



Newsletter

Issue 6. September 2021

Chairman's Report

.....

After a Summer break the Newsletter is back this month, although there is not too much new to report.

Our community hall is fully operational after lockdown with events and activities and private hires able to take place from 19th July, with risks managed by hirers through good ventilation, encouraging social distancing, hand washing and use of hand sanitiser.

It remains important to be considerate of those who are more vulnerable and who may wish to take a more cautious approach. At some activities or events, measures such as wearing face masks and social distancing might be taken, so that people who are clinically more vulnerable or not yet fully vaccinated can attend. Use of face coverings will remain advisable in confined spaces such as toilets, kitchens and corridors and at more crowded events.

Pending more detailed guidance, the hall will retain the physical measures already in place. Test and Trace will be retained and we will continue to display QR codes. Hand sanitiser stations will remain in place and we will display posters requiring face coverings on entry. We will continue with more frequent cleaning of regularly touched surfaces, so that people feel comfortable returning to the hall.

Social distancing rules can be lifted to a level which feels appropriate for different types of activity, such as audience seated performances or wedding receptions with dancing and singing, whilst making provision for the more vulnerable and non-double vaccinated.

Have a look at the activities scheduled for next month, from Karate to Ballroom Dancing. They are all on the calendar at www.newtonandbywell.org and if there is something there of interest we would love to welcome you to take part.

The calendar is always live and up to date, so you can see when the hall is being used. Whenever it is

open, if you wish to use the library we have some new additions this month. For the keen cooks amongst you, Dot Harcourt has generously donated some top class cookery books from some of the biggest names in the culinary world.

As always we would welcome some contributions to the newsletter from the Parish. If you have a story to tell, we would love to hear it. If you have some interesting history of the local area, let me know and we can include it in future issues.

Just contact me at info@newtonandbywell.org

Geoff Osborn

Riddles & Brain Teasers

A small number of cards has been lost from a complete pack. If I deal among four people, three cards remain. If I deal among three people, two remain and if I deal among five people, two cards remain. How many cards are there?

You are in a room that has three switches and a closed door. The switches control three light bulbs on the other side of the door. Once you open the door, you may never touch the switches again. How can you definitively tell which switch is connected to each of the light bulbs?

I left my campsite and hiked south for 3 miles. Then I turned east and hiked for 3 miles. I then turned north and hiked for 3 miles, at which time I came upon a bear inside my tent eating my food! What species was the bear?

Answers to these will be given in next month's Newsletter



Gardening Jobs for September



As the weather cools and the days become shorter there are still many jobs that you can be getting on with that will keep your garden looking good in the colder months, and will help to ensure a fantastic display next year.

1. Plant spring flowering bulbs: from Camassia to Alliums, Fritillaria to Tulips and Daffodils, a little planning and planting at this time of year will reap colourful rewards come next spring.
2. Divide herbaceous perennials where they have become congested. Doing this regularly will ensure that your perennials remain healthy and vigorous, as well as providing you with additional plants. Don't forget to keep newly divided plants well-watered while they establish in the soil.
3. Keep your annuals going for as long as you can by regularly deadheading and feeding them.
4. Deadhead Dahlias, Penstemons and Roses to encourage more flowers.
5. Keep harvesting produce in the vegetable patch. Lift and dry onions once the foliage

has flopped. They can be stored in nets or can be plaited and hung up until needed.

6. Remove leaves from squashes and pumpkins to enable the sun to reach and ripen the developing fruits.
7. Remove the tips from tomato plants so that all of the plant's energy can be directed toward the developing fruit rather than producing new fruit.
8. When peas and beans have finished, cut the plants back at ground level, leaving the roots in situ. The roots will slowly release nitrogen back into the soil.
9. Cut the fruited canes of summer raspberries, and tie in the new, green canes which will provide the fruit next year.
10. Tidy and weed vegetable beds that become empty when produce is lifted.
11. Carry out essential lawn maintenance: aerate your lawn with a fork, remove thatch and repair dead patches. Then top dress with special lawn top-dressing and apply an autumn lawn fertiliser.
12. Start to tidy up and clean greenhouses, pots and containers.

