

USEFUL NUMBERS & CONTACTS

Badminton Group	Fran Pugh	673429
Carpet Bowls	Jason & Jeannie Abdelnoor	673651
St Mary's Parish Church	Reverend Helen Savage	676852
St Elizabeth's Catholic Church	Father Jeroen Hoogland	673248
Commemoration Hall	Chairman Ros Doonan Bookings Stella Douglas	673173 673001
Community Trust		
County Councillor	Colin Horncastle	618259
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
Post Office Van	Martin Nichol Stocksfield Post Office	01661 842110
Police	For non emergency calls	please call 101
Rose & Crown Pub		673996
Slaley Shop	Sandra Innes	673201 673845
Slaley First School	Head, Mrs. Hayward	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	673547
Travellers Rest Pub	Ian and Darren	6732312
Women's Institute	President Margaret Rowell Secretary Hilary Porteus	673589 673637



SLALEY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021



Life seems to be returning to something resembling normality this month. Following on from a successful Slaley Show hog roast which was well attended by 150+ locals relishing the opportunity to catch up with friends and family this month sees the re-emergence of several more regular meetings. Please give them your support.

Badminton Club

Badminton club will restart on Wednesday 8th September at 9.30 am in the Commemoration Hall. We look forward to seeing members again and welcome new ones.
Please contact Fran Pugh tel: 673429 for more details.



Working with People for Nature – Working with Nature for People

Ladycross Nature Reserve

The Fungus Foray is on Saturday 2nd October. We will meet at the quarry gates at 2pm. A small charge is made towards the reserve upkeep - £4 for members, £5 for non members. Please book with Joan on 01434 673245.

Carpet Bowls in the Commemoration Hall

Carpet Bowls will start again on Tuesday 14th September at 7:30 at the Slaley Commemoration Hall and will continue every Tuesday at the same time until Christmas.

New bowlers are welcome to come and give it a try. We will be conforming to all the relevant guidelines for Covid. We are hoping that after such a long absence that we will remember how to play and keep the balls on the carpet!!

Contributions for October edition by Wednesday 22nd September please.

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

Slaley Commemoration Hall Monthly Lottery SCH 200 Club

Have you got your numbers yet?

£60 covers 12 draws

At present the 200 club has 67 members so there are plenty more available. It is also time to renew subscriptions for the next twelve

Not only does the draw give out a wonderful first prize a percentage goes towards running costs and a percentage towards fund raising for Phase-Two Improvements. What better way to support the Commemoration Hall!

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!

Last year's winning numbers were 37,31,44,38,63,25,59,10,23,16,57 and 02.

So far the club has paid out £1046.25 in prize money, contributed £313.94 to hall running costs and generated £3064.81 for phase 2 of the development.

Fire and Dough Pizza Van

The Hall Trustees have agreed with mobile Pizza Van, Fire and Dough to use the Hall car park on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 5 - 7.30 p.m. This is a trial to see if Slaley is worth adding to their monthly selling spots. September 22nd, October 27th, November 24th.

Slaley's Artisan Market Day

Also a date for your diary, the next Artisan Market is currently being organised for Wednesday October 27th 2.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Composting bin – There is still one bin available to purchase.

Hexham Bridge Club,

Join our beginners course starting on Wednesday 15th September at Hexham Community Centre. 7.30 – 9.30 For more details visit

www.bridgewebs.com/hexham or contact Ann Rook 01434 684409.

Brian Wilson did this course at the beginning of Covid, thoroughly enjoyed it, and continues to play and is happy to be contacted 01434 673043



Slaley Commemoration Hall: The Final Count Down!

We are approaching the final stages of fundraising for the Commemoration Hall extension and once again we are asking the community to help us reach the target.

So far £83,348 has been raised/pledged from grants, donations and fundraising.

The cost of the new extension is £96,000.

We have set a deadline of the end of September so that we can commission the work and have the extension built in time for the Centenary in 2022.

Please could you help us reach the target and donate?

Go to: www.gofundme.com/slaleyvillagehall

If you would like to donate by cheque or bank transfer, please contact our Treasurer, Stella on 01434 673001 or by email on stellacdouglas@gmail.com.

Gift aid forms are available.

Thank you

Slaley Commemoration Hall Trustees

Drawing thanks to Doonan Architects

Slaley, Healey & Minsteracres Local History Club

September Monday 27th 7.30pm Commemoration Hall Illustrated History of Copper Mining in Coniston by Mark Hatton



Coniston Copper Mines were once the largest Coppermines in Northern England. Their history offers a fascinating and beautiful insight on life in The Lake District between the 16th and 19th Centuries. Mark gave this talk by ZOOM in November 2020 and many members either missed the talk or did not have a ZOOM connection at the time. Due to special requests Mark has agreed to present in person at Slaley Commemoration Hall on September 27th. Don't miss it !



