Newton & Bywell COMMUNITY HALL

Newsletter

Issue 10. January 2022

Community Hall

Following the article in the last Newsletter requesting volunteers to help run our Community hall we have not as yet received any offers of assistance from the Village or the Parish. Currently there are only four trustees and the considerable load of dealing with the administration is very much with those who remain.

Hall Trustees

Alan Beddis Alison Wilkinson
Rob Palmer Liz Kirsopp
Secretary Monica Anderton

Our Hall urgently needs your help

If you can offer some time and energy to help with the daily administration, please contact about becoming a trustee to **save our Community Hall**. If you feel that you cannot commit to being a trustee, then any offers of occasional help in other ways would be appreciated. If you have expertise or skills that could benefit the hall please get in touch.

To join our Parish email list and receive information about news and events, traffic alerts etc. please check the Community Hall website at www.newtonandbywell.org and subscribe via the sign up button. There is also the Newton and Bywell Matters Facebook page which can keep you up to date with local news.

If you have any contributions for future editions of the newsletter, or wish to get in touch regarding helping at the Hall, please contact Geoff Osborn at:
info@newtonandbywell.org

ITV VERA Series 11 Episode 5

Keep a look out for the ITV episode of Vera which was filmed at the Hall and the Pub last year. The Community Hall features in Episode 5 - 'Vital Signs' which is due to be aired on January 23rd. The hall was converted into Derwewood Medical Centre for the episode, and once it has been shown, I will put some photos in the next newsletter showing the transformation.

Newton and Bywell have a successful bulk oil purchasing scheme run by Diana Denbury. Oil can be ordered and delivered every other month through this scheme at a competitive price.To register please complete the online form at www.newtonandbywell.org and send to:
dianadenbury@hotmail.co.uk

Carrs Billington, one of our regular suppliers, have given us a box of 2022 calendars. If you would like one of these you are welcome to pick up a copy from the Community Hall library on a first come first served basis. There are currently 22 copies available. Just check the Hall calendar on the website to see when the hall is being used, and is open.

Gardening Jobs for January

Winter pruning jobs

- Continue pruning climbing roses while they are dormant.
- Prune blackcurrants, if you haven't done so already, removing about a quarter of the old stems.
- Prune gooseberries and redcurrants, cutting sideshoots back to three buds from their base.
- Winter-prune apple and pear trees to remove any dead, damaged, congested and diseased branches.

Pruning an apple tree in winter will help to improve its shape, reduce its size and promote better quality fruit.
Thinning out some of the branches will channel the plant's energy into fewer, but better, apples, and improve air circulation through the centre of the tree to limit pest and disease problems.
Pruning apple trees in winter also gives you the opportunity to identify and cut out any broken, weak or cankered growth, and in the case of old trees, encourage the formation of strong, vital regrowth.

How to winter prune apple and pear trees

Step 1

Start by removing any dead, damaged or diseased branches. Cut these back to a healthy bud on the stem or remove them altogether, back to the base. Then take out old, unproductive branches, cutting back close to where they join a thicker branch or the trunk. Where established apples and pears have been pruned in this way in previous years, the mass of strong regrowth that follows can be removed or thinned out now, to prevent overcrowding. Prune out additional unwanted growth, to let in light and air.

Step 2

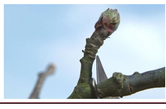
Reduce the height of the leading shoot and cut back side branches to channel sap into a few buds lower down. This will encourage stronger, thicker main shoots, prevent unnecessary top growth and redirect energy to other growth points. This is the method to follow if you are training your trees as cordons, as this will promote vigorous, pliable shoots that can be bent into place on training wires.

Step 3

Identify the previous year's shoots by tracing down from the tips to find the growing point. Shorten these stems to around half their length, cutting just above an outward-facing bud. Remember that once the tree is more mature you'll want to give it an open structure to maintain good air circulation, so remove any inward-growing branches.

Step 4

Look for vigorous shoots towards the ends of all the main branches. Cut these back by between half and two-thirds of their length. Make your cuts just above a bud – if possible one that's pointing away from the centre of the plant, so the resulting new shoot grows outwards. Check short fruit spurs, identified by their rounded flower buds, and prune out any vigorous shoots that have grown from them. Cut them back to the point from which they grew. On old trees, remove congested fruit spurs, so the flowers and fruits have room to develop without getting damaged.

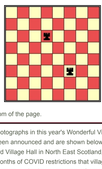


Riddles and Brainteasers

1. Maths riddle
Create a number using only the digits 4,4,3,3,2,2,1 and 1. So it can only be eight digits. You have to make sure the ones are separated by one digit, the twos are separated by two digits the threes are separated with three digits and the fours are separated by four digits

2. Cipher Puzzle
If Susan is 10, Arabella is 20, and Jim and Neal are both 5, but Richard is 10, how much is Jennifer by the same system?

3. Chess Puzzle
How many squares, of any size, can you find on this chess board which do not contain a Rook?



Answers at the bottom of the page.

The prizewinning photographs in this year's Wonderful Villages Photo Competition have been announced and are shown below. The winning photo (top left) from Rafford Village Hall in North East Scotland, captures the moment following months of COVID restrictions that villagers were able to come together once more. It highlights 'the heart of the community' and carries a simple message of locals loving and caring for one another.
We will keep you in touch with the theme for this year's competition, and hopefully we can see some entries from Newton and Bywell.

POSITIVE THOUGHTS FOR A NEW YEAR

"Winning doesn't always mean being first. Winning means you're doing better than you've done before."

Bonnie Blair Speed Skater

"It always seems impossible until it is done."

Nelson Mandela
Political Leader

"You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

A.A. Mine
Author/Poet

"The only time you fail is when you fail down and stay down."

Stephen Richards
Author

Answers to Riddles and Brainteasers

1.
41312432

2.
Jennifer is fifteen, in a system that awards five for each syllable.

3.
128.
There are 62 squares of size 1x1.
There are 41 squares of size 2x2.
There are 18 squares of size 3x3.
There are 6 squares of size 4x4.
There is 1 square of size 5x5.

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