

USEFUL NUMBERS & CONTACTS

Badminton Group	Fran Pugh	673429
Carpet Bowls	Jason & Jeannie Abdelnoor	67365
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 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	673547
Travellers Rest Pub	Ian and Darren	6732312
Women's Institute	President Margaret Rowell Secretary Hilary Porteus	673589 673637

SLALEY NEWS JUNE 2021



The Editor would like to offer his humble apologies for the complete mess he made by copying a year old version of the contact list in the May News. There were also other numerous errors which I hope you will overlook.

This year spring seemed to arrive somewhat reluctantly. Similarly we appear to be emerging from covid restrictions in a somewhat haphazard way but you will find in this month's edition several activities and events to tempt you to emerge into normality. The Slaley Parish website is being continually improved by Stella Douglas and is a good source of information about forthcoming events that I may not have covered. Personally I am not a great browser of the web but perhaps we should all make a habit of checking it to keep up to date. <https://www.slaley.org.uk>

I have had no information concerning the future of the oil buying group. Surely there must be someone out there who could take on the excellent work done by Neil Whatmough. The group has provided its members considerable savings on oil purchases over the years and it would be a shame to lose this benefit.

It has been traditional that next month's edition covers both July and August to allow us to prepare for Slaley Show (Cancelled this year) and to enjoy the summer holidays. So may we have:-

Contributions for July/August edition by Wednesday 23rd June please.

Editors: Jim Bailey 673352 baileyjim128@gmail.com

Fiona McKendrick: 673281 fionamckendrick@googlemail.com

I would like to say thank you to all who sent me cards and good wishes while I have been in hospital. You have all been so kind, especially all who sent birthday greetings and made my birthday extra special.

Mary Metcalf

When I first started collecting plants for the garden, I went for large dramatic plants like *Crambe cordifolia*, a good 6'x6' spread, cardoon thistles, lovely *Campanula lactiflora* Lodden Anna, and the weird *Phytoacea*, American pokeweed. I came across a root the size of an arm some meters away from Loddon Anna, but connected to it never the less, and quite hard to wrench out. Now that the garden is full, packed to the brim, I look for smaller less thuggish things that can hold their own amongst the sturdy growth of mature plants. Herbaceous geraniums are great for flowering all summer and the granny's bonnets, aquilegias, and bell shaped campanulas are all charming. They suggest a dappled sunny woodland glade and can be tucked into corners leaving no dead areas in the garden. Poppies, peonies and irises carry the show with bright summer colour. After 50 years, I have unaccountably lost the giant red early poppy from the Lawleys at Herterton, Wallington, even though I had them in two locations- sadly missed.

In this cold late spring, the early plants in the rockery held on to their flowers for ages. Our "rockery" started out as a dumping ground for unwanted stones put around an old ash tree. Then when the tree came down and the stump rotted, we planted a mallow, which took up the whole space of about 3 meters square. By the time that died, I was into gardening in a more intricate way, and now have about 60 different plants in the same area. Every now and again I dig out some of those old stones when planting something new. I planned it like a miniature landscape with 3 dwarf trees, that I keep heavily pruned to look like old trees, which they are now, and a 'mountain' mound of *Clematis alpina* Willy.



Mossy saxifrage and silver sedum are coloured, textured, rounded ground cover that set off the miniature *Tulipa batalini* Bronze Charm. The intense blue *Gentiana acaulis*, and yellow auriculas form backdrops. Under the dwarf trees and alpine clematis lurk ethereal blue *Anemone blanda* and *Corydalis Blue Heron*.

Tulip saxatilis

Leucojum vernum is like a little petticoat with dots around the fringe. *Tulip saxatilis* is a new glowing beauty of a species tulip that survived the winter and spring hail. I have some new veronicas, *Mountain Breeze* and another one that contrasts with a slightly scary red oxalis, very pretty, but inclined to run; it might have to move to the wild garden. It came from Harperley Hall nurseries along with a selection of gorgeous dwarf *Anemone obtusiloba*, that look so delicate, like a hepatica with a flat face surrounded by a daisy crown, but they have already survived a winter and the terrible spring hail storms and late snow.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED! MINSTERACRES RETREAT CENTRE

Set in 110 acres of beautiful woodland and parkland which offers peaceful surroundings and a place to recharge batteries for those who most need our support after such challenging times. We're reopening and we're raring to go! If you would like to share your skills or learn new ones, meet new people or simply help us provide our unique service please check us out at www.minsteracres.org or email: info@minsteracres.org for more information.

