

Green Light for the Future of Slaley Shop!



As you may know, a working group was set up to try to secure the future of Slaley Shop as a community venture. Margaret and Roy Ward need to retire after over fifty years of quite outstanding service to the folk of Slaley and district.

We are delighted to report that Slaley Community Shop Ltd has now agreed terms with Margaret and Roy to take over the business. We have duly registered the new business as a Co-operative Society for the Benefit of the Community (very much like the Rose and Crown).

A lot of hard work has been done to get to this point by Jerry Cleall-Harding and his team, but our work has only just begun.

This is an invitation to come to the Commemoration Hall on Thursday 16 March at 7pm to hear all about the project and how it will work.

We also need volunteers. So far over 60 people have shown an interest in helping in various ways, but now's the time to translate all this into a plan of action.

Would you be willing to be a member of one of the teams serving in the shop (even for just an hour or two each month), or would you be prepared to help behind the scenes?

We need people to order stock, carry out day to day administration, help to design a new layout for shop, market the new business and help fundraise.

Fran Pugh is coordinating our volunteer force and would love to hear from you.

There will also be a meeting of those interesting in helping immediately after the main meeting on 16 March. Fran can be contacted by email on fmpugh@btinternet.com or by phone (01434 673429).

Our friends at the highly successful Humshaugh village shop tell us that their youngest volunteer is 10 and oldest 92. Surely Slaley can beat that! We'll provide all the training and support you need.

We're delighted to have got to this point, especially since our survey showed that there is overwhelming support for a community shop in the village. We have lots of ideas and hopes and we'd like you to help us put them into shape.

We hope, for example that the shop will continue to support local food producers, be an essential life-line for those who can't drive into Hexham to shop for their basic groceries, and also be an attractive stopping place for all who pass through the village.

Finally we'll want to say a proper 'thank you' to Margaret and Roy for all they have contributed to the village – but more about that later.

The members of the Slaley Community Shop Steering Group are Jerry Cleall-Harding (chairman), Andy Hayden (secretary), David Allsop, Mike Darrington, Fran Pugh, Helen Savage, Olwen Savage and Norman Watson.

Please feel you can talk to any of us about these plans.