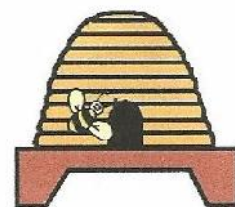


Herefordshire Beekeepers' Association



Newsletter
November 2017

Forthcoming events All welcome:

Thursday November 16th Presidents Evening, 7.30 pm Three Counties Hotel, Belmont Road, Hereford. Speaker: Brian Draper.

Saturday November 18th East LAN Christmas dinner. Plough Inn, Stoke Lacy, 7pm for 7.30pm. Contact Marlene to book a place. The cost will be £14.50 for a three course meal, all members welcome including partners.

Saturday December 9th 11am-1pm. Apiary meeting and Apibioxal varroa treatment, Holme Lacy, for directions contact a member of the committee.



Brian Draper

A talk on the River Wye, from its source to Hereford.

Brian Draper worked for almost 40 years on flood defence, land drainage and river conservation, during which time he gave many lectures on rivers and was the official schools lecturer for the Upper Severn Area of the National Rivers Authority. On his retirement in 1996 he became a full time lecturer and courier. A keen naturalist, walker and photographer, he was awarded an MBE for his work in furthering the conservation of rivers. He has lived all his life in the Teme Valley.

President's Evening

All are welcome. This is traditionally a “beefree” evening when we learn about something other than bees. Do come along to what promises to be a fascinating talk.

We will also be presenting the Honey Show trophies, awards and certificates.

We generally bring along a few nibbles to share after the meeting.

October 19th, talk by Prof Les Baillie of Cardiff University's School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Professor Baillie has been researching into the anti-bacterial properties of honey, with the aim of finding new plant-derived antibacterial drugs. A PhD student working for him about three years ago, put out a request for Welsh beekeepers to send in samples of their honey. These were tested for their anti-bacterial properties and the make up the of the flowers in the honey. This project was carries out in conjunction with the National Botanic Garden of Wales who have a pollen data base of native Welsh flowers.

One particular sample from Tywyn near Aberystwyth showed very promising results. It was from Chris Hickman who keeps his bees in two Warre hives. Chris practices a low intervention approach to beekeeping, typical of many Warre hive beekeepers.

This particular honey sample was made up of many different flowers; the main five, making up under half of the sample, were Woodruff, Bluebell, Dandelion, Clover and Blackberry. Although Woodruff was the most numerous and the one the press latched on to as the “Welsh Manuka”, Professor Bailey said that it was actually Dandelion that was the most promising plant.

In the past Manuka honey was not valued by the local beekeepers in New Zealand as not being very palatable and prone to setting in the frames like oil seed rape honey. Dandelion is yellow honey and also not very pleasant, but our perception may change if we manage to harvest some antibacterial honey.

He is also widening the search for antibacterial drugs in plants such as tea and hops as well as researching Ancient Roman Honey Recipes, some of which are rather promising. It seems to be a recurring theme in beekeeping: re-inventing the wheel and repeating what previous generations have already discovered.

The ultimate aim of his work is to sequence the DNA of potentially interesting plants and to identify their active component in order to patent and commercial exploit them. His approach is not to hide in a laboratory but to promote beekeeping in the university and outside via community projects, which in turn enhance the funding prospects for his research.

The community projects involve training students to keep bees on university buildings, planting university space with suitable flowers, and appointing of a project manager to go into schools at key stage 2 & 3. Further plans include the setting up of community planting and citizen science projects, enlisting the WI to spread the word, and the creation of a spot-a-bee app. They seem to have stumbled upon a very successful route to engage the general public to raise the awareness of beekeeping. Perhaps this is something that we can learn from to help bring on the next generation of beekeepers in Herefordshire.

Andy Tatchell



HBKA Honey Show

Results

Class	Description	First	Second	Third	Fourth
1	Cut comb				Deborah Smith
2	Light liquid honey	Deborah Smith	Kathy Cross	Andy Tatchell	-
3	Medium honey	Deborah Smith	Mary Walter	Fiona McKinley	
4	Dark liquid honey	Deborah Smith			
5	Naturally granulated honey	Deborah Smith	Julie Andrews	Julie Bevan	
6	Creamed/soft set honey	Robert Cross	Julie Andrews	Kath Cross	-
8	Novices	Maureen Sullivan	Julie Bevan		
9a	Blind Tasting –liquid honey	Kath Cross	Julie Bevan	Deborah Smith	
9b	Blind Tasting –set honey	Julie Andrews	Deborah Smith	Robert Cross	-
10	Super frame	Kath Cross	Robert Cross	Andy Tatchell	-
11	Super frame marked HBKA	Deborah Smith			
12	Plain cake of beeswax	Mary Walter	Kath Cross	Robert Cross	
13	Five beeswax blocks	Deborah Smith	Mary Walter	Julie Bevan	Julie Andrews
14	Dry mead	Deborah Smith			
15	Sweet mead	Deborah Smith	Mary Walter		
16	Honey beverage	Mary Walter	Deborah Smith		
17	Three items	Julie Andrews	Mary Walter	Julie Bevan	
18	Lan Challenge	South Hfdshire			
19	A beeswax item	Mary Walter	Julie Bevan	Deborah Smith	
20	Three beeswax candles	Mary Walter	Deborah Smith		
21	Honey cake	Julie Bevan	Mary Walter	Julie Andrews	-
22	Honey fudge	Mary Walter	Julie Bevan		
23	Honey preserve	Deborah Smith	Julie Andrews	Mary Walter	
24	Honeybee pasture	Mary Walter	Julie Bevan	Julie Andrews	
25	Beekeeping exhibit	Robert Cross	Deborah Smith	Helen Smith	
26	Children's Exhibit	Olivia Douch			
27a	Colour print	Julie Andrews	Robert Cross	Helen Smith	Deborah Smith
27b	Group of photos	Julie Andrews	Julie Bevan	Andy Tatchell	-

