

Chairman's Report

Newton and Bywell Community Trust is a charitable Incorporated organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees. The aim of the trust is to benefit the residents of Newton and Bywell and the neighbourhood, and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure and education.

This month, please come along to a preview evening and two-day exhibition of paintings, drawings, prints and bronze sculpture by two renowned wildlife artists. This will be held in our Community Hall to raise money for the UK's leading wildlife research charity, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT), as well as Brain Tumour Research and the High Sheriff Awards. Please support this event and see below for further details.

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, or a great or unusual photo taken in the Parish, let me know and we can include it in future issues. Just contact me at info@newtonandbywell.org

Geoff Osborn

Riddles & Brain Teasers

This is a difficult one.

The fuse box/circuit breaker in your new mansion house is in an inconvenient corner of your basement. To your chagrin, you discover none of the 100 circuit breakers is labelled, and you face the daunting prospect of matching each circuit breaker to its respective light. (Suppose each circuit breaker maps to only one light.)

To start with, you switch all 100 lights in the house to "on," and then you head down to your basement to begin the onerous mapping process. On every trip to your basement, you can switch any number of circuit breakers on or off. You can then roam the hallways of your house to discover which lights are on and which are off.

What is the minimum number of trips you need to make to the basement to map every circuit breaker to every light?

Hint

The solution does not involve either switching on or off the light switches in your house or feeling how hot the lightbulbs are. You might want to try solving for the case of 10 unlabelled circuit breakers first.

Solution in next month's newsletter.

Art exhibition to benefit British wildlife

Newton and Bywell Community Hall will host an exhibition of art by Ashley Boon and Ian Greensitt on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 November. The venue will be open from 10.30am to 5pm on Saturday 27, and from 10.30am to 3.30pm on Sunday 28. The exhibition will be free but there will be a special paid preview on the evening of Friday 26 November from 6 to 8.30pm.

Tickets for the preview will be £10 each and will include drinks and a raffle. Proceeds from the evening will be split between the GWCT, Brain Tumour Research and The High Sheriff Awards.

Ashley Boon has been exhibiting since 1990. He says, "I developed an abiding interest in natural history at an early age and was fascinated by everything from pond life and reptiles to birds, which became my great love." Now based in Geltsdale in rural Cumbria, he captures that childhood fascination through his work.

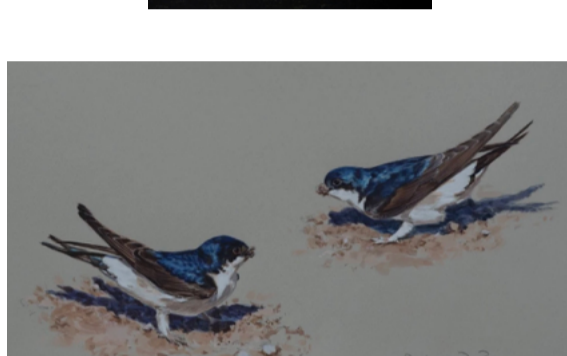
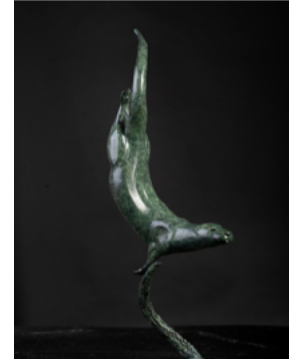
Sculptor Ian Greensitt, who is a local resident, works in bronze using the lost wax process to create stunning limited editions of his chosen subjects, with each piece having its unique colouration. He works in a studio in Northumberland, close to the rivers and moorlands where he is able to study his subjects in great detail.



Lapwing Watercolour



Guinea Fowl Bronze



The exhibition is kindly sponsored by Cheviot Insured, Thrift Energy and Sanderson Weatherall.

To book tickets for the preview or for more information please contact Sophie Dingwall at sdingwall@gwct.org.uk or on 07925 597676.

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust gwct.org.uk – providing research-led conservation for a thriving countryside. The GWCT is an independent wildlife conservation charity which has carried out scientific research into Britain's game and wildlife since the 1930s. We advise farmers and landowners on improving wildlife habitats. We employ 22 post-doctoral scientists and 50 other research staff with expertise in areas such as birds, insects, mammals, farming, fish and statistics. We undertake our own research as well as projects funded by contract and grant-aid from Government and private bodies. The Trust is also responsible for several Government Biodiversity Action Plan species and is lead partner for grey partridge and joint lead partner for brown hare and black grouse.

Aurora Borealis

Forget Norway and Iceland. The skies above Northumberland are darker and clearer in the winter months, the perfect time to see the Aurora Borealis.



Northumberland International Dark Sky Park is Europe's largest area of protected night sky. In fact it boasts the darkest skies in England, making it the perfect place to admire the stars. The Northern Lights have previously been seen shining over Sycamore Gap on Hadrian's Wall, so it's worth bearing this spot in mind next time there's a chance of seeing the Aurora.



However, the Aurora Borealis can be seen a little closer to home. Thanks to Suzanne Water for this fabulous picture of the Northern lights from Newton Village, which she captured at 2 am from a bedroom window.

