A friend in the village kindly brought me some hebe cuttings last autumn and I agreed to return the favour with some hosta cuttings in the spring!

**WHEN DO YOU NEED TO DIVIDE?**

We've had such a fine week of sunshine a week or two ago that I realised it was time to divide them as the 'eyes' were peeping through and the leaves will soon be developing. I know some people do this job in early September when the leaves start to die back, but early spring is also perfect. As hostas are a favourite with slugs and snails, I have always chosen to have a display in pots as you can then more easily control the pests, but if in pots they will need more regular watering.

When the centre of the clump starts to die out or when the pot is really bursting, it's time to split them. I do this every two to three years to keep them looking healthy and to have a few spares to share! If grown in beds it won't be as often.

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**WHAT YOU NEED TO DO**

Lift out the whole clump and knock off the soil around the bottom, or de-dirt them in a bowl of water. If they’ve been in a pot, you can pull off the old compost around the top and bottom and spread out the roots. Some of the longer entangled shoots can be trimmed. Either break the clump into divisions with your hands or divide the clump with a spade, or even a kitchen knife so as not to damage the divisions. Replant each with a little bone meal or other feed mixed into the compost to ensure strong root growth. Flowers on long stems will appear after a couple of years' growth.

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

The Little and Large of hostas - both of ours need dividing now!

**BLUE MOUSE EARS**

Jobs to do in April in the garden

**THE JOB'S DONE**

**SNOWDEN**

If you want to keep a plant give some away

HTTPS://WWW.RHS.ORG.UK/ADVICE/IN-MONTH/APRIL