

April  
showers  
bring  
May  
flowers

# SLALEY NEWS

## APRIL 2024

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### Upcoming Elections

Elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner and North East Mayoral Combined Authority take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. Your Local polling station is Slaley Commemoration Hall.

Please remember that **YOU MUST HAVE ID** with you to be eligible to vote. Even if you know the polling station staff, they cannot allow you to vote without showing your ID. Voting is important!

**You must bring photo ID to vote at a polling station**

- Need more information?
- Don't have photo ID?

Find out more at:  
[Electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

**Voting by post and proxy**

- To apply you now need to prove your identity
- You can now apply online
- Limits to how many people you can vote on behalf of as proxy

Find out more at:  
[Electoralcommission.org.uk/waystovote](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/waystovote)

**Not registered to vote?**

Recently moved address?  
Register to vote online:  
[gov.uk/registertovote](https://gov.uk/registertovote)

If you require further information, contact the elections team at:  
[elections@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:elections@northumberland.gov.uk)

**Contributions for the May edition by Tuesday 23rd April or earlier, please!**

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

## **April's news is here!**

We have some interesting items this month - the latest Shop successes, the rescue on Hadrian's Wall of "Humpty Dumpty" (the Rev. David Kennedy), food offers from our two pubs, the change that will be needed for our Film Club, and Karen's memories of Herterton Garden near Wallington (which I remember visiting many years ago).

### **Slaley Community Shop and the Rural Oscars!**

You will hopefully have seen that we are in the finals of the Countryside Alliance Awards otherwise known as the rural Oscars. The Finalist is chosen by public vote so we need all the support we can get! If you haven't already done so, please can you vote for us. You can do this on the Countryside Alliance website or by signing the forms in the shop. Voting closes on the 1st April.

We had a visit last week from Guy Opperman, our local MP. He is pleased to support our nomination and added to this by awarding the Shop one of his annual Rural Business Awards. It is great to see the hard work put in by all our volunteers recognised, so thank you to everyone who has made this possible.



### **Cash payments**

Our cash payments have increased significantly since we told you about card payment costs. Thank you to all who've taken note!

## **Board members needed!**

We're sad to report that Toni Hargreaves, our secretary, and Fiona McKendrick, our marketing director, are stepping down after 3 years on the Board. They have each contributed a great deal to the shop in that time and our sincere thanks are due for their commitment, energy and ideas. Fortunately Fiona & Hugh are continuing with their Saturday shift so you will still see them at the shop - and be able to enjoy Hugh's artwork!

However we now need to recruit some new Board members. Would you like to join us? We have a monthly board meeting (quite relaxed and with refreshments!) and each director looks after a specific area. Secretary and marketing skills would be welcome but are not essential. The main qualification is an interest in the continued success of the shop. If you would like to find out more about the role please ring Sandra on 01434 673845 or email her: [sinnes@innesgilbert.co.uk](mailto:sinnes@innesgilbert.co.uk)

## **Wines for Easter**

(in case you missed Louise's recommendations in Slaley Notes)

It's coming up to that time of year again, our first long bank holiday of the year – Easter. Here's hoping it will be the start of Spring too, I'm not sure about you but I feel like this Winter has lasted forever! I've suggested three wines from Slaley Shop which would work perfectly with your Easter Sunday roast lamb dinner, with your indulgent chocolate eggs or simply to sit back, sip and enjoy.

### **Veramonte Chardonnay**

What do you get when you combine a beautiful sunny Mediterranean climate with one of the most isolated countries in the world? Chile, a wine maker's paradise. Veramonte very much believe in preserving this paradise and are wholly committed to sustainability so their wines are all organic and vegan. Their Chardonnay is beautifully elegant, with a lovely crisp acidity, hints of green apple and supple, delicate oak. Goes really well with chicken, or just as an aperitif.  
£12.65

### **Beronia Crianza from Rioja in Spain**

In Spain the traditional Easter celebration dish is roast lamb, and the perfect wine match for it is a Rioja. Beronia Crianza is aged for 12 months in oak barrel then for another 12 in bottle before it's released for sale, and the resulting wine is silky smooth, with vibrant red berry fruit, rosemary & thyme and soft vanilla notes.  
£10.95