Slaley Show Community Hog Roast evening

After an absence of 3 years a marquee appeared on the showfield. Not to be filled with wonderful vegetables, flowers and all the fantastic creations in the industrial tent but to shelter all our supporters as they met to enjoy a delicious hog roast, sweets, drinks, music and to meet old friends and chat

the night away.

First, however, children ran, balanced quoits, fetched bean bags and jumped in sacks. The children's glee grew as the rain fell, rosettes were won and ice creams eaten. Despite the wet conditions the fun continued all night, both for young and old alike.

However, all this could not have happened unless the field owner - Mr Keith Robson - kindly supported our efforts and our local farmer, Barry Dart cut the grass. The committee greatly appreciates their support and as we look forward to our second attempt to put on our 160th show in 2022 (our first attempt in 2019 had to be cancelled due to the extreme wet weather) we also look forward to having all the local community enjoy our show. Anyone interested in joining the committee, help before, on and after the show are more than welcome. We have vacancies for a general secretary, children's secretary and dog secretary so if you think you would like to become involved get in touch.
Marge Rastall, Show Chair

The Slaley Leek Club Flower and Vegetable Show

Saturday the 11th of September will again this year just be for the Members plus the Junior Leeks from the school. It will be a "closed" show i.e. just members allowed in to view where their leeks finished. So same as last year I'm afraid with no other categories or public allowed in.

Malcolm Goodwin. Chairman, Slaley Leek Club Flower and Vegetable Society



Slaley W. I. is holding a film evening on Wednesday 8th September at 7.30pm in the Millennial Hall.

'What we did on our holiday', starring Billy Connolly, David Tennant and Rosamund Pike is a heart-warming comedy-

drama suitable for all the family. Age rating category 12A.

The film night is open to all and entry is free. A raffle will be held and light refreshments will be available during the interval.

Anyone wishing to attend can reserve a seat by messaging Hilary Porteus on 07803268947 or by emailing Helen Colbourne on helen@foxtrotltd.f9.co.uk

Exercise to Music. Exercise to Music classes will restart in the Commemoration Hall on Monday September 13th. I will contact all members nearer the time when I have confirmation of the Hall and Age UK covid recommendations. If any newcomers wish to join us please contact me.
Carol Ferguson (673429)



SLALEY FILM CLUB

September 17th 2021

"Song for Marion" (PG)



The funny and uplifting story of Arthur (Terence Stamp), a curmudgeonly old soul perfectly content with sticking to his dull daily routine until his beloved wife (Vanessa Redgrave) introduces him to a spirited local singing group.

Welcome to the eighteenth season of our little film club (not really a club, as anyone can come)! We hope you will enjoy the programme of films which you can find on the Slaley website: <https://www.slaley.org.uk/page/film-club/>

As usual, admission costs £6, we hope to have a simple supper for the interval break, but bring your own drinks. Payments can be made through the website address above, by card, balance transfer (BACS) or just cash!

We are also asking for your help in running the shows, as some of us are showing our age. This would include setting up the tables and chairs in the Hall before the show, providing a simple supper for the interval, and clearing up afterwards. Michael is happy to manage the licensing of films, payments and financial records (with help from Stella Douglas), but help with taking payments and running the projector would be appreciated.

If you could help in any way, do give us a call or email us. We might even get to our 20th season ...

Brian Rowell

I have been asked by several people if there would be any reference to Brian in this edition of the News. A difficult task for someone who has only lived in the village for twenty years to speak about another who was born at Town Foot Farm 76 years ago and spent the rest of his life in Slaley.

I have therefore borrowed some thoughts from Bryony Gibson and hope they will stir memories in the minds of all who knew Brian. Bryony writes

“Thank you for asking us to provide a memory or two of our association with Brian, when we lived at High Clear.

Brian was a stalwart.

He had been gardener there for several years before our arrival. He preferred to work in the vegetable garden, and he knew what would grow and what would grow where. So, when I tactfully suggested other varieties, or indeed other vegetables all together he was polite enough to consider, but preferred to stick with the tried and tested - with good results, as he regularly carried off prizes at the Slaley Show.

When we got together to buy seeds from the seed catalogue, I was always tremendously impressed with his mental arithmetic skills, he could add up in a flash.

Brian loved racing, and was most adept and successful when it came to backing horses - complicated accumulating! Again his mental arithmetic skills came usefully into play!

He was reliable, he either biked up the village, or in bad weather walked. He was fond of High Clear and the garden. For many years he kept the churchyard neat and tidy as well.

Brian was quiet and kept his own counsel, but with gentle encouragement, would tell me about the village and the history of the farming families.

He was a countryman.

Slaley will miss Brian.”

