

NORTHERN LIGHTS

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

NOVEMBER 2010 www.northdevonbees.org



The Annual General Meeting of the North Devon Branch (of the Devon Beekeepers Association) Will take place

At the Castle Centre, 25 Castle Street, Barnstaple on Sunday 7th November at 2pm.

To be democratic we need as many of you as possible there. Please remember that only Registered and Partner Members are eligible to vote etc at the AGM. It is your Club so please come along, especially if you haven't been before.

The Meeting will be followed by tea and cakes.

We look forward to seeing you.

Chairman's Chat

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM - an opportunity to meet up and swap news over tea and cake. Don't forget that it's a free and open election and we want as many of you to put yourselves forward as possible. If two of you want to share the load you could put yourselves forward together and be assured that the Committee will welcome and support you. We need new blood to keep the momentum going and to refresh our enthusiasm so please don't hesitate - the minimum number of meetings in a year is only four and any number above that is governed by the Committee itself. Do phone or email me or any of the other members if you're interested and we'll do all we can to help you.

See you at the AGM - hopefully

Best wishes

Chris

November Notes from Horestone

Practical work is still going on at the Apiary.

Shelves going up in the Quartermaster Stores.

All the Honey Show shelving and paraphernalia has been neatly packed away in the shed.

Paint brushes are out and nuc boxes are receiving their second coat.

Much strimming and clipping and tidying of flower beds.

Much chin wagging and slurping (sorry sipping) of tea—and a plate of prize winning flapjacks generously donated for our comments and consumption.

All is as it should be. We're not the only ones that are busy - the bees were all happily flying yesterday.

North Devon Beekeepers Association Autumn Evening lectures

Friday 26th November at 7.30pm at the Castle Centre, Barnstaple, **John Breeds of the Devon Wildlife Trust** will be talking about 'Insects and Pollination'.

We are pleased to welcome anyone interested in these talks to join us.

Charge of £1.50 on door to include refreshments.

HONEY SHOW

A big 'thank you' to all those who put in entries and to those who helped over the three days. The judges said that the standard was very good. Congratulations to Kay Thomas for winning the Merit award for overall winner, and all the other trophy winners as shown below. The cups will be handed out at the AGM on Sunday.

Barbara

Trophy winners

Trophy for the most points for Honey classes

The Branch Trophy - Kay Thomas

Trophy for the best exhibit in the light run honey class

The Croyde Cup - Chris Utting

Trophy for the most points in the cookery classes

The Hustwayte Plate - Sylvia Barber

Trophy for the most number of points overall

The Beryl Rose Bowl - Kay Thomas

Trophy for the best wax exhibit in classes 13—14

The Weaver Trophy - Kay Thomas.

Derek Hunter and Chris Utting won first prizes with Class 16 & 17 Photographs.

Denise Oldaker took First Prize for her beautiful cross stitch bees in the Artistic Item—class 26A.

Congratulations to all those that received prize certificates. Very well done.

Our thanks to Mrs Sally Wilson and Mrs Alicia Normand for judging the classes, making worthwhile comments and tips on showing, as well as encouraging us all to enter again next year.



DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION - North Devon Branch

91st Annual General Meeting

The Castle Centre, Barnstaple. Sunday 7th November 2010 at 2pm

A G E N D A

Welcome from the Chairman

1. Apologies for absence; an attendance sheet will be circulated.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM.
3. Matters arising from those Minutes.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Branch Secretary's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Branch Officers:

The Branch Committee proposes that the post of Apiary Manager is abolished and is replaced by an Apiary Support Team (AST). The AST will manage all aspects of the Branch's apiary at Horestone on behalf of the Committee but the Committee remains ultimately responsible for the Apiary and may direct and guide the AST at any time. The AST will consist of 5 members who will be appointed by the Committee at its first meeting after the AGM each year. The AST may co-opt any branch member at any time to serve on the AST to assist with the management of the Apiary. For legal purposes the apiary will be run by the Branch Chairman.

Election of Branch Officers

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Branch Secretary

Treasurer

Show & Social Events Coordinator

Education & Exam Secretary

Apiary Manager

4 Committee Members.

Retiring Officers

Chris Tozer

Sylvia Barber

Patrick Moore

Derek Hunter

Barbara Carlyle

Jack Mummery

Mary "Flowa" Houldsworth

Julie Elkin, Jeff Orr, Peter Auger, Mike Hayward

Any of these positions not filled at the AGM will need to be co-opted by the new Branch Committee.

These are all "voting", representative positions though the Chairman's vote is a "casting vote" only

Patrick Moore, Mary Houldsworth and Peter Auger have indicated they will NOT accept nomination for re-election to the committee

8. Election of other post holders

The members present at the AGM will be invited to elect the following :

Membership Secretary (currently Denise Oldaker, who is content to continue)

Newsletter Editor (currently Sylvia Barber who is content to continue)

If either of these positions is not filled at the AGM the new Branch Committee will co-opt appropriately

Please note that the positions of:

- Clerk to the Branch Committee (Minutes Secretary),
- Branch Librarian,
- Quartermaster,
- Webmaster,
- Branch Microscopist,
- Swarm Liaison Officers,
- Foulbrood Recognition Advisors,
- Examiner of Accounts,
- Spray Liaison Officer

will be appointed by the new Committee.