### **Quinta do Noval LBV Port from Portugal**

This Late Bottled Vintage Port is made from premium quality grapes from Noval's own vineyards in the Douro Valley in northern Portugal. Think tons of plush red

fruit, blackberry and a hint of tobacco. Great with those indulgent, dark chocolate Easter eggs! £19.75

## **Humpty Dumpty!**

Some of you may have heard that in February I picked an argument with Hadrian's Wall and lost! A bad fall near Sycamore Gap meant a broken knee-cap and tendon. Not something I would recommend! But, even in adversity, there are many gifts: the Wall Warden, the first response Paramedic, the amazing Northumberland Mountain Rescue team who carried me from the Wall to the Jeep and then to the ambulance. The ambulance Paramedic, the morphine, the Nurses and Orthopaedic Surgeon at the RVI. And since returning home, the cards, gifts, concern both from Church and community, and the support of family and friends that has touched me greatly.

Of course, for a holy activist like me being confined to barracks has its challenges. This has turned out to be a very different Lent to what I was anticipating. But I've learned new ways of working – back to Zoom and meetings here at the Vicarage, and the chance to think and write. And to observe the coming of Spring in the garden. And day by day, I can see progress, marvelling at the capacity of these frail bodies to heal and recover, even if step by step, slowly. I'm grateful to my Ministry Team at Corbridge who have sustained the ministry of Corbridge, Slaley and Healey in my absence; I am so fortunate to have such great colleagues.

Hopefully over April I will make good progress and be back at St Mary's and St John's ere long. In the meantime, I will you all a very happy Easter. One of the traditional representations of the Resurrection of Jesus is as a gazelle, leaping and bounding over the hills in the joy of freedom from death's clutches. It's a joyful image of the eternal life his death and resurrection bring. Well, if not 'leaping and bounding', I look forward to perhaps hopping and skipping, not least in Slaley and Healey!

**David Kennedy (Area Dean)**

### **April Church Services**

St Mary's Slaley at 11.15 am every Sunday

St John's Healey at 5.00 pm on Sunday, April 14 and 28.



## **The Rose & Crown**

Easter is here and hopefully Spring will follow on so we can enjoy the pub garden as well as the bar and restaurant.

Keep your eyes peeled for the special events taking place over the coming months at the Rose and Crown!.

Have a happy Easter, and Tracey and the Team look forward to seeing you soon.

Tel: 01434 673996.

## **The Travellers Rest**

Street food Fridays are now an integral part of life here at the Travellers. The trucks serve from 5pm to 8pm and you are welcome to eat in the pub or take away  
Here are some dates for your diary.

### **April**

Friday 5th: Howay Sláinte– Irish street food with a Geordie slant

Friday 12th: Tyne Thai – Finest Thai in the northern hemisphere

Friday 19th: Al's Street food – East Asian style Street food

Friday 26th: WMH – Hog roast and BBQ

### **May**

Friday 3rd: Zyka Restaurant – The art of spice

Friday 10th: Howay Sláinte – Irish street food with a Geordie slant

Friday 17th: Tyne Thai – Finest Thai in the northern hemisphere

Friday 24th: Al's Street food – East Asian style street food

Friday 31st: Bay Tree – Smashed burgers/Chilli dogs & loaded fries

And for those who aren't familiar with the term: Sláinte is pronounced "Slawn-Cha". Meaning cheers!

Growing up, I never saw a properly designed garden. We had front yards, back yards and lawns mowed to keep the scrubby woods at bay and maybe we planted a bush or tree to mark an entrance or corner. A circle might be dug in the lawn for bedding plants or very tough roses. My relationship with plants was in the woods down paths amongst the trees. I loved the right-handed or left-handed papery-coloured leaves of sassafras, the lords and ladies under their hoods in the woodland floor, fallen bits of birchbark we used for drawing. In the autumn we children heaped up crisp coloured fallen leaves and made mazes.

Settling in England many many years ago, my first job was teaching at the College of Art in Newcastle, where I met fellow lecturers, Frank and Marjory Lawley. Their home was in the grounds of the Wallington estate and visiting them I saw



Herterton back garden

perennial flowers that towered over me, in the drama that was their first garden. It was so densely planted that the lawn had shrunk to about a half-metre wide snaking presence. They brought plants into college and I got my eye tuned to the delicate forms and subtle colours of cottage garden flowers.

