



# SLALEY NEWS MAY 2024



A somewhat smaller edition this month, but with regular features from the Shop, Karen Melvin and the WI. And a long report from the Carpet Bowls Club!

***Contributions for the June edition by Friday 24th May 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)***

## Slaley Community Shop

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who voted for us in the Countryside Alliance Awards. We were absolutely delighted to receive a "Highly Commended" for best Village Shop in the Northern Region, following close on the heels of winner Lowick Shop. It's fantastic for our volunteers to be recognised in this way and brought us some valuable coverage in the local press.

We're also delighted to announce that Denise Goulding has agreed to join our board as Secretary. We're still looking for someone to help with marketing, so please get in touch if that sounds like you.

Following on from our popular Christmas wine tasting, Louise will be hosting another event - see details below. Now all we need is the weather to go with it!



## **Slaley Shop Spring Wine Tasting**

Slaley Commemoration Hall, Friday 17th May at 7.30pm

With Spring, and Summer, just around the corner, Slaley Community Shop will be hosting a wine tasting to showcase a range of wines we think will be perfect for warmer Summer days. Join Louise who will take you through a selection of wines, alongside some delicious snacks.

Please book in advance, at a bargain price of £20 which includes all wines, tons of nibbles PLUS a fabulous 5% discount on a case of 6 of wines from the Slaley Shop wine shelves. Pay on the evening, but do let us know in advance if you're able to make it, so we can know numbers. RSVP to [louise.bartholdi@gmail.com](mailto:louise.bartholdi@gmail.com).

## **Church Services**

St Mary's Slaley at 11.15 am every Sunday

## **May 2024 WI Report**

Our April social evening was highly enlightening as we were able to experience the power of the complementary treatment Reiki through the skilled hands of Stella Storey from Muggleswick.



After a brief talk explaining how she herself had been treated and relieved of confidence problems after a bad horse fall, she discovered that she also could perform the skill in her work as a racehorse trainer. She underwent training herself and has built up a business treating those very same horses...and dogs...and people! Many of us were able to experience the hands-off treatment; some of us felt an intense heat, some saw vivid colours, some experienced circulation

improvements and some have even been for a further appointment for problems with knees! Knees are better and a good nights relaxing sleep certainly followed. Further to our 100<sup>th</sup> year birthday celebrations last year the Community Noticeboard is nearly ready, and we've planted a pink double flowering cherry in the school garden; of course its doubtful whether either will last until 2124 but we hope that everyone will find one useful and the other gorgeous in the interveing years. We've been able to raise some more funds through a pop-up cake stall and have received generous donations from the Community Shop and the Parish Council in the meantime. Its an excellent community effort. We'll be having a formal unveiling ceremony for sure!

At the time of writing we're hoping that it doesn't unexpectedly snow again before we set off as the Moorland Group to the Spring Harrogate Flower Show in a few days' time; the coach is fully booked and if anything like last years autumn trip will come back fully laden.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> May gathering is to be a fun games night following on from the annual AGM. We expect a full house and if any new members fancy joining in, no obligation, just come and have a look basis, you'll be very welcome indeed.

For further info please contact President Catherine Myers Tel: 673023

## **Carpet Bowls**

We have reached the end of our bowling season and what an exciting year it has been!! (and we aren't easily excited!!)



We started the year with a new carpet purchased thanks to a grant from the Northumberland Community Chest. We had very good fun nights with the Young Farmers and the WI, and soon our club nights were attended by a regular 14 ish with some new members joining in the fun.

Just before the New Year we put the rest of the grant money towards a new set of brightly coloured balls. By heck we do look posh now!!

So how did we fare in our matches against other village bowls club? Well (at this point imagine a football manager being grilled after yet another defeat!). 'Well the boys and girls done well, very proud of em, they gave it their all, can't fault the effort and its just a shame the balls didn't roll well for us'. We don't think VAR would have helped, nor can we blame the carpet or the bowls!

Overall the results for the season were: Won 3 Lost 12.

Of the 12 losses 5 were very close just a few points . Adding all the match points together we scored 801 and against us it was 815, so very close!

So like the football manager let's remember the positives!! New Members, New Carpet, New Bowls and so so much fun.

Excitement is so high that we that we will continue to play over the summer! The Tuesday club fun nights from 7:30 to 9:30 pm will be held every fortnight starting 30th April , then 14th, 28th of May, 11th June, etc and every 2 weeks until the 20th August. Just turn up and join the fun. Ring Karl if you want more detail.

## **The Rose & Crown**

Whether you come in for a coffee, soft drink, a pint or a glass of wine, evening meal or snack lunch apart from excellent food, you can also enjoy the .splendid views. Why not make use of our new garden furniture as well

Our Quoits team start playing on a Wednesday, why not come and watch.

