

NORTHERN LIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH DEVON BRANCH
OF THE DEVON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



www.northdevonbees.com

DECEMBER 2010 / JANUARY 2011



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Chair Chat

There's very little actual beekeeping at this time of the year. Presumably you've all put your mouse guards on and if you're intending to use Oxalic Acid, this should be applied at a 3% solution around Christmas time, when the Queen is off lay. Apart from that there's always maintenance! If you get bored with all the festivities on Boxing Day you can always creep out to the shed and get on with those repairs you never get around to in the summer.

Now is also the time to drop some heavy hints about books or equipment you'd like for Christmas.

Have a really happy time everyone

Chris

Notes from Horestone

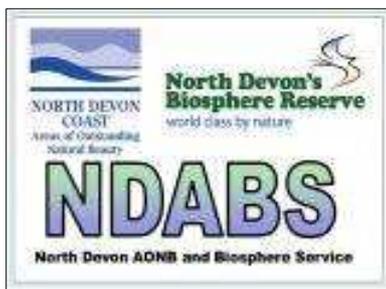
November 23rd turned out to be the final Tuesday of the season at our branch apiary. Snow and ice prevented us meeting on 30th - it certainly is a very cold start to the winter. Fortunately we had caught up with ourselves having spent the last few Tuesday afternoons painting, pruning and cleaning equipment. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped.

Weather permitting we will start our Tuesday afternoons again on 11th January. We have a new beginners course starting at the end of January so we hope to spend a bit of time getting things ready. If the weather is bad please check your emails that morning, or telephone Julie to check that we haven't had to cancel.

Meanwhile have a restful Christmas break and Happy Beekeeping for 2011.

From the Education Section:

Modules It is not too late to consider taking some modules next year. Studying modules will lead you to become a better beekeeper and eventually to the award of Master Beekeeper. To view the modules and their content, access the BBKA web site and go to the "Examination and Assessment" section where there is a list of the modules and how to go about studying for them. Chris Utting, a prominent Northern Branch Member of many years is the BBKA Correspondence Course Secretary and he will help you if you decide to follow a correspondence course. The module exam date is 19 March 2011 and Applications need to be made by February 10 2011



AONB Grant

The Education Section applied to the North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) for a grant to support bees and beekeeping in the AONB area in October and I am pleased to report were successful and will have up to £500.00 to spend towards equipment to be used for education purposes. The title of the project is: "Educating to Support Bees" There are of course strings attached but we will make sure we make good use of the funds and support the AONB in their work as well. Follow the links to learn more about the aims and objectives of the AONB

[North Devon HYPERLINK "http://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk"'s UNESCO Biosphere Reserve](http://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk)

North Devon Coast HYPERLINK <http://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/>

Jack Mummery, Education Officer

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2010 AGM was held on the 7th November and was well attended. The business part of the meeting, officers reports and election of new branch officers, was carried out fairly quickly followed by the presentation of Trophies won at the Honey Show and the presentation of Certificates for the branch members who achieved the Basic Assessment this year.

A list of the elected officers is as follows.

NEW BRANCH OFFICERS

At the recent AGM and subsequent Branch Committee Meeting the following elected officer and appointed positions were filled:

Chairman - Chris Tozer - 01237 471928

Vice Chairman - Sylvia Barber - 01398 341624

Treasurer - Derek Hunter - 01769 561033

Branch Secretary - Martin Pollock 01237 420713

Shows and Social Events Co-ordinator - Barbara Carlyle 01271 882303

Examination & Education Officer - Jack Mummery - 01237 440284

Committee Members - Julie Elkin, Jeff Orr, Chrissie Preece, Catherine Backway

Membership Secretary - Denise Oldaker

Newsletter Editor - Sylvia Barber

Apiary Quartermaster - Albert Cannon

Librarian - Julie Elkin assisted by Barbara Carlyle

Webmaster - Ruth Blake

Spray Liaison Officer - Chris Tozer

Microscopist - Chris Utting assisted by AST members

Branch Representatives at DBKA EC meetings - Chris Tozer and Martin Pollock

Appointed members of Apiary Support Team - Derek Hunter, Kay Thomas, Julie Elkin, Barbara Carlyle, Chris Utting
Co-opted AST members - Chris Tozer, Sylvia Barber, Peter Auger, Jeff Orr.



