk

***Dates for Film Shows in the Commemoration Hall: all on the
3rd Friday of the month***

18 September 2026

15 January 2027

16 October 2026

19 February 2027

20 November 2026

19 March 2027

18 December 2026

16 April 2027

The Commemoration Hall

We are pleased to report that this month the floors to the main hall, kitchen and foyer were all sanded and recoated, making for a very much more presentable look after years of wear and tear.

HELP PLEASE !

Would you be interested in volunteering for the role of Hall Caretaker ? There are a number of tasks and light maintenance issues that come up from time to time that need someone to keep a regular eye on. It is something that we are happy to work around your time constraints and skills – it really is a very flexible role.

If you would like to discuss, please contact Andrew Coney on 07990 041324 or aconey25@gmail.com.

We are also looking for a social media/web guru to help us get the hall better marketed to potential users and raise our overall profile. If you think you could, as something of a project, assist us in getting our content up and running we would be very eager to hear from you. Please contact Andrew on the number or email above.

Slaley's Leek Show – Saturday 12th September 2026

It is that time again - the Leek Show is on Saturday 12th September, in the Commemoration Hall. Details are on the schedule in this newsletter, it shows what you can enter – it's not just leeks! There is also an under 16s class for vegetable creatures, open to all.

Taking part is not onerous, and this year's growing season has given us all the challenge of finding something that managed to survive the heat. Although my leeks last year did not come anywhere near the winning categories, I did have a go at some of the floral classes. However, coming first in a class not the same achievement when you are the only entry, so more competition would be very welcome, in all classes.

As ever, the committee is asking for more help with running the club – so if you can contribute in any way, please contact me. Our committee meetings are a very informal gathering of two women, round a table and some pints in the Rose & Crown. And don't last long!

Catherine Lincoln, Chair, Slaley Leek Club – Mobile 0791 812 0125, email catherinereaston@icloud.com



SLALEY LEEK CLUB SCHEDULE OPEN FLOWER, FRUIT & VEGETABLE SHOW



**Saturday 12th September 2026 in the
Commemoration Hall**

Timetable	
10.00 am	Hall open to exhibitors
12.00 noon	Latest time for entries
3.00 pm	Tea and cakes available
3.30 pm	Hall open for viewing
4.30 pm	Hall closes

Everyone is welcome - there is no charge to compete.

Slaley Leek Club members' leeks and Slaley First School's junior leeks, along with some very creative vegetable creatures, will be on show.

It has been a very difficult growing season for all of us, so it will be interesting to see how people have managed with their flowers, fruits and vegetables.

We would be delighted to have as many gardeners as possible to take part. The classes are listed below.

Slaley Leek Club Members Only
2 Pot Leeks - 6" or less to tight button, sound all round
The Best Leek in Show

Class	Slaley First School Class (pupils only)	1st prize
1	1 Pot Leek, sound all round (leeks provided by Slaley Leek Club)	£6

Class	Open Classes: Junior (under 16)	1st prize
2	1 Vegetable Creature	£3

Class	Open Classes: Fruit	1st prize
3	6 Apples	£3

Class	Open Classes: Flowers	1st prize
4	3 Flowers in a vase (any variety)	£3
5	Floral Arrangement (can include natural foliage)	£3
6	Pot Plant, flowering or foliage	£3
7	Buttonhole	£3
8	3 Dahlias	£3
9	3 Chrysanthemums	£3

Class	Open Classes: Vegetables	1st prize
10	1 Intermediate Leek (between 6" to 9 1/2" from button)	£3
11	3 Onions as grown	£3
12	3 Potatoes	£3
13	1 Cabbage	£3
14	3 Carrots	£3
15	3 Parsnips	£3
16	6 Tomatoes	£3
17	Collection of Vegetables (3 Varieties, 2 of each)	£10
18	4 Courgettes	£3
19	3 Turnips	£3
20	3 Beetroot	£3

An invitation and an appeal!

During January 2019 Slaley Commemoration Hall launched a major fundraising campaign entitled £100K for 100 years. As it turned out much more than £100K was needed - but that story is for another day!

An Open Weekend with different events happening every two hours in what was then the Supper Room and the main hall took place on Saturday January 19th and Sunday January 20th 2019. One of these

events was a Whist session. Twenty people came forward and we had 5 tables of 4, there were several different sets of rules depending upon where you had learnt to play. Nevertheless it was fun and so the monthly whist sessions began; the first on Thursday March 14th 2019.

Seven years and six months later we find ourselves with numbers so depleted that most months we are unable to fill two tables of 4 players. Our sessions are for people who simply enjoy a game of whist. We stop for a drink and a biscuit after six hands and after much searching of supermarket specials throughout the month the highest and lowest score after 12 hands, wins a prize costing £1.