Answers to last month's Riddles and Brainteasers

What word in the English language does the following: the first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four letters signify a great person, while the entire word signifies a great woman. What is the word?

Answer: Heroine

1. A farmer needs to take a fox, a chicken, and a sack of grain across a river. The only way across the river is by a small boat, which can only hold the farmer and one of the three items. Left unsupervised, the chicken will eat the grain, and the fox will eat the chicken. However, the fox won't try to eat the grain, and neither the fox nor the chicken will wander off. How does the farmer get everything across the river?

Explanation: The farmer must follow these steps.

1. Take the chicken across the river.
2. Come back with an empty boat.
3. Take the grain across the river.
4. Bring the chicken back.
5. Take the fox across the river.
6. Come back with an empty boat.
7. Take the chicken across the river.

2. You are walking down a road and come to a fork. One path leads to certain death; the other leads to eternal happiness. You don't know which is which. In the middle of the fork, you come across two brothers who know which road is which. One brother always tells the truth and the other always lies. You can only ask them one question. How would you determine which road to take?

Answer: Ask each brother, "If you were your brother, which road would you say leads to eternal happiness?"

Explanation: Let's say the path on the right leads to eternal happiness. After you ask your question, both brothers will tell you the exact same thing: "He would say the left path leads to eternal happiness."

3. Four people arrive at a river with a narrow bridge that can only hold two people at a time. It's nighttime and they have one torch that has to be used when crossing the bridge. Person A can cross the bridge in one minute, B in two minutes, C in five minutes, and D in eight minutes. When two people cross the bridge together, they must move at the slower person's pace. Can they all get across the bridge in 15 minutes or less?

Explanation: The group of four must follow these steps.

1. First, A and B cross the bridge and A brings the light back. This takes 3 minutes.
2. Next, C and D cross and B brings the light back. This takes another 10 minutes.
3. Finally, A and B cross again. This takes another 2 minutes.

4. During a recent census, a man told the census taker that he had three children. When asked their ages, he replied, "The product of their ages is 72. The sum of their ages is the same as my house number." The census taker ran to the man's front door and looked at the house number, which was No. 14. "I still can't tell," she complained. The man replied, "Oh that's right, I forgot to tell you that the oldest one likes chocolate pudding." The census taker then promptly wrote down the ages of the three children. How old are they?

Explanation: The key to this brain teaser is that the census taker looks at the house number. In other words, she knows the sum of the children's ages.

However, at that point of the riddle, she still can't tell how old the man's children are.

Therefore, she has to be stuck between multiple possibilities. To narrow it down further, only two sets of numbers that multiply to 72 share the same sum: (2, 6, 6) and (3, 3, 8). After the man reveals that his oldest child likes chocolate pudding, however, the census taker can differentiate between the two options. That is, only the latter of those two sets has a distinct "oldest" child.



Gardening Jobs for November

The dark nights, colder temperatures and stronger winds begin to arrive in November but there are still several jobs that can be done in the garden this month.

- Protect outdoor container plants by raising them off the ground using bricks or special 'pot feet' available at the nursery.
- Insulate outside pots by wrapping them in bubble wrap or hessian and tying with garden twine or wire.
- Continue to lift Dahlias, Begonias and Gladiolus corms, cover them in bark and store in a cool, dark location. Don't forget to remove all dead foliage and as much soil as you can from around the roots.
- It is your last opportunity to get spring flowering bulbs into the ground but an ideal time to plant tulip bulbs.
- Roses can suffer from wind-rock through the winter, when stronger winds shake the roots loose. To prevent this, prune your bush and shrub roses to one third of their height.
- Spreading manure on your beds and borders at this time of year will allow it to rot down over winter, improving the structure of your soil and its nutrient content.
- Reuse spent compost from containers as mulch on your beds.
- Remove fallen leaves from around plants with blackspot, rust or signs of other fungal infection. This will prevent spores spreading and exacerbating any existing problems.
- Collecting healthy leaves and adding them to your compost will produce leaf-mould which is an excellent mulch for your beds and borders. You can use all plant leaves and conifer needles but oak, beech and hornbeam break down quickly and easily, producing a good quality mulch in a year. It is also a good idea to place conifer needles on a separate pile as these create acidic leaf-mould which is especially good for ericaceous plants such as Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Japanese Maples and Pieris.
- Now is a good time to construct new raised borders in your garden and to think about any changes to future designs.
- In the vegetable garden there is still time to plant autumn onions and garlic; improve the soil by adding organic material before planting.
- Divide existing, large rhubarb crowns when the plant has become fully dormant.
- November is a good time to plant bare-rooted fruit trees. If you cannot plant the tree immediately then heel the roots in soil or bark, firm them in and water to prevent the roots from drying out.
- Pruning of apple and pear trees can be carried out now but delay pruning plum and cherry trees through the winter as this will make the trees more susceptible to silver leaf fungus.
- Prevent wingless, female moths from climbing fruit trees and laying eggs in the branches by applying grease bands to the tree trunks.
- There is still time to aerate your lawn: use a garden fork to create small holes in your lawn. This will allow greater absorption of air, water and essential nutrients into the soil, making them more available to your lawn roots.
- It is also the ideal time to give evergreen hedges a final trim.