(note: Branch Officers and elected Committee members may also hold any of these positions.)

9. To agree the Membership fee for the North Devon Branch for 2011
10. Presentation of Trophies won at the Branch Honey Show
11. Date and place of next Branch Committee meeting . Will all members of the newly elected committee gather briefly after the AGM to decide the date and venue.
12. Any Other Business - none

(“A Member wishing to propose any matter for discussion at the Branch AGM, shall notify the Branch Secretary in writing at least 14 days before the meeting in order that it may be placed on the agenda “.

No such notifications have been received by the Secretary)

Note:

Candidates for election to the North Devon Branch Committee at the AGM must be Registered or Partner members of the Branch. Their candidacy must be proposed by another Registered or Partner branch member, and seconded by yet another

Registered or Partner branch member. They must also indicate their preparedness to serve, either verbally in person at the AGM or (if they are unable to attend) in writing to the Branch Secretary before the AGM commences. A contested election will be subject to vote, votes being cast by Registered or Partner members in attendance at the AGM, and the candidates may themselves vote in this process. In the event of a confirmed tie, the Chairman (who may not otherwise vote) will have the casting vote.

Other notes:

- i) The Chairman and the Branch Secretary are *ex officio* Trustees of the Charity, The Devon Bee Keepers Association, and are expected to attend DBKA Executive Committee meetings as voting representatives of the North Devon Branch.
- ii) The Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor(s) are usually invited to attend Branch Committee meetings, though not as voting members of the committee.
- iii) Members *may* serve in more than one post/office simultaneously, but of course it is preferable that different individuals hold each of the elected Branch Officer positions.
- iv) Whilst it may be helpful for the “Ordinary” Committee Members to hold other roles, it should not be regarded as obligatory – we are keen to have representation from the wider membership, and especially those members who cannot take part in Tuesday Apiary activities.

Winter lecture Tuesday 15th October.

The Rev Nigel Dilkes gave us a fascinating talk which opened our eyes to the incredible ability of plants to adapt to changing conditions around them in particular water and CO₂.

Nigel's early interest in birds and nature led to him giving up a boring job to do a plant biology degree and doctorate studying How plants work in their Environment.

Among the many facts and figures were the adaptations plants use to control and conserve moisture, ie long tap roots, the ability to 'block off' moisture losing surfaces, lose leaves / become dormant to retain moisture and wax over the surface of the leaves. The stomata (pores) have lips which open and close to take in CO₂ and lose moisture and which are triggered by the blue light of early morning to open.

200 years ago the atmospheric levels of CO₂ were 250ppm and are now 390 ppm and still rising. Plants will grow faster in higher levels of CO₂, used commercially to enhance productivity.

The height of plants varies with the habitat, low moundy growth being a mechanism to survive in mountainous exposed areas, the Sea Pink (thrift) we all love on our cliffs being a remnant of mountain plants pushed to the edges by evolution. The type of vegetation indicates the moisture levels in the soil with marginal plants being the most adaptable

In drying soils evaporation draws up salts to the surface and plants increase the level of dissolved substances in their own cells to counteract the effects. On the salt marshes plants have a higher sugar content and beekeepers take hives to the marshes to take advantage of the increased sugar content. It is also the reason that salt marsh reared lamb definitely does taste sweeter.

Interesting experiments with tomatoes by dividing the roots into 2 pots and watering ½ (1pot) leaving the other quite dry and then reversing the regime reduced the overall amount of water needed and produced a better crop, an idea to try in the greenhouse at home.

The talk gave us a lot of food for thought and provoked a lively discussion.

Julie

DIARY DATES

SUNDAY 7th November, North Devon Branch (of the Devon Beekeepers Association)

Annual General Meeting

2pm at the Castle Centre, Barnstaple.

Friday 26th November at 7.30 at the Castle Centre.

John Breeds of the Devon Wildlife Trust will be talking about 'Insects and Pollination'.

Beginners Course at Horestone starts in January 2011

Friday 28th January, **Chris Utting** will be talking about 'beekeeping from Turkey to Trinidad'.

Somerset Lecture Day 2011 details are now on the website www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk



Dave & Jean 01237 475705

Derek 01769 561033

Winter Schedule.

The B4B shop at UMBERLEIGH will be closed from 13th October till 11th February 2011. We will however open between 11 and 1pm Tuesdays on request.

Honey Lemon Curd

4 lemons

3 oz butter

1lb clear Honey

4 eggs and 2 yolks

Grate lemon rinds and squeeze and strain the juice. Put into a double saucepan with the butter and honey. Beat the eggs and egg yolk and strain them into the mixture.

Cook and stir over a gentle heat until thick and creamy.

Pour into hot jars and seal well then keep cool.

It is better to make small quantities and use fresh.

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

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