We were able to support Slaley Commemoration Hall's acoustic appeal with a £50 grant in October 2024, but now our funds are only £2 and ***these monthly sessions will end with our Christmas meeting, UNLESS there are people who would like to join us.*** At the moment we are three members from Slaley, one from Hexhamshire and three from Corbridge (3 men & 4 women) so please do not feel that you would not fit in, we have welcomed players from Langley and they shared some of their rules with us, one of which we have embraced.

Our scheduled sessions for the remainder of 2026 are: September 10th, October 8th, November 12th and December 10th at 7.30 p.m.

We do hope there are people out there who have £3 to spare and would like to recapture the days of playing cards for enjoyment.

Don't worry if you have never played Whist before, we will soon explain how to play.

Pat Wilson: 01434 673388.Email:
pat.wilson28@outlook.com

Slaley, Healey & Minsteracres Local History Group
"Metal Detecting & Historical Field Research"

by Alan Chapman

Monday 28th September 2026

7.30 p.m. Slaley Commemoration Hall.

£4 adults 50p anyone in full time education.

Alan is a member of the Blaydon and District Search and Recovery Association, go on-line and you will see that the Newcastle Journal has recorded some of the more spectacular finds club members have discovered over a very long period.

In September 2022 our local press reported: The Institute of Detectorists said finding treasure gave historians a valuable insight into the past, but encouraged hobbyists to practice responsible metal detecting. The Treasure Act, introduced in 1997, defines treasure as discoveries older than 300 years. These include coins, prehistoric metallic objects and artefacts that are at least 10 per cent precious metal such as gold or silver. All potential treasure finds are processed by the British Museum, whose experts advise coroners on whether the find fits the definition of treasure. If a coroner rules that it is treasure both local and national museum are given the chance to acquire the pieces, and the finder will be paid a sum depending on the treasure's value.

I understand Alan and his group, who are known for notable historical artifact discoveries, have some very interesting photographs and examples to show us. There will be lots of finds and artefacts on display from all periods of history.

For more information contact Pat Wilson 01434 673388,
email: pat.wilson28@outlook.com

I've been on a visit with a garden society to mild Dumfries & Galloway. The first garden, Dunesslin, north of Dumfries, was right on the edge of the moors, yet it still had very tender trees and shrubs growing in the walled gardens. Below a high hedge with Scotch flame flower growing through was a mature hoheria tree full of white flowers, next to tall white cimicifuga (black cohosh) and a lovely red species clematis. These garden "rooms" full of flowers and shrubs were planted on undulating ground, the same hummocky landscape that carried on into the far hills. The high walls, hedges, and even a conservatory just sliced through making a feature of the existing landscape. Nearby Drumpark has a grand collection of Champion Trees - *Abies cephalonica*, *Abies procera* (noble fir), *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*, *Cryptomeria japonica*. Under a giant noble fir you could see the huge cones on the lower branches.



Noble fir cones at Drumpark

Also studded with ancient trees are the grounds around Dumfries House (which has a collection of intricate Chippendale furniture exquisitely covered in woven silk). A beautiful elliptical Bridge designed by John Adam in 1760 leads to the newish Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden, full of roses and parterres of flowers, a Japanese pagoda, huge urns and topiary like chess pieces lining an upper path, all beautifully designed.



Dumfries House topiary



Japanese pagoda

Threave, a Scottish National Trust garden, has a mature rock garden with peat walls full of rhododendrons and a collection of *Meconopsis*. I was immediately drawn to the red metal oriental bridge high above the rockery with a striking waving clump of bamboo of light grey interesting foliage. Paths led to a secret garden and grassy hillsides with exotic trees and borders.

Nearby on the Dee estuary in Kirkcudbright Bay we visited a steep five-acre garden carved out of a rocky cliffside of conifer trees. It had been

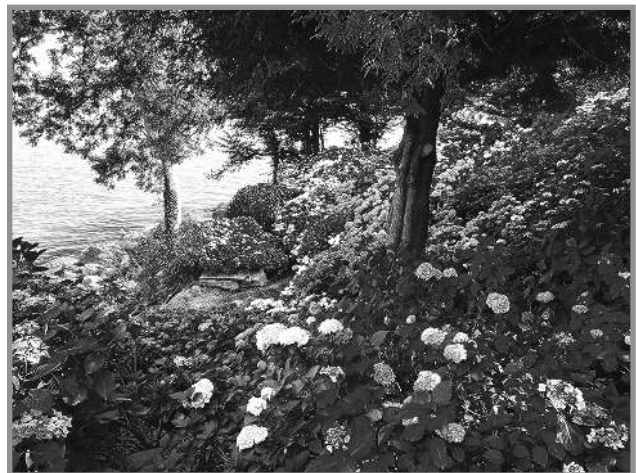


Eucryphia lucida Ballerina

transformed into an oasis of flowers and arching trees with exotic leaf forms. There were meandering paths that slowly wound down to the waterside, with a collection of rarities of conifers, shrubs and flowering trees. As we got farther down towards the water the hydrangeas started to appear, each step revealing another variety, until we realised that here was the making of a national collection, each flower head of bracts more exquisitely shaped and coloured.