From mid May we will be opening on a Wednesday evening.

We look forward to seeing you all at your community pub!

## **The Travellers Rest**

### **May food offers**

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

## **May1 2024 gardening column-**

**Karen Melvin**

As I am writing this the trees buds are bursting, showing the delicate colours of young leaves, along with bulbs and early flowers; this is blossom season, starting well over a month ago. A whole tree covered with blossom is a wonder of nature, and is a national celebration in Japan with their “hanami” cherry blossom festivals. I walk through my garden every day (when it isn't pouring) under the opening buds and unfurling leaves and blooms. I have been in London for a week and am so glad I didn't miss any blossom back here. There are cherries and magnolias blossoming in London - which I seem to remember has so many trees throughout the city in streets and parks that it is classified as “forest” - how odd. Many of the

street cherries are *Prunus Kanzan*, which seems to me overstuffed with petals; I

prefer the more open, delicate *Prunus accolade* or *Prunus yedoensis*, the Yoshino cherry, or the simple shaped yellowish petals of *Prunus ukon*. Special weeping cherries in Japan are called “shidarezakura” and are especially prized. Japanese visitors were out in force gazing at the blossom in Greenwich Park. Back home all four of my magnolias are coming into flower, in spite of temperatures collapsing from 20 degrees to almost zero.



St James Park Cherry

Some of my favourite text books on botany have turned up in art galleries. I came across an arresting definition of a tree by Hugh Ingram, where its structure is described as “evolution’s response to life in a medium offering little buoyancy but much turbulence.” The article was tracking plant life, initially from the sea, evolving through time to tree ferns, gymnosperms, and the first woody plants. Of course, trees are important; they are our shelter, shade, building material, fuel, food, and no less, objects of beauty because of all these things. Their life span is much longer than ours. Some of the shelter belt sycamores in our garden are one and a half times my age. Our oldest tree, a Scots Pine, was 152 years old when we had to fell it last year (too close to our neighbour’s house). A 45 year old balsam poplar now our tallest tree is presently opening its beeswax scented sepals filling the air with perfume.

Plants differ right down to a cell structure that maximises surface area, to promote chemical - gas - air - exchange, and sun processing photosynthesis. The cell structure enables a growth pattern with a “stretchy” form quite different from our animal body cells. Their cells have a central vacuole allowing water to move in



Cherry Letah

and out, expanding the cells in response to the environment, season and weather. Buds swell, shoots and stems stretch, leaves spread wide. This is a modular



Magnolia Soulangia

system of shoots, buds, leaves, and flowers that lets plants adapt to their situation. Their unique strangeness seems a bit more knowable.

### **Slaley Film Club**

Our April show was very well supported, with over 35 in the audience.

Over the coming summer we will be looking at how to cope with the changing costs of licensing, 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!

We may consider showing a film to celebrate the 80th anniversary D-Day on June 6th, and would like to hear if there would be support for that.

# **The Parish Council: Grants, hedges and community engagement**

## **Grants**

Twice a year (October and April), 'good causes' have the opportunity to apply to the Parish Council for small grants to assist them with initiatives that have the potential to benefit those within our community. This April two grant applications were approved by Councillors. The first to Slaley Leek Club, to help raise their profile and encourage more people in the Parish to take to their gardens and the second to Slaley Women's Institute, to support their purchase of a village notice board, for outside the shop.

## **Hedges**

It had been a longstanding desire of the Parish Councils, acting on behalf of community members to improve visibility at the Townhead/B6303 junction by trimming the hedge at its southern corner. With the consent of the homeowner and thanks to volunteers in the village, excess flora was removed at the beginning of April, substantially improving sight lines.

Should you also be thinking of hedge trimming as we approach summer, be it in your garden or cutting back to help increase the width of our roads or pavements please remember to check for nesting birds first.

## **Community engagement**

With the cooperation of the community shop, Parish Council 'drop in' mornings are to be trialled over the summer. Councillors hope this initiative will give community members more scope to share their thoughts or issues with them. The first session is being planned for late May. More details will appear in the shop and Slaley Notes in due course.

It's also approaching that time of year when the community can come together and air their thoughts at the Annual Parish Meeting. This year it will be held on 13th May at 18:30 in Slaley Commemoration Hall. If you have any points you would like to raise about community life do please come along.

## **Make a date**

The next Parish Council meeting, for which there is an open invite to all residents, is to be held on Monday 13th May at 19:30, in Slaley Commemoration Hall. This will be preceded by the Councils Annual General Meeting at 19:00. Agenda's for both meetings will be available at [www.slaley.org.uk/spc-meetings-and-minutes-2022-23](http://www.slaley.org.uk/spc-meetings-and-minutes-2022-23), seven days in advance of them.

## **Who to contact**

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

## SOME USEFUL CONTACTS-1

<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>