Their second garden at Herterton, close to Wallington, was totally different, a masterpiece in design and planting that I documented as it was being developed early on,

from the digging of up the concrete and stone farmyard, to creating the structure of outside garden “rooms”. Their design was rigorously considered, based on Persian carpets, symmetry, the fall of light and shade matched to cool or warm coloured planting and perennial plants of exquisite form and beauty. My photos of this stoney start are in the gazebo tower they built of old stone to match the medieval style bay window they built onto the old farmhouse.

The tower overlooks the formal creation of the parterres, clipped hedges, topiary, and walls clothed with greenery. Hot and cool colours are balanced using rare cottage garden flowers that they sought out and propagated.



Clipped Parterre from Tower

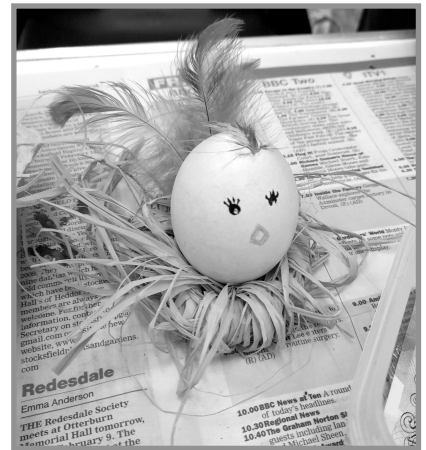
Marjorie's drawn plans for the planting are gems of graphic design. The names of plants are interspersed with schematic drawings of the topiary hens and formal shapes. Two plants of theirs that I treasured I have unaccountably lost. They were the early giant red poppy and the double orange Welsh poppy, both of which lit up the spring garden. Many of their other plants form the quiet backbone of my herbaceous planting scheme, much more informal than theirs. One year I propagated plants for them in my garden. When Marjory came to collect them, she asked if I had cut the roots shorter with scissors before setting them out. I said I had not, it wouldn't have occurred to me (we were way too informal). I am writing this now because I only just heard that Marjorie died before Christmas with Frank moved to a care home leaving their beautiful highly original garden, belonging to the NT, but perhaps no longer opening to the public.

### Slaley WI notes

With painted egg skills under our belts, we were ready for Easter after practising with acrylic paints, copper powder and lustre (look on the food shelves for this) remembering to either varnish or brush lightly with olive oil for a finished sheen...so it's thank you to Sandy at last month's meeting for showing us the different methods and suggesting how we 'jazz it up'!



No sooner had we perfected these techniques than it was back to using our collective baking skills for a pop-up stall within our Slaley Community Shop to raise just a little bit more money for our Community Notice Board. Exceeding a target of £200, we did it! To everyone who bought anything and everything, thank you...we can now go ahead with our plans for a very fine quality board which will be in use... and be useful, for many years to come...



and a pink flowering cherry tree has been planted in the school grounds to further commemorate our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last year.

Extra outings this month have included a walk to Blanchland with or without dogs and even car rides to culminate in an afternoon tea... there's lots on the agenda in the months to come but we're looking forward to the 10<sup>th</sup> April meeting with local Reiki practitioner Stella Storey. We'll learn all about the culture and techniques and on the front row no doubt, there'll be a rush of volunteers willing to experience the benefits!

As usual potential new members are always welcome, no obligation. If interested ring President Catherine Myers: 01434 673023

## **In the Commemoration Hall**

**Slaley, Healey & Minsteracres Local History Group,**

**Railways of the Northeast**

**By Ian Stevens MBE**

**Monday April 22nd 2024,**

**7.30 p.m. Slaley Commemoration Hall.**

£4 adults 50p anyone in full time education.

Ian, a career railwayman of 33 years (now retired), through historical references and personal anecdotes will guide us through the growth of the rail industry in the northeast and recall some of the touch points we all have with the railways that make it so much a part of our national psyche.

Whether you were a 'gricer' a long-suffering passenger or grew up on a diet of 'The Railway Children', Ian's unique view of the industry promises to be an entertaining and enlightening trip down memory lane and beyond. Turnpikes, German miners in the 1550s, plateways, a Cornish man in the 1700s and of course our own Wylam lad, George Stephenson have all played their part in shaping the railway in the northeast and much further afield too - and then of course there's Ian's contribution!