Parish Council Notes

It is a rare day when Parish councillors talk more about badger poop than dog poop, but in Any Other Business mention was made of the sighting of a badger latrine in the village this month. Well done that badger for neatly depositing rather than randomly pooping!

The monthly parish council meeting was preceded by the Annual Slaley Parish Council meeting: changes in the duties of the parish councillors are posted on the Parish website.

Going back to Any Other Business, councillors discussed the style of stiles in the parish: can you and your dog get over the stiles? Stiles are the responsibility of landowners and stile styles vary. It would be good if landowners could help by keeping stiles in good condition while dog owners might make themselves more welcome by being careful amongst livestock and to clear up mess.

A big thanks from councillors to those villagers who keep the grass which grows over the pavements cut back and to all those who volunteer to do so for neighbours less able than themselves.

Of course, the councillors transacted the important business of considering planning applications, contacting highways and so on. The June parish council meeting should be able to take place in the Commemoration Hall on the 14th at 7.30pm enabling access for those members of the public who have found accessing the virtual meetings difficult.

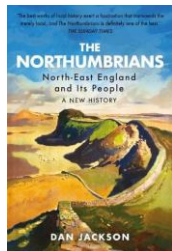
AS A RESULT OF THE ATTACHED NOTIFICATION FROM THE NCC. COULD VILLAGERS MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GET THEIR VEHICLES OFF THE VILLAGE STREET AT 8 A.M. WEDNESDAY 2nd JUNE.

I have looked at our planned sweeping program and have booked Wednesday the 2nd of June 2021 at approximately 08:00 to carry out the sweep of the village.

This will coincide with the School holidays which may help in reducing the parked cars on the Highway.

Exercise to Music (For those over 50)

I am looking forward to restarting ETM in Slaley Commemoration Hall in June. To follow COVID Guidelines, small socially distanced groups will meet for their sessions on Mondays commencing Monday 7th June. All those who have expressed an interest in coming along should have been contacted by me and will know the time of their group meeting. If there is anyone who did not get in touch, but who now feels they would like to give it a try, please email abcarolferguson@gmail.com and I will get back to you. Thanks, Carol



On June 10th at 7.30 pm in the Commemoration Hall there will be a talk by Dan Jackson on his recent book "The Northumbrians: North-East England and Its People - A New History". Published in 2019 to critical acclaim, it was named among the best books of the year by the Sunday Times.

Dan is a historian, a founding member of the Northumbria World War One Commemoration Project and appeared on the BBC's "Who Do You Think You Are?"

This talk was to be part of last year's Hexham Book Festival, but will now be streamed online to our wide screen in the Commemoration Hall, with an opportunity to ask Dan questions after the talk. Doors open at 7 pm.

As we will still be under current COVID-19 restrictions, we will not be offering refreshments, but you are welcome to bring your own. As audience numbers are limited to a total of 26 You will need to book on the booking link which can be found on the front page of the Slaley website <https://www.slaley.org.uk> This will offer people the options of paying by card, online or in cash at the Hall.

Tickets will cost £5 (which will go to the Book Festival) and we hope that you will be able to add a donation to cover the Hall costs.



Delivered by the Minsteracres team 'The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales decided that 2020 should be a year of focus on the Bible and the theme 'The God Who Speaks.' We will be developing and exploring new ways of responding to the God who speaks to us through the Scriptures. We will explore new ways of celebrating, living and sharing God's word in our

own lives, within our parishes and partnerships, and with all whom we encounter. We invite you to join us for a weekend of prayer, reflection and fellowship.

For individuals or groups from parishes and partnerships. This retreat will start on Friday 11th June at 7pm and ends on Sunday 13th June at 2pm.

Suggested donation: £150

For information and bookings visit www.minsteracres.org, or Telephone Margo on 01434 673248

QUIET DAY Wednesday 9 June

An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity at Minsteracres.

