

north staffordshire beekeepers association

(www.northstaffsbees.org.uk)

APRIL 2010 NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting:
Thursday 1st April
Bradwall Village Hall
Bradwall Road,
Bradwall, Nr Sandbach
CW11 1RG



Chairman's Chat

At long last, after the longest winter and late spring for some considerable time, I saw pussy willows out today. Phil and I have just had a chat about feeding our bees with spring strength syrup. We have been waiting for pollen supplies and warmer temperatures before doing this. This should increase egg laying and colony population in time for the winter rape and or fruit tree blossom which are our first crops. As I said in the last issue it is important to keep the bees fed at this time, but you need to time this, depending on your own forage situation.

I did announce at the last meeting, that Gill and I have had discussions with Trentham Gardens about the possibility of having an apiary site in the park, but in a subsequent meeting that I attended on my own, I came away with the feeling that there are difficulties with access for members and also with having a building/shed on the site. As I have not heard from them further at the time of writing I will keep you informed of progress or otherwise in the next newsletter.

I hope that as many of you as possible will attend the next meeting on 1st April at Bradwall Village Hall with South Cheshire. The topic "Problem with Queens" sounds a really good topic. Unfortunately I have a clash of dates and regrettably will not be able to attend the meeting but I am certain that you will have a very interesting and enjoyable time in excellent company.

Happy beekeeping

Dave Cheek davidcheek@talktalk.net

Dates for your diary:

Thursday April 1st - Problems with queens
Bradwall Village Hall, Bradwall Road,
Bradwall, Near Sandbach CW11 1RG
@ 7.30 pm (Please note date and venue)

For our April meeting we join the SCBKA for a talk by Dave Cushman of the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association on the subject of queen rearing problems.

If this sounds advanced for newcomers it is well worth being there even just for an introduction or background into a specific subject.

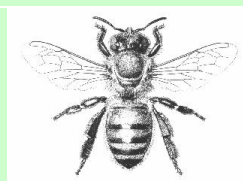
If you need a lift, contact David Teasdale on 01782 502495 to help arrange to get you there

Wednesday 5th May On Wednesday 5th May
Swarms and Honey Extracting

David Cheek and David Teasdale will take us through the important topic of:

- Swarm control (or how to keep bees and your neighbours!),
- Collecting swarms
- Extracting Honey

This should help you to retain your bees, get extra bees and since you will be looking forward to producing honey they will explain how to steal that liquid gold from your colonies.



**STOP
PRESS**

EXTRA KEELE UNIVERSITY COURSE **"AN INTRODUCTION TO BEES AND BEEKEEPING"**

Due to demand, William Kirk has organised an extra one-day course to take place at Keele University on Friday 14th May 10.00am – 5.00pm.

For more information contact: William Kirk at Keele University via 01782 733436
Or Email at w.d.j.kirk@biol.keele.ac.uk

The course is classroom based and does not include the handling of bees which can be achieved via your local Association

Actor sets a honey trap before role



BEE PREPARED: Actor Michael O'Connor, pictured, has been swatting up for his latest role – by meeting a family of beekeepers.

Mr O'Connor, who appeared in Nicholas Cage film National Treasure: Book of Secrets is preparing to tread the boards at the New Vic Theatre in Basford in a bee-themed take on Hamlet.

Michael plays a beekeeper in the production of Humble Boy and has been spending time with **Dave Cheek, of the North Staffordshire Beekeeper Association**, as he prepares to go on stage in April.

He said: "My character is someone who has kept bees all his life, so I need to know exactly what I'm doing."

Comedy Humble Boy runs at the theatre from: Thursday to Saturday, April 1 to 17.

(Article from The Sentinel - Thursday, March 11, 2010)



****REMINDER****

**Stoneleigh Spring Beekeeping Convention
Royal Show Ground Warwickshire
Friday 16th – Sunday 18th April 2010**

Whilst the mass of traders with savings on offer, the program for the convention looks very interesting and tickets can still be purchased in advance to save you money. For those members with access to the Internet, the details can be found at:

<http://www.britishbee.org.uk/>

If you are unable to attend but would like some beekeeping items purchasing, give me a call and we will get them for you

David Teasdale

Please send any comments, suggestions for articles or (hopefully) articles to David Teasdale. This is your NewsLetter, please help us to help YOU.

Message from Time Waye

Hi All,

The last meeting was aimed primarily at newcomers to beekeeping who are contemplating what type of hive to beg, borrow or adopt. All types of hives will accommodate bees but the more information you can gather before making a choice the better.

I trust Pete Sutcliffe's illustrated talk explaining the pros & cons proved useful not only to beginners but also to those of us who have worked with hand-me-downs without questioning the reasons behind the various designs. Using fresh eyes, ears and thoughts you might even put your name to a new design of hive!

To ensure the programme fulfils its purpose I welcome your feedback and your ideas for future meetings.

Pete has emailed me a follow-up (see below) to the question of hive preservatives

**Regards,
Tim Waye.**

tim@microwayes.net

Hi Tim,

As I promised at the meeting, here are the results of the cuprinol tests. I don't use Cuprinol myself on beehives, so the names don't mean much to me. I hope that this is clear to those who do know the Cuprinol range. Below is the notice as it will appear in our next magazine.

Cuprinol has long been the traditional treatment for cedar bee-hives. Recently there has been news that this was no longer safe, as the firm had changed the make-up of its products. However, last year, Cuprinol commissioned a study at the National Bee Unit of the Central Science Laboratory to evaluate the new formulation. Below are the results of that study.

Cuprinol Garden Wood Preserver (DP) Red Cedar and Cuprinol Trade Decorative Wood Preserver (T) Red Cedar were applied by brush application and Cuprinol Trade Low Odour Wood Preserver Clear was applied by dip coating.

In all cases treated hive parts showed no toxicity (up to 6 weeks from treatment) to bees or brood after exposure to these hive parts.

Do not treat outside of hives whilst bees are in the hive! Decorative Preserver can also be used on external surfaces.

Avoid G S & F /Exterior Preserver as this may taint honey.

In case of any query, contact Omar Amjad at Akzo Nobel, Wexham Road, Slough, Berkshire, SL2 5DS. Tel. 0870 242 1100.

Pete