HBKA Honey Show



South LAN's winning entry

Awards

Best in Show – Mary Walter

Tom Bradford Perpetual Trophy – Deborah Smith

Home Guard Cup – Maureen Sullivan

Perpetual Challenge Cup – Deborah Smith

Eaves Perpetual Challenge Cup – Julie Andrews

Harry Gardener Memorial Trophy – Mary Walter

Maidstone Cup – Deborah Smith

John Harley Cup – South Herefordshire LAN



Congratulations to all who took part in the Honey Show. There were 114 high quality entries and Peter Schollick, our judge was highly complementary. He was especially taken with the curd and chutney class entries. Thank you to all who helped with the show, it was much appreciated by the organizers at Hellens Manor. The weather was kind and there was a lot of interest from like minded folk attending the Apple Fair.

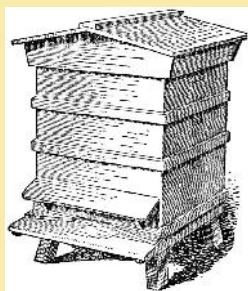
Mary Walter



Committee News

We have successfully completed the application to the Charity Commission to become a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organization). We will still be known as the Herefordshire Beekeepers' Association, but have a new charity number, and constitution. At the next AGM all trustees are required to resign, but they can stand for re-election if they wish, and new trustees can stand for election to the committee.

Mary Walter



Bob's Beelines

Winter is upon us, your bees should be all treated and fed by now. Most hives are still very strong, so they will be using a lot of their stores, keep checking by lifting the back of the hive about every 10-14 days. If the hive feels light, feed candy if necessary.

Put your mouse guards on as in this wet weather mice are looking for a nice dry bed and food.

In late December - early January you may want to treat your bees for Varroa. API-BIOXAL is now approved for using on bees. I have some in stock. if you just have 1 or 2 hives I can weigh out 3.5 grams per hive, it costs about a £1.00 per hive.

A very good honey show this year at Hellens Manor, Much Marcle. We had a lot of interest with our bees and equipment. Thank you to all those that helped.

Make sure all your hives are WATERPROOF and do not forget the bricks.

That's all for now

Bob and Kath Cross

Frank Skinner

Long standing life member Frank Skinner died on October 12th aged 92. He had been married to Mary for 70 years and 1 day, bringing up four children together.

Frank had ambitions to be a librarian, but during the war he was a conscientious objector and was sent to work on the land. From this experience he became interested in outdoor life, and worked for ADAS in environmental, horticultural and agricultural consultancy. This led to his lifelong interest in bees and bee-keeping.

For many years Frank was a member of the Herefordshire committee, and represented us at the BBKA ADM. He was a stalwart supporter of the MSWCC, and was our delegate and Honorary Secretary for quite a time; most notably when Warwickshire pulled out and he single-handedly organised a one-day Central event at the South Warwickshire F.E. College in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1987.

National Honey Show

Congratulations to Debbie Smith for her winning entries to the National Show. It takes a huge amount of skill and attention to detail to win at this level.

Mary Walter



Debbie's winning wax exhibit



Autumn Forage-

Mahonia japonica

Mahonia usually flowers in December or January in my garden but it is full bloom now. When the sun shines the flowers attract a wide range of insects and are a good source of both nectar and pollen. Mahonia are good natured plants (if a bit reminiscent of supermarket car parks) and seem to grow in all soils and aspects.

Mary Walter



This colony has made its own mouseguard!



If foul brood is suspected, contact our RBI, Colin Pavey on 07775 119471 - or email colin.pavey@apha.gsi.gov.uk. At present, we do not have a local SBI.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

President Peter Furneaux
Chairman Andy Tatchell
Vice Chairman Debbie Smith
Secretary VACANCY
Treasurer John Robinson
Membership Sec. Mary Walter

Committee Robert Cross
 Mike Healey
 Steve Utley
 Charlie Taylor

LAN COORDINATORS

South LAN: Geoff Blake
North LAN: Mary Walter
East LAN: Fiona McKinley

Newsletter Editor VACANCY

Examinations Sec. Louise Sheppard