Job of the Month

Divide hostas

The best time to divide and conquer your hostas is at the end of summer, around August or the start of September. However, if you are not able to at this time, you can divide them at any time between Spring and Autumn.

If you divide in the autumn, you want to aim for at least 3-4 weeks before your first frost which in most parts of the UK would be around October. It is better to divide when the weather is humid and cooler but you want to give them enough time to establish themselves before your soil freezes.

How to divide hostas

If the hostas are not oversized, you can dig up the clump. To do this, dig around the clump in a circle and lift the clump out of the ground using your spade. You will see, once it is out of the ground,

that the clump is comprised of smaller, individual plants. Once you wash off the soil around the plant you will have a better view of the crown. With that, you can break apart your clumps into the natural divisions you see, usually with 3 sets of shoots per crown.

Dividing oversized Hostas

If they are oversized and you cannot get them out of the ground, you can use the spade to slice clumps into divisions within the original hole and subsequently remove the divisions to be replanted elsewhere.

Once this is done, your basic hosta care is easy. Wherever the divided plants end up, be sure to water regularly and layout some slug traps to prevent their most annoying of pests.

Message from Derek Kennedy, Mayor of Hexham;

From 6:00am, Monday 13th September, vehicles will be able to use the new roundabout on the A69 junction at Hexham.

Road users are asked to drive appropriately around the new roundabout and to take their time getting to know the new layout, paying attention to signs and lane markings.

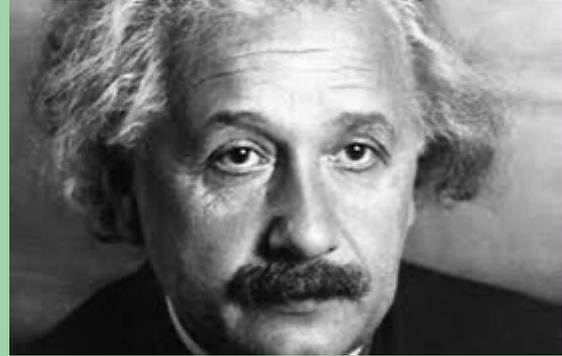
To enable traffic to be switched on to the new circulatory, the eastbound carriageway of the A69 will be fully closed and there will be lane closures on the westbound carriageway from 8pm on Sunday 12 September. Diversions will be clearly signed.

Once the roundabout is open, work will continue to prepare the mainline A69 to be opened up at the end of the month, weather permitting.

Would anyone like a free piano?

Our hall has a piano that is very rarely used and is currently just taking up valuable hall space. We would like to find a good home where it will be used and enjoyed. If you can transport it, then it is yours. If you have any questions or require further details, please contact Geoff Osborn at info@newtonandbywell.org

Only 2 Percent of People Can Solve Einstein's Riddle—Can You?



The story goes that Einstein wrote this complicated logic puzzle when he was a young man, and he estimated that only two percent of the people who tried to solve it would successfully do so. While there isn't any solid evidence to confirm that Einstein created it—and somehow prophesied the exact number of people to get it right—it's still a mind-bending puzzle, but it is a purely logical one that will require some time to solve.

There are five houses, each painted a different colour. In each house lives a person with a different nationality. These five owners drink a certain type of beverage, smoke a certain brand of cigar, and keep a certain pet. No owners have the same pet, smoke the same cigar, or drink the same beverage.

The question is, who owns the fish?

Here are the clues:

- The Brit lives in the red house
- The Swede keeps dogs as pets
- The Dane drinks tea
- The green house is on the left of the white house
- The green house's owner drinks coffee
- The person who smokes Pall Mall rears birds
- The owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhill
- The man living in the centre house drinks milk
- The Norwegian lives in the first house
- The man who smokes blends lives next to the one who keeps cats
- The man who keeps horses lives next to the man who smokes Dunhill
- The owner who smokes BlueMaster drinks beer
- The German smokes Prince
- The Norwegian lives next to the blue house
- The man who smokes blend has a neighbour who drinks water

The answer will be given and explained in the next newsletter. Spend some time and see if you can solve the puzzle.