Join the Retreat Team on Wednesday 9 June from 10:00am until 4:00pm. Suggested donation: £20

Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch.

To confirm booking <https://www.minsteracres.org/come-on-retreat/> , Minsteracres Retreat Centre, nr. Consett, County Durham, DH8 9RT



To celebrate World Environment Day

Slaley Commemoration Hall is hosting two events on 5th June 4-5pm.

#Declutteranddonate - Bring your old books, CDs, DVDs and computer games to the hall and we'll recycle them for you!

Electric Vehicles - Thinking of changing to an electric car or bike? Why not come to the hall and see a selection of vehicles owned by locals? Chat with them about the pros and cons of going electric.

Refreshments are available too

....and if you haven't been in the hall recently - why not come in and see what's been achieved so far?

A View from the Vicarage

Last month I looked forward hugely to the first big step in the lifting of lockdown on 17 May. We were able to see our grandchildren for the first time since last summer – and meet our younger grandson for the first time ever. There were lots of hugs and it was wonderful. But with the hugs came bugs. Back we came speechless, not out of excitement, but with the worst bout of laryngitis we can remember. I have already discovered other grandparents who've met a similar fate. Isolated from one another, we've been healthier than most of us can remember, but now we're like five-year-olds in their first term at school, open to catching every sniffle and virus going the rounds, with precious little resistance.

Being free, as we may well be on 21 June, does not mean we'll be free from one another's problems and ailments – in fact quite the opposite. In some senses, this last, appalling 15 months has brought the risk of making us more self-centred, as much as we may have missed the touch of others. This is

because we've been in control of our movements and contacts in a way none of us have ever before encountered. We've been able to lock our front doors and feel safe. We may not have been able to do or go where we want, but we've been able to suit ourselves to an unprecedented degree.

After four days of full-on grandparenthood, with not a spare moment to myself, I began to see just how disorientingly odd my existence has been during the Covid isolation. Being free, I realised again, means being free to be with others and share their lives in ways I'd almost forgotten – to make little allowance and accommodations, to put their needs before my own, even when I rather be watching Netflix.

The Biblical notion of freedom takes this for granted. It isn't about being free to do anything we want, or about, as Rowan Williams put it rather splendidly, 'to allow our own wonderful, unique, luxuriant personalities to blossom in every possible direction and tread on everyone's toes,' but about realising that not only are you are loved, valued and accepted by God, but that everyone else is too. We're therefore free to contribute to each other's lives and well-being instead, as Williams says, of threatening and feeling threatened by each other. And (and this is me speaking) if we share a few bugs on the way it's all worth it – just to be together and to enjoy the privilege of enjoying one another.

I do so hope that 21st June will be another big step towards enabling us to enjoy community, family and friends as we all so dearly want, but that when the opportunity comes, we'll use it to build one another up, delight in one another and rediscover something of what we've most truly missed.

Helen

Church Services and News

We worship every Sunday at St Mary's at 10.45am.

At the moment we've retreated indoors, but if a glorious sunny Sunday comes our way, we'll gladly escape into the churchyard extension.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

Evensong is at Healey at 5pm on Sunday 27 June.

Weekly Sunday services are streamed on Facebook as well a weekly 'thought for the day' each Wednesday. To find them please just click on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/moorlandgroup/> and via You Tube on our website: www.moorland-group.org.uk

Our weekly ecumenical study group continues on Fridays. Everyone, as ever, is really welcome. If you'd like a link, please ask Helen.

Christian Aid – please raise a toast to a wonderful result!

Our Christian Aid wine regions quiz raised around £600 – a fantastic effort. Thank you, everyone who contributed.

Paul and Barbara Scott-Priestly won a bottle of fine wine from Slaley Shop and Ian Hancock got the runners-up prize, with special merit for getting the most impossibly tough question on the video right.

Please welcome Kate Eaton-Wells and Richard Grant, who will be on placement with us in the Moorland Group for a month beginning on the 8 June. Richard and Kate are training for the church's ministry in Durham at Cranmer Hall.

Slaley Weather Report for May

April was the driest since records began – twenty-one out of thirty-one days had no rain at all, and we had fifteen consecutive days of drought. The total for the month was a meagre 26mm. The frosty nights were a problem for gardeners.