For more information contact Pat Wilson 673388, email:

[pat.wilson28@outlook.com](mailto:pat.wilson28@outlook.com)

### **Previously, on March 25th we heard about Greggs, a local success story!**

A mini-masterclass in business management as Sir Michael Darrington took us through his thinking about his time managing Greggs. It was revealed that "selling baked goods at a profit" is not a mission but only the result of a highly thought out almost philosophical mission statement which considers how you treat the people who work for you, and with you, and their relationship to the product and the customer. This included respect, goodwill and employee satisfaction. Respect for the product included obvious things like hygiene, quality ingredients - and less obviously, what to do with the leftovers, which should average about 10% of daily stock.

This initiative goes some way to explaining why Greggs is a North East icon (see the exhibition at the Farrell Centre, Newcastle, where Greggs is positioned at the



top next to Sam Fender on the contemporary NE icon list). Leftovers are given back to the community in a considered highly supportive way. Day old and some fresh items are sold at 1/3 price in 35 specially located Greggs Outlet shops where the profits are directed to disadvantaged communities. Breakfast Clubs run by volunteers with free food to feed children were set up in schools, followed by research from Durham University that looked at how this affected children - positively as it worked out. We were shown how the organisation grew, becoming huge with robotic storage and distribution centres, and with internationally researched product development, nevertheless keeping a human centred approach with the application of the same original fair and moral mission statement. I wish we could see more of this. (From Karen Melvin)

***The April date for the Whist session is April 11th.***

***The SCH 200 March winning number was 21***

### **Upcoming Elections**

Northumberland County Council have a scheduled election on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. If you are going to cast your vote at a polling station you will need to show an accredited form of photographic identification in order to receive your ballot paper(s). To find out more about this new requirement at

**[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id).**

Please note that this requirement does not affect electors who vote by post.

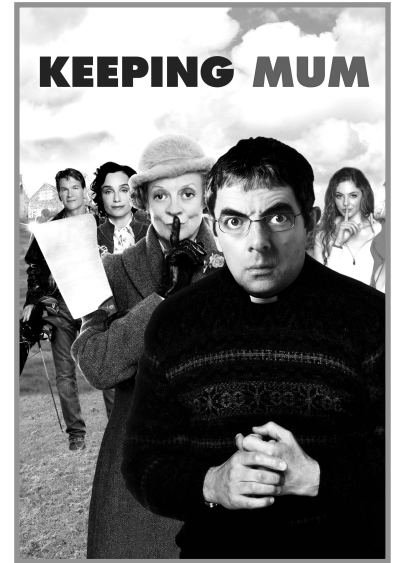
### **Slaley Film Club**

Some unwelcome news: for many years, the Queen's Hall Arts Centre have supported our small Film Club - and many others in Northumberland - by subsidising the licensing costs for the films we show. However, from the beginning of April, this subsidy is being cancelled, which means that we now have to find an additional £52 every month if we continue to get licences through them.

Our April show will just use some of our existing reserves, but over the coming summer we will be looking at how to cope with this change, and may well have to raise the price of admission. We feel that the existing format, combining an interesting film with an interval for supper and a good chat, works well and we hope that you will agree that it's great value!

## Our April film is “Keeping Mum” (15)

The vicar of Little Wallop is busy composing the perfect sermon. So busy, in fact, that he fails to notice his bored wife's flirtation with her American golf instructor, his daughter's revolving set of boyfriends, or his son's status as the favourite target of bullies. Enter Grace Hawkins (Maggie Smith), the new housekeeper, who has a drastic solution to the family's problems.



***19th April 2024 in the Commemoration Hall at 7.30***

***Doors open at 7.00 pm***

**ADMISSION £6 (£3 for under 25's)**

**Supper provided, but to confirm supper numbers please ring Stella on 07838 866976 !**



### **Where your money goes!**

Parish Councils receive funding from County Councils via a levy on those living within their parish. This is known as a 'precept'. You may have noticed an entry on your recent Council Tax bill, which reads 'Slaley Parish Council', the amount you see alongside that is your contribution to the precept. Parish Councils are then expected to use that money to support or progress activities that benefit their local community. In 2023/24 Slaley Parish Council received a precept of £13,400. Whilst some of that money has gone on administrative costs and insurance, the bulk has been spent in the following areas throughout the year:

- **Providing grants to charitable causes** – Over the year £850 has been given to causes that residents may either directly or indirectly benefit from.

