

WDBKA Newsletter, December 2017.

Teaching Apiary News:

The season of apiary visits concluded at the beginning of October, after the hives had been treated for varroa, and fed for the winter. In all 6 hives went into winter, and a date will be arranged for a demonstration of treating with oxalic acid in late December or early January, when the hives have no brood.

In spite of the poor weather this summer, we have a super of honey to extract so we can pay our annual rent (2 jars of honey) to Westlakes.

On 22nd October, Val and Steve Sullivan, Pim van den Elzen & myself met to tidy the bee shed and clean all the equipment.



Here is a picture of the bee shed at the end of the afternoon, hopefully everything is now ready for the start of next season's bee-keeping.



Whitehaven Beekeepers Annual Honey Show:

The Honey Show was held on August 15th, as part of the annual Gosforth Show. This year, the weather was dry for a change so Whitehaven Beekeepers were able to have a stand outside one of the main tents to showcase beekeeping in West Cumbria.

Both the observation hive and the demonstration of traditional skep-making generated interest from visitors to the show, but afterwards it was agreed that we should try & make the display more eye-catching next year. If anyone has any ideas, please get in touch.

Meanwhile, in the Handicraft & Produce tent, Ian Gregory from Carlisle judged the various classes, from honey, to beeswax and cakes. Tony Calvin from Whitehaven Beekeepers won the Heckles Cup and the Ashburner Trophy.



Alan Tett from South Cumbria won the Warrington Cup, while Debbie Keighley won the Novice Cup.



Annual Dinner:

The annual dinner was held at the Parkside Hotel on Friday 8th September, and was a very enjoyable evening.

Evening meeting, 29th September:

On Saturday 29th, we met at Lamplugh Village Hall for a pie & peas supper, and 2 short talks, the first on the management of *Varroa*, followed by feeding bees for the winter. Alan Robson shared his recipe for using thymol to prevent sugar syrup from fermenting or going mouldy. Alan has used this over a number of years, with no adverse results.

*Dissolve 30 gms thymol in 150mls of surgical spirit (stock solution).
Add 3.5mls to a gallon of feed.
An Ambrosia container up to the container moulding mark near the top is 2gallons, so add 7mls of solution.*

W&DBKA AGM 2017:

18 people attended the AGM at Lamplugh Village Hall on 16th November. Members of the Committee reported on the main events and activities of the year, and the audited accounts were signed off.

Val Sullivan is acting Chair, following Paul Connor's move to Kirkudbright, but she stressed that this is only on a temporary basis, as it is important that W&DBKA has

a new chairperson, to allow fresh ideas and development of the association. The other committee members were happy to remain in post for a further year, and were all re-elected. In addition, Peter Broadbent and Debbie Keighley were elected to the committee as member's representatives.

It was agreed that the subscription will stay the same for next year, ie £27.00 for full membership, £32.00 for family membership and £5.00 to be a friend of the apiary. It was also agreed that a bench will be installed at the apiary, in memory of Mike Cottier, who sadly died last year.

After the AGM everyone enjoyed a pie and peas supper, followed by a presentation about the range of different types of beehives.

Membership of W&DBKA:

At the AGM Piers Manson gave a short report on the membership of the association. While the number of full members has declined over the last 3 years, the number of Friends of the apiary (previously Associate Members) has increased.

	Life	Full/Family	Friends
2017	3	31	19
2016	3	35	6
2015	4	39	5

Subscriptions for 2018:

Can I remind everyone that subscriptions for 2018 are due in January. Full details for renewing membership are available on our website.

www.whitehavenbeekeepers.co.uk

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Finally, this is an opportunity, on behalf of all our membership, to thank Paul Connor for all his energy and enthusiasm as Chair of Whitehaven Beekeepers, and wish him and Lyn all the best in their new home.