Subscriptions for 2011

We are fast approaching the time of year when you all look forwards to all the goodies that Santa brings, and as your Treasurer I look forward to receiving your membership renewal.

So please take a moment to fill in the membership form and drop it in the post, remember your membership ceases if not renewed by the end of February.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and may next year bring happy Bees and full supers.

Derek Hunter

North Devon Branch of the Devon Beekeepers Association (DBKA)

UK Registered Charity Number 270675

Combined Subscription (or Renewal) and Gift Declaration Form – 2011

Membership is open to anyone keeping bees or having an interest in the craft of beekeeping. It is usual for membership to be through one of the branches. Membership of DBKA also gives automatic membership of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA). The annual subscription is payable in advance and runs from January 1 to December 31.

Full BBKA membership benefits include - information and advice on beekeeping, public and products liability insurance for members, the BBKA News and Brood Diseases Insurance through BDI Ltd.

Full DBKA membership benefits include - 'Beekeeping' (the Association journal), local honey labelling scheme, representation at BBKA. The DBKA encourages and supports its members to participate in the BBKA examination structures.

Branch membership benefits include - access to the branch library, hire of equipment held by local branch, apiary meetings and winter lectures (all subject to availability).

Membership Classes - A summary of classes are as follows:

1. **Full, Registered Members** - for those who keep bees and wish to take a full part in all aspects of the DBKA.
2. **Partner Members** - for those who reside as a second member of the same household as a Registered Member. Partner Members enjoy all the rights of full membership, but will not receive the BBKA News or 'Beekeeping' journal.
3. **Associate Members** - for those who are generally interested in the craft and wish to support the DBKA. Associate Members will not be registered as beekeepers with the BBKA and not receive BBKA News or 'Beekeeping'.
4. **Country Members** – for those who wish to belong to a branch, but do not require BDI, or BBKA public and product liability insurance. Country Members do not have any voting rights, but will receive copies of the BBKA News and 'Beekeeping' journal.

Bee Diseases Insurance (through BDI Ltd) covers losses due to notifiable bee diseases. Insurance for three colonies is included in your subscription. Members with more than 3 hives are required to increase the insurance component of their subscription as per list (shown overleaf); in any case, Members are advised to read the terms and conditions of this insurance before subscribing to ensure that the cover and terms are appropriate for their situation.

Gift Aid

As a registered charity DBKA can arrange for members to Gift Aid their subscriptions and other donations to the DBKA. This is a considerable financial advantage to branches as it adds over £6 to every full membership subscription paid under the scheme. The whole of this sum is returned to the Member's branch. To qualify for this scheme, you simply sign to say that you have paid UK tax (to cover the tax the charity will reclaim) and wish your subscriptions and any donations you make to be treated as Gift Aid donations until you notify otherwise.

Privacy

Subscribing as a Fully Registered, Partner or Country Member will (by definition) mean that you will go on the list of registered beekeepers held by the British Beekeepers Association. In addition, your name and address will appear in the DBKA Yearbook. Please indicate on the form if you would like to exclude your email address from the DBKA Yearbook or do NOT want to have your details passed to the National Bee Unit for registration on BeeBase.

Registration on BeeBase entitles you to free guidance sheets and automatic notification of notifiable bee diseases in your area.

DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity Number 270675 – Founded 1875

North Devon Branch Membership Combined Subscription and Gift Declaration 2011

(PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

Full

Name.....

Address

Postcode.....Telephone.....

E-Mail.....

Please tick here () to exclude your e-mail address from year book

Full Member - (Name) £30.00 * £.....

Country Member (Name.....) £20.00* £.....

Joint Member: - (Name.....) £14.25 £.....

Associate Member: - (Name.....) £ 3.00 £.....

Extra Bee Disease Insurance foradditional hives (see chart below) £.....