September 2021 gardening column- Karen Melvin

This is the season of cutting back. We opened the garden twice in late summer and in the intervening ten days I had to take out barrow loads of trimmings so the garden could still show off its state of floweriness rather than seediness.



Hardy Geraniums, Galegas, Campanulas, and grannys bonnets were cut half way or right back to encourage more flowering. With all this keeping tidy, I am very surprised at how good the garden looks in late summer early autumn, so full of hot colour. We visited Middle Grange, Paula Darrington's Slaley garden, which was full of contrasting plants of stately form and colour. Heleniums contrast with bright red Crocosmia Lucifer in the background; Echinops Veitchii blue glowed in its steely blue colour contrasting with red hot dahlias.

*Helenium,
Crocosmia Lucifer 1*



Poppy rhoeas grey 1

In our garden a single Red Mohican Allium popped up, purchased from a plant fair two years ago. At Bradley Gardens I saw a huge clump of them dramatically flopping over a wall. I sowed many annuals this year, Larkspur, Nicotiana, Cosmos, both red and white, and the beautiful delicate rhoeas poppies. A lot of wild red ones appeared, but also the hazy grey purple ones dotted around; these I find difficult as they rarely Pop establish themselves by self seeding.

It was glorious to have people sitting in the garden again, eating cake, listening to live music, and looking at flowers; it doesn't get better than this. We raised money for the new Slaley, Healey and Hexhamshire Community Environmental Group, who aim to plant more trees and raise awareness of environmental issues. There was also a stall at the new Slaley Artisan Market selling plants, baked goods, jams, crafts and second hand items. There is so much stress on the environment, with the ash trees slowly succumbing - and worse news from around the world - that coming together to make an effort feels positive.

Walking in Letah Wood, I came upon a large patch of plants I hadn't noticed here before. They stood up on stems about a foot high with white dots of flowers all along the stems. The flowers were so tiny, like a grain of sea salt, I put

them on the scanner to magnify and allow identification. The plant is Enchanter's Nightshade, *Circaea lutetiana*, magically named after Circe who enchanted Ulysses' crew in Homer's *Odyssey*. It is not poisonous but in centuries past was used for transformations and shape-shifting. All to see in Letah Wood.

(To join the next Slaley, Healey and Hexhamshire Community Environmental Group meeting, contact Pat Wilson, email- pat.wilson28@outlook.com)

A View from the Vicarage

I'm proud to be English, but truth be told, I more often than not prefer to describe myself as British. After all, I tell myself, some of my roots, way back when, are Welsh. But why am I hesitant about by my overwhelming Englishness?

But it seems that I'm not alone in being a bit too shy of my Englishness. John Denham, a former Labour cabinet minister and now Director, Centre for English Identity and Politics at Southampton University points out that if UK politicians aren't from Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, they tend to talk about 'the country', but not about England or Englishness'.

Other commentators have pointed out that people from what might be described as working-class communities in declining industrial cities, or no-longer prosperous sea-side towns, feel that their concerns aren't understood by London-based politicians, who seem to assume that the Union provides for English interests perfectly well. The same politicians then concentrate power even more in the capital and the South-East.

But we also need have to address why so few BAME Britons say they're proud to be English. A 2018 BBC survey showed that only 32% of BAME Britons say they're proud to be English, compared with 61% of white Britons. The same survey revealed that to be English was seen as conservative (with a small 'c') and traditional, rather than liberal and out-ward looking.

Perhaps even more worrying is the finding that three-quarters of all people surveyed felt that England was 'better in the past' than believe that 'its best years lie in the future.' How do we live with such an overwhelming burden of nostalgia?

Last month, Stephen Cottrell the Archbishop of York wrote a widely-reported newspaper article in which he asked what it means to be English. He claimed that national unity is more fractured than he has ever known in his lifetime and called for a new and expansive vision of what it means to be English.

But if a new and more expansive, widely-shared love for our English nation is to be based on its stories and values as well as its amazing landscapes and quirky weather, I can't help thinking that we must dig deeper than the Archbishop does in believing that Englishness is defined by courage,

compassion and enterprise – though none of those things is anything but admirable.

That apart, he is surely right to call on all those who work in the voluntary sector, culture, academia, the arts and faith organisations to explore or reflect the range of views amongst the people who live in England. And we in the Church of England really must hold up our hands and admit our failure to do this as well as we ought.

We have, I believe, to be honest about ourselves, our history, our real values and the needs of everyone in our society – and ensure that everyone has a voice and everyone is properly listened to. And if we do that, I for one, will be even more proud to be identified as English.

Helen

Church Services and News

We worship every Sunday at St Mary's at 10.45am.
Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.
All are welcome!

Evensong is at Healey at 5pm on Sunday September 26th

Weekly Sunday services continue to be are streamed on Facebook as well as 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

Messy Church is back!

