



Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers



I would like to wish every member of Warwick & Leamington Beekeepers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year – may your Bees be with you.
Mary x Chairperson.



Membership Renewal for 2016

I write to ask you to renew your membership of Warwick and Leamington Beekeepers for 2016. In the case of all classes of member except Associates, this will automatically cover your renewal with Warwickshire Beekeepers' Association and the British Beekeepers' Association.

A link to the renewal form is on the home page of our website www.warleambees.org.uk. Having completed a renewal form, please ensure you pay your subscription, rates being:

Full Members inclusive of insurance for up to 3 colonies* - £45.00, Partner Members - £20.30, Junior Members £16.00, Associate Members - £5.00. £13.00 should be added to the subscription of Full, Junior and Associate Members if newsletters are required by Royal Mail as opposed to Email

* Full Members should add £2.00 additional insurance for up to 5 colonies, £5.25 for up to 10 colonies, £7.75 for up to 15 colonies, £9.50 for up to 20 colonies and £11.10 for up to 25 colonies - all inclusive of the first 3.

For a full explanation of the subscription structure, please go to <http://www.warleambees.org.uk/wlbk-subscription-rates/>

BACS payments should be made to A/C No 00173056, sort code 30-94-93, A/C Name Warwick & Leamington Spa Branch of WBKA, a registered charity. Cheques should be made out to W & L Beekeepers and sent to Mrs Val Dillon, Oak Tree Cottage, Cryfield Grange Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2JU

Subscriptions are due by 31 December (2015!)

It is of note that the Branch, County and Bee Diseases Insurance rates are unchanged for 2016 and there is a £1.00 increase in the BBKA Subs for Full Members (reduced for Partners and Juniors)

Tim Foden
Branch Secretary

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Branch AGM will take place from 7.30pm on Thursday 11 February 2016. If any member wishes to make any proposals at the AGM they are requested to notify the Branch Secretary by 10 December 2015

Nominations for Election to the Branch Executive Committee

Members are invited to put their names forward to the Branch Secretary for election to the Executive Committee at the 2016 AGM. The Executive Committee normally meets 6 times a year at Stoneleigh in the evening. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to determine general policy, plan and implement our range of activities and services and to plan, monitor and control income and expenditure. We will have some vacancies on our Committee in 2016, which we regard as a positive situation in that it ensures traditional ideas are questioned and new ideas are considered. Influencing the branch's progress is rewarding and as a member of the committee you will learn more about how the Branch, County Association and the BBKA function. Members of the Committee take on responsibility for some aspects of the branch's activity. If you would like your name put forward, please contact the Branch Secretary

Tim Foden
Branch Secretary
01926632388 tim_foden@hotmail.com

Branch meeting Thursday 10th December –

There will be a prize for the person in the most 'Festive' attire...!!..

Look forward to our Mead and Mince Pies etc.

See you there

Mary x



Demonstration of Oxalic Acid Treatment and Api-Bioxal Distribution

There will be (indoor!) demonstrations of the application of Oxalic acid for the treatment of Varroa on Saturday December 19 from 10.30am until 12.00 noon at BBKA Stoneleigh and those who have not already received their pre-ordered Api-Bioxal by then are asked to collect it during that time. As it's Christmas our Chair has decided that this rather serious gathering should be lightened by the provision of some mulled wine and light refreshments.

Even if you don't need the demo and are not collecting supplies, you are most welcome to pop along for a pre-Christmas chat.

Tim Foden

Beekeeping Equipment Sale and for Sale

Having enquired of the Membership, it transpires that there will be insufficient equipment for sale this time to warrant a sale event as we had last January. However, Members are encouraged to use Beetalk to advertise bees or surplus kit.

I have two complete cedar hives for sale inclusive of stands with alighting boards. Both hives have been used for about two years only, they come complete including two supers and a pitched roof. The boxes have been scorched and the frames boiled. No foundation is supplied. Offers are welcome by email at around £130.00 each

I also have two "flat pack" cedar supers for sale at around £20.00 each

Tim Foden

tim_foden@hotmail.com

A Poem by Rudyard Kipling

The Bee Boys Song

Bees! Bees! Hark to your Bees!
Hide from your neighbours as much as you please,
But, all that has happened, to us you must tell,
Or else we will give you no Honey to sell.

A maiden in her glory, Upon her Wedding Day,
Must tell her Bees the story, or else they'll fly away.
Fly away – Die away -
Dwindle down and leave you!
But if you don't deceive your Bees,
Your Bees will not deceive you.

Marriage, Birth or Buryin', News across the Seas,
All you're sad or merry in, You must tell your Bees.
Tell 'em coming in and out, Where the fanners fan,
Cause the Bees are just about as curious as a man!

Are my ears attracting bees.....?