Voluntary Contribution to North Devon Branch funds..... £.....

Voluntary Contribution to British Beekeepers Association (BBKA)..... £.....

* includes BDI for up to 3 hives. TOTAL £.....

Please tick here () if you do not wish your details to be passed to National Bee Unit

Signed..... Dated.....

Additional Bee Insurance

Bee Disease Insurance (BDI) covers losses due to notifiable diseases. Insurance for three (3) colonies is included in the Registered & Partner Members' subscriptions. Use the table below to calculate the additional premium payable if you wish to insure more than three colonies. Special terms are available for members with forty or more colonies.

Number of colonies	Additional cost	Number of colonies	Additional cost	Number of colonies	Additional cost
4 - 5	£2.00	11 - 15	£7.75	21 - 25	£11.10
6 - 10	£5.25	16 - 20	£9.50	26 - 39	£11.50 plus 50p per colony over 25

Gift Aid Declaration (for those who have not already gift aided their subscriptions)

I pay income tax at the standard rate and wish my subscription and any donations I make to be treated donations until I notify you otherwise.

Signed..... Dated.....

Please return completed form with cheque payable to DBKA North Devon Branch to Membership secretary Mrs D Oldaker, 6 Richards Close. Bideford, EX39 3EN or hand to Branch Treasurer.

CHRISTMAS RECIPES

Honey Glaze for ham, turkey etc.

To make the glaze place 2 tbsp honey, 3 tbsp dry sherry, 1 tbsp sherry vinegar, 5 tbsp chicken stock and 5 slices of unpeeled root ginger in a small saucepan. Simmer until reduced by half and leave to cool.

Remove ham or turkey from the oven 30 minutes before the end of cooking time. Spoon the glaze over the top of the meat, discarding the ginger slices, and roast for a further half hour.

Honey Mincemeat

6oz runny honey

1lb mixed dried fruit

4oz shredded suet

1tsp ground cinnamon

1lb cooking apples, peeled cored and either grated or chopped finely

1 orange, juice and grated rind

2oz chopped cherries

8oz carrots, grated

4oz chopped almonds

1tsp mixed spice

4-6 fl oz whiskey, brandy or spirit of choice

Mix all ingredients together, leave covered for two days, stirring frequently. Transfer to clean dry jars and allow to mature for a few weeks before serving.



Nutritional Value of Honey

Honey is primarily carbohydrate (natural sugars) and water. It also contains many vitamins, minerals, trace elements and amino acids. The darker honeys have the highest mineral content and can contain four times as much iron as lighter honeys.

In terms of calories:

1 tsp = 20 calories, 1 tbsp = 60 calories.

It is slightly more calorific than sugar (1 tbsp sugar = 50 calories) but it is sweeter than sugar and sugar contains no other goodness so is empty calories.

In addition, many believe honey can help with weight loss when consumed with warm water as it helps in digesting the fat stored in your body. As with all foods, it should be eaten in moderation as part of a healthy diet.

NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS



A new year dinner is being planned for the end of January/February; all those interested please add your names to the list, via email or phone call to Barbara.

Sorry no firm details yet, but it is a good way of saying thanks to our long suffering partners!!!.

When the weather is better in the spring/summer we will have a Sunday BBQ at the Apiary. If we don't meet until the New Year, Merry Christmas to you all, and thanks for your help and support this year.

Barbara.

01271 882303 or baranlyle@hotmail.co.uk

COMMUNITY of BEEKEEPERS - BITZ4BEES

A big thank you to all our customers both old and new for making 2010 such a successful year.

We would like to wish you A Very Merry Christmas and A Good Beekeeping New Year.

Dave, Derek & Jean



LIBRARY

Reminder: some books are very overdue. If you have forgotten to return books please contact Julie to confirm that you still have them and to make arrangements for their return. There are other Branch members waiting to read them.

Thank you.

Sylvia Barber, Foxpark, Waddicombe, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9RX (01398 341624)

E.mail sylviad.barber@dsl.pipex.com

All contributions welcome, copy by 23rd of month for publication in following month's newsletter.

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