On Saturday 2nd October at 10am in the churchyard extension – all the exciting activities for the whole family we'd had to postpone from earlier in the summer. For more information, please ask Helen: 01434 676852. All are very welcome.

Vicarage Garden Coffee Mornings

If the weather looks settled, we'll do our best to hold one more coffee morning before the autumn chill sets in (brrr!). We'll keep an eye on the weather and send round an email to as many folk as we can!

Slaley Weather Report for the Summer

Rain, or lack of it has been the theme of our weather over the summer period. I'm quoting Tomasz Schafernaker (the BBC weather-man) who said today (23rd August) that we'd probably have dry conditions until after the Bank Holiday.

In June, we had 24 days without rain. In July, there was more of the wet stuff, with 16 days without rain. As we all know, August has lived up to its reputation as being a pretty poor month for holidays as far as weather is concerned. We've only had 8 dry days. However, we've also had days of minimal rainfall but cool temperatures.

The reason why our weather gets stuck in particular patterns is the position of the jet stream. When it swings to the north of us, we may have high pressure, and little rainfall, but cloud can be blown in from the North Sea, winds from the north-east and lower temperatures. This seems to be how August might end.

June and July were our warmest months with 28°C on June 16th, 27°C on July 20th and our summer maximum, 28.6°C on July 21st.

On July 22nd we had 87% relative humidity – a measure of how much moisture the air can hold. All that changed on August 1st with a maximum temperature of 14.9°C.

August has continued to be very changeable, with the jet stream funnelling Atlantic depressions our way with monotonous regularity. Maybe Mr Schafermaker will be right, and we'll have a quiet, if coolish end to the month.

Oiwen Savage

Slaley Shop Zoom Wine-tasting

The next Shop Zoom wine-tasting will on Thursday 23 September (5.30pm and 8pm). The wines will be available in the shop about a week before the event. If you'd like to take part, please email Helen: helensavage1@gmail.com

FoSS were very pleased that we were able to host some summer events this year! In June we had the Bags2School collection of second-hand clothing. This is such a great way to recycle clothes and at the same time raise money for the school! From our collection we were very pleased that we raised £90.

As restrictions did not allow us to host our annual Summer Fair this year FoSS hosted a Slaley School Flower Festival on Thursday 15th July 2021. We also wanted to have a celebration event before our wonderful Headteacher, Mrs Brett, retired. Children could enter two classes, a planted flower in an old wellington boot and a miniature garden. The children created wonderful designs and Mrs English found it difficult to decide on prize winners! We had some excellent prizes for the children, including a signed copy of one of Emily McKenzie's super childrens books and an original signed illustration from Emily which were very special prizes! We also were very grateful that Molly Moos Ice cream Parlour donated ice cream vouchers and treats from Marks and Spencer for prize winners also! We also had a fantastic raffle with super prizes including, an Afternoon tea at Slaley Hall, Paintballing at Allout Adventures, a Reflections voucher and much more! We were very thrilled that the event managed to raise a great total of £328!

Slaley First School cookbook has been printed by Robson Print of Hexham and is ready to purchase! The children, teachers and parents at the school have

put together a wonderful collection of their favourite recipes. Cookbooks cost £10 each and can be purchased at the Slaley shop and on our JustGiving site: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/slaleyschoolcookbook21> All the money raised will be donated directly to the school. We have currently raised £570 from sales of the cookbook, which is fantastic!

FoSS were very happy that we were able to pay for an Ice cream van to visit the school in the last week of term and for all the children to enjoy a treat!

FoSS are very grateful for the continued support of FOSS events. The money raised from recent events has allowed us to buy some brilliant outdoor education items including, identification and tactile boards, animal shaped chalk boards and outdoor whiteboards, which will be exciting additions to the outdoor space at school. We are looking forward to the start of the new academic year and hoping we will be able to plan face to face events for the children and parents this year!

Supporting a village institution – The Rose and Crown

Have you ever wanted to help keep that community spirit we all enjoy in Slaley alive, but just don't know how too, or have never been asked?

The Rose and Crown plays a pivotal role in village life and is always looking for local support to keep it at the centre of our community. Pulling a pint or two is just one way you could help do that. Alternatively, you may yearn to get your teeth into a proper spring clean or take in an inspiring view whilst mowing a lawn.

If you would like to share a skill or passion with the effervescent team at the pub don't let thoughts of, "not having enough time" get in your way. Even half an hour here or there, on an irregular basis has the potential to add so much to the community life we all enjoy here.

If you would like to explore opportunities to support our village through its pub a quick email to ian.stevens686@gmail.com will set the ball rolling.



Hexham Arts Society Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Function Room at Hexham Mart.

The Paintings and Wit of Winston Churchill - Nicholas Reed