Then there was even a bottle brush tree the likes I have only

seen before in Florida. This was 3 Millhall, a private garden open each year for the garden scheme. We were gasping at the effort of making this large collection dug into the rocky cliffside, both for the



Millhall hydrangeas



paths, the views, the places to pause and rest, and the wonderful plants.

Back at home, the garden still surprises me even through this drought. The smoke bush and buddleia love the heat as do silvery sea holly, *eryngiums*, and globe thistle, *echinops nivalis*. Even though it is very thirsty the

garden is still full of flowers. French beans, cucumbers and courgettes are rampant on the veg garden.

Slaley WI September 26

It's been a busy summer, particularly for those of us involved with Industrial Tent activities at Slaley Show. As well as stewarding and clearing (for which President Catherine and Vice President Margaret acknowledged that as secretaries they couldn't stage it without the WI's help and company) there was the all-important judging.

New judges this year in the Cookery section were Mary Pitkethly and Sandy Hatton. It wasn't easy explained Mary due to 'the sheer number of entries! After the 15th scone (3 categories) it got tricky!'



Both judges made their choices on taste primarily; Mary has a diploma from the Prue Leith school and taught adult education cookery and Cordon Bleu diploma classes and Sandy is a keen and experimental baker. 'There were so many contenders, particularly in the bread section and some standout bakers particularly the carrot cake winner. "We did sample every single entry so definitely didn't need breakfast or lunch after all that!" said Sandy.

Congratulations to both judges as they also won prizes themselves with Mary winning a trophy for most points in the handicraft section and Sandy winning a cup and rose bowl in the Floral section.

Our meeting on the 9th September is a mini 'workshop' with artist Mark Rowney (in the absence of pics Google him!) who specialises in carved leather art. Mark is based in the Durham Dales and in his early career illustrated for a number of prestige publications using traditional paints and moved to New York to expand his portfolio. After experimenting and having success with his carved leather pieces he returned home and began to work with fashion designer Paul Smith who is known for his love of traditional craftsmanship. Mark will be showing us his work, explaining his techniques and allowing us how to create individual key fobs using stamps.

Our extra trips during the summer have included a trip to see the rare Chillingham Cattle and Thornton Hall Gardens near Darlington and this month's 'extra' is on the 23rd to Northumberland Zoo at Felton.



As usual if anyone not a member who wants to come along to any of our meetings as a 'trial' please contact President Catherine Myers or Secretary Vicky Pepys.

**The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Slaley
Services in September, 2026.**

6th Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

11.15am Holy Communion Rev'd Marie Beard (Methodist)

13th Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

11.15am Parish Worship – Service of the Word

7.30pm St James' Taizé worship

in the Church Cottage at Riding Mill

20th Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

11.15am Parish Worship – Service of the Word

5pm Holy Communion at St John's Church, Healey

6pm Confirmation service at Stamfordham

27th Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

11.15am Parish Worship – Service of the Word

From the Church Registers

The wedding of Zoe Dyson and Thomas Roe took place on Friday
31st July 2026. The Rev'd Diana Johnson officiated.

Dates for your Diary

4th October: Harvest Festival

8th November: Remembrance Sunday

Rev. Diana Johnson

USEFUL CONTACTS-1

Badminton Group	Fran Pugh	673429
Carpet Bowls	Karl Beckett	07914 693199
St Mary's Parish Church	Rev. Diana Johnson	682768
St Elizabeth's Catholic Church	Father Emmanuel Kabinga	673248
Commemoration Hall	Chairman: Andrew Coney	07990 041324
	Bookings: slaleych@gmail.com	
County Councillor	Colin Horncastle	618259
Dial-A-Ride	A.D.A.P.T.	600599
Electricity	Power cut?	105
Film Club	Michael Elphick	673443
Friends of Slaley School	Andrea Foster	634865
Hexham Hospital		0344 811 8111
Ladycross Nature Reserve	Joan Jewitt	673245
Leek Club	Catherine Lincoln	07918 120125
Local History Group	Pat Wilson	673388
Mobile Hairdresser	Linda Johnston	673196
Northumberland CC	Report faulty Streetlights/ Potholes	0345 6006400
Parish Council	clerk@slaleyparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Post Office Van	Martin Nichol, Stocksfield Post Office	01661 842110
Police	For non-emergency calls	101
Rose & Crown Pub	David & Sam	673996
Slaley Community Shop	Shop enquiries	673201
	Sandra Innes (Chair)	673845
Slaley First School	Head: Mrs. Hayward	673220
Slaley Parish Website	www.slaley.org.uk	
Slaley Show	Vice Chair: Gemma Common	
	Secretary: secretary.slaleyshow@hotmail.com	
The Travellers Rest	Lucy & Jed	673231
Women's Institute	President: Catherine Myers	673023
	Secretary: Vicky Pepys	07802 572326