- **Slaley Show** – This show has been at the very heart of our community for 166 years and in a bid to support that tradition the Parish Council has provided an element of financial support
- **Community Play Area** – It is important that the play equipment remains safe to use in this area. The County Council are therefore paid to inspect it on a weekly basis
- **Grass cutting** – A local company is employed to cut grass in what may be considered to be the communal areas of the Parish
- **First aid training** – The Parish Council has organised and subsidised first aid training for many years. This year it took the step to provide it free to residents of the Parish
- **Commemoration Hall** – The wi-fi at the Hall has been paid for by the Parish Council
- **Slaley News** – The printing costs of Slaley News are met out of the precept  
Money not spent by a Parish Council in any one year can be carried over into the next and saved for future years. Ultimately it may be used to fund a major project or provide support during a local emergency for example. Slaley Parish Council has such a reserve which is kept in an interest yielding bank account.

Should you have any thoughts on how your Parish Council may best spend the money you contribute to the community we would love to hear from you.

## **Parish Council Meetings**

Parish Council Meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is to be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 19:30, in Slaley Commemoration Hall. All members of the Parish are welcome and the agenda can be found at [www.slaley.org.uk/spc-meetings-and-minutes-2022-3](http://www.slaley.org.uk/spc-meetings-and-minutes-2022-3), 7 days in advance of the meeting.

## **Who to contact**

Should you wish to contact the Parish Council for whatever reason please send an email to **[slaleypc@gmail.com](mailto:slaleypc@gmail.com)**.

## SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

<b>Badminton Group</b>	<b>Fran Pugh</b>	<b>673429</b>
<b>Carpet Bowls</b>	<b>Karl Beckett</b>	<b>07914 693199</b>
<b>St Mary's Parish Church</b>	<b>Rev. David Kennedy</b>	<b>633012</b>
<b>St Elizabeth's Catholic Church</b>	<b>Father Antony Connelly</b>	<b>673248</b>
<b>Commemoration Hall</b>	<b>Chairman: Ros Doonan</b>	<b>673173</b>
	<b>Bookings: Stella Douglas</b>	<b>673001</b>
<b>County Councillor</b>	<b>Colin Horncastle</b>	<b>618259</b>
<b>Dial-A-Ride</b>	<b>A.D.A.P.T.</b>	<b>600599</b>
<b>Film Club</b>	<b>Michael Elphick</b>	<b>673443</b>
<b>Friends of Slaley School</b>	<b>Andrea Foster</b>	<b>634865</b>
<b>Hexham Hospital</b>		<b>0344 811 8111</b>
<b>Ladycross Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Joan Jewitt</b>	<b>673245</b>
<b>Leek Club</b>	<b>Catherine Lincoln</b>	<b>07918 120125</b>
<b>Local History Group</b>	<b>Pat Wilson</b>	<b>673388</b>
	<b>Ian Hancock</b>	<b>673502</b>
<b>Mobile Hairdresser</b>	<b>Linda Johnston</b>	<b>673196</b>
<b>Northumberland CC</b>	<b>Report faulty Streetlights/ Potholes</b>	<b>0345 6006400</b>
<b>Parish Council</b>	<b>Chairman: Ian Stevens</b>	<b>07395 566997</b>
<b>Post Office Van</b>	<b>Martin Nichol, Stocksfield Post Office</b>	<b>01661 842110</b>
<b>Police</b>	<b>For non-emergency calls</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Rose &amp; Crown Pub</b>		<b>673996</b>
<b>Slaley Shop</b>	<b>Enquiries</b>	<b>673201</b>
<b>Slaley Community Shop</b>	<b>Sandra Innes (Chair)</b>	<b>673845</b>
	<b>(mobile)</b>	<b>07710 726338</b>
<b>Slaley First School</b>	<b>Head: Mrs. Hayward</b>	<b>673220</b>
<b>Slaley Notes = Hexham Courant</b>	<b>Stella Douglas</b>	<b>07838 866976</b>
	<b>Catherine Lincoln</b>	<b>07918 120125</b>
<b>Slaley Parish Website</b>	<b>www.slaley.org.uk</b>	
<b>Slaley Show</b>	<b>Chairman: Stella Douglas</b>	<b>07838 866976</b>
<b>The Travellers Rest</b>	<b>Lucy &amp; Jed</b>	<b>673231</b>
<b>Women's Institute</b>	<b>President: Catherine Myers</b>	<b>673023</b>
	<b>Secretary: Hilary Porteus</b>	<b>07803 268947</b>