I recently discovered that my failure to do what I'm asked is not only because I've not been listening. My hearing has deteriorated. I was referred to Warwick Hospital and issued with a pair of digital hearing aids, which have transformed my life.

A few weeks ago, I was picking apples in the garden when a bee zeroed in on my left ear. Reacting with a thoughtless swipe, I flicked the aid into the long grass where no amount of raking and cutting has revealed it. A week later, £90 worse off and wearing a replacement aid, I was targeted again and stung just behind the same ear.

I read that bees can detect vibrations in the comb in the range of roughly 200Hz to 500Hz, and can detect airborne sounds in the range of 300Hz to 550Hz. My aids sometimes emit a feedback whistle, especially if I cup my ear. Is this attracting them?

The audio technician tells me that my problem is not uncommon among beekeepers. What she doesn't know is whether the bees are actually attracted to the aids. (But she does recommend removing them while gardening. More are lost in the herbaceous borders than anywhere else.) Are they? What's your experience?

Incidentally, the audio technician is now thinking of enrolling on a beekeeping beginners' course. So there's some good news!

John Stringer

Hints and Tips

Thoughts may be turning to Christmas. You might like to try this recipe out, it is very easy, very very yummy and would make a lovely gift.

Honey Fudge

115g butter
450g granulated sugar
1 (397g)tin condensed milk
2 tablespoons honey
140ml full cream milk
A pinch cream of tartar

Line or grease a 18cm (7inch) square tin.

Heat all the ingredients together slowly until completely dissolved.

Bring to the boil, stirring all the time, until it reaches 114 °C or 240 °F on a sugar thermometer.

Remove from heat and continue to beat until it thickens. Pour into tin.

When it has cooled slightly, mark into squares. Set it aside to cool completely

Should make about 16 pieces.

Enjoy!

Walnuts in dates with honey and orange blossom water

This is a lovely little Christmas gift, perfect to eat with coffee, wine or just as a little snack. Its roots are Middle Eastern and it seems particularly Christmassy in a very sticky way. They last a couple of weeks, though don't keep them in the fridge.

Makes 1 250g jar

1 250g jar, cleaned and sterilised in boiling water	-	125g honey
2 tbsp orange flower water		6 dates
6 walnuts out of the shell		Boiling water

1. Pour the honey into the prepared 250g jar. If your honey is too thick to pour, a few seconds submerged in boiling water or 10 seconds in the microwave makes the honey more runny and easy to use.

2. Remove the stones from the dates and push walnuts in their place. Add them to the honey in the jar with the orange flower water, top up with boiling water and stir around a little, then seal with the lid while the mixture is still warm.

Parsnips and Honey

Why not try something a bit different with the parsnips this year? Cut 2kg of them in half lengthways, parboil for 10 minutes and drain. Toss with 2tbsp runny honey, chopped fresh thyme, salt and pepper to taste, 10g of butter and 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Lay the parsnips flat in a roasting tin in one layer, and roast for about 40 minutes, turning occasionally until golden..... Delicious

If you have any hints or tips that you would like to share, please send them to h.essex@virgin.net
Helen Essex

Reported in the press recently

Almost half of Manuka honey on the high street is fake, a study suggests. It means British shoppers are wasting around £20 million a year on the 'liquid gold', which sells for £9 to £60 a jar because of its claimed anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory properties.

Around 2500 to 3000 tonnes of Manuka honey is produced in New Zealand each year – but 6,500 tonnes is sold by retailers.

Rowse Honey estimates that 45 per cent of Manuka honey sold in the UK might be fake. To qualify, honey must contain a sufficient amount of Methylglyoxal, known as MGO.

But tests funded by Rowse found products sold by Harrods, The Manuka Doctor and Queen Bee Manuka all contained low levels of MGO, with Harvey Nicholls' Manuka 15+ honey lacking in MGO altogether. Harvey Nicholls said its 'trusted suppliers...ensure that our Manuka honey is 100 per cent authentic'. The other firms did not respond to requests for a comment.

Did you know?

Having a spoonful of unprocessed honey before bed can support your brain function. The fructose is stored as energy reserves in the liver, ready to fuel the brain overnight.

Brain activity does not stop when you sleep – it is a constant and so requires a continuous energy charge. Honey provide this so you wake feeling refreshed.

Roger

To all our members I would like to wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Productive and Happy New Year may all your hives survive the winter and **BEE** ready for the year ahead.

Roger



Editor Roger Wilkes, email address is roger.wilkes@kenilworthhoney.co.uk or hard copy can be posted to him at: 12 Mercia Avenue, Kenilworth, CV8 1EU. **Content to him for next month by December 27th, latest!**

Please send in plain text, unformatted, using Microsoft Word or another common program.

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