As I write this on May 25th, the month has been more reminiscent of April. Unsettled conditions, showers, many wintery, and of course a considerable snowfall on the 5th/6th of May. The snowmelt amounted to 5.6mm of precipitation. Currently, the total for the month is already 56.8mm, though 8.5mm of rain fell in a single event in the early hours of May 12th.

Temperatures over recent days have reached the mid-teens, but it's felt several degrees cooler in the squally showers. Winds too have been variable and often chilly, coming from the North Sea at the start of the month and have gusted up to 7 and 8 metres per second (18 mph).

As many of you know, we went to Kent as soon as the rules allowed. I can report that the weather was no better in the south. In fact, the downpours were so intense they curtailed some of our plans. As you can imagine, the southerners are not happy with the weather, but then, neither are we.

Olwen Savage

Slaley First School Update – June 2021

Sports Day

We could not have been luckier here at Slaley First School... our annual sports day was able to go ahead this year and we managed to do so without a drop of rain! The children enjoyed a range of events, including the traditional sack race and egg and spoon race, all in glorious sunshine. The children had a wonderful time, entering into the spirit of 'friendly competition', making exceptional efforts and demonstrating wonderful sportsmanship.

Community Links

Mrs English is making the most of using the greenhouse at the back of the village shop this half-term and has been organising daily visits with our budding gardeners. The children have also had a visit from Mrs Lincoln to encourage all the leeks growers amongst us to dust down our trenches and prepare them for a summer of TLC in order to grow the biggest leeks ever and support our village show in September.

Keeping up our high standards

Following our latest visit from our School Improvement Partner, Mr. Sleightholme, we are thrilled to have been congratulated on the continuity of our high quality provision across a difficult academic year and especially during the most recent lockdown in the Spring Term. Parental support and commitment to remote learning was noted, as was the high standard of work evidenced across the entire school. This would not have been possible if we had not all worked together for the benefit of our children. Thank you!

Moving Forward

We are now looking ahead to organising our final half-term of the year and are hoping to get back to normal as much as possible. We are beginning to consider how we can open up our bubbles and begin to share lunchtimes and assemblies together along with preparing all our pupils for the next period of transition. FoSS have been busy thinking of some events which can be adapted to any level of restriction we have in place at the time. They will be asking for Bags2School donations, advertising a Family Sponsored Walk and collecting a range of lockdown recipes to compile a Cookbook. We also hope to be able to have an end of year event in the form of a Summer Flower Art Festival. So watch out for further details! As always, we hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Debbie Brett



Thank you everyone for completing our shop survey. It was great to hear that everybody thinks our shop is clean and safe. We had lots of suggestions about new produce and are looking into sourcing these. Please keep the ideas coming, we are particularly interested in any ideas you have about good local produce.

In line with our growing awareness of environmental concerns we have increased our range of eco friendly products, including household cleaning products and biodegradable dog poo bags - an essential for every savvy pooch!

We also have some delicious new Heather and Wildflower honey from the Shire. Stocks are limited so don't dilly dally. I've heard that honey from a few miles of where you live is a good antidote to hay fever so why not give it a try!

Fiona



Rose and Crown

W/C Monday 17th May inside dining and drinking. Open every day except Wednesday. Please look on our web page,

Facebook or contact us for opening times and for bookings.

Booking is essential, telephone 01434 673996

The Rose & Crown is one of the top 5 places to eat around the Hexham area on Trip Advisor as reported in the Hexham Courant,



Ladycross Nature Reserve

Working with People for Nature – Working with Nature for People

The committee at LXNR are having a meeting shortly regarding the way forward with resuming activities at the reserve. Please watch out for future information here and in the village notes in the Hexham Courant.

Diary summary

- Wed June 2nd Road sweeping 8.00 am
- Sat June 5th Declutter and donate. Hall 4.00 pm
- Mon June 7th Exercise to music (every Monday)
- Wed June 9th Minsteracres Quiet Day
- Thurs June 10th Dan Jackson, Book Festival, 7.30 pm Hall
- Fri June 11th Minstracres retreat, ends Sunday
- Wed June 23rd Last date for July/August contributions
- Wednesdays Badminton, Hall from 9.30am

Fridays

Ecumenical study group