

north staffordshire beekeepers association february 2012 NewsLetter

www.northstaffsbees.org.uk

To The Members

next meeting
Wednesday 1st February
The Friends Meeting House Miller Street,
Newcastle-u-Lyme ST5 1JD
7.00 for 7.30
With Brian Dennis - Guest Speaker



When you come to Winter meetings PLEASE bring something small which we can raffle— this helps to defray the cost of the room.
Thank you

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 1st February

- Brian Dennis - Northamptonshire BKA
'Making Mead'

Wednesday 7th March

- John Goodwin – South Cheshire BKA
'Preparing for Showing'

Thursday 5th April – At South Cheshire

- Steve Kelly David Emery –
'Bee stings and Anaphylaxis'

Association News – North Staffs AGM

A detailed report from your Associations Annual General Meeting will be published in the next NewsLetter together with the contact details for the Officers and Members of the Committee.

The changes of Officers are:

- Nick Mawby is our new Chairman and I hope that all members will support him in the same enthusiastic way that you supported our previous Chairman.
- David Teasdale is our new General Secretary
- Dave Magnier is our new Treasurer.

Whilst noting the changes, it is only right that we should recognise and thank David Cheek for all of his hard work, drive and determination to take our Association forward. David and Jean are planning to move to Dorset sometime in 2012 but until that happens we will still enjoy his camaraderie and good humour. Thank you David and Jean for supporting him and providing the intoxicating trifle for the social events.

The other persons who must be thanked for their sterling work on our behalf are the dynamic duo of Ray and Linda Day who after three hard years have relinquished the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary. We are not losing them to the Committee and Linda is going to assist Tim Waye with the task of meeting organising.

One piece of excellent news is that thanks to Nick and Ray, our funds have benefited because they obtained a Christmas present from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the form of a cheque for Giftaid. Thanks for their hard work and thanks to you for signing up for Giftaid and if you have not yet signed-up, please do it now because if you are a tax payer, it costs you nothing and your Association gains financially which does help to keep the costs down.

More information will follow in your next NewsLetter.

Presenting your next guest speaker - Brian P. Dennis – Making Mead

Brian lives in Northamptonshire and commenced beekeeping in 1976. He has been involved in the organisation of beekeeping for many years for his own Association, the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA) and has served two terms (totalling 12 years) as a Trustee of the BBKA.

He has successfully exhibited honey, mead, photographs and art at local & national shows and has written a book on making mead and honey drinks (published in 2011 by Northern Bee Books) and we welcome him to North Staffs to make us all drunk with knowledge about mead and mead making.

NSBKA Meetings - Summer Social 2012

Hello everyone,

I know that it's Winter and we find it hard to think of ourselves outside in a delightful place, in good company, eating delicious food and drinking lovely beverages, BUT... we need to get the Summer Social sorted out. This event did not take place last year and upon asking around most people want one this year. It bridges the gap between June and September meetings and those members who have attended usually agree that it is a good afternoon out.

For newcomers, the Social is a place to bring family/friends to meet the other members of the Association to swap tales of long disappearances to commune with the bees!

Pat Twigg has agreed to take on her traditional role and organise the catering. We all know what a sterling job she does and she will again be looking for volunteers to supply food to share and assist with setting out on the day.

The date for the gathering will be confirmed later, one Saturday in July being preferable, Pat is unable to make it on the 14th. I now have to ask whether anyone is prepared to host the event, providing us with a venue. We usually begin around 1pm and are away by 4-5pm, after tidying away. The venue needs to accommodate around 30 - 40 people, usually outdoors (weather permitting) with a smallish tent/canopy, owned by the association, for drinks etc.(not essential) One consideration is car parking, this is helped if people can car- share on the day to minimise numbers.

We extend thanks to all those who have hosted this event in the past and who will agree that it was not too traumatic and their gardens are around to tell the tale. If you think you are willing to host or help please contact me at 01782 867352, or email lindamday@hotmail.com

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you,

LINDA DAY

Additional Meetings Information

- Members have been asking what has happened to the meetings information card and the answer is that we hope to have it printed by the next meeting for collection or posting.
- At the last Committee Meeting, it was agreed that every effort would be made to ensure that the Friends Meeting House would be opened-up at 6.45pm prior to the meeting.
- If you hear or know of any speaker that you feel other members would like to listen to at one of our meetings or have an idea for a topic for a meeting, please tell Tim or Linda because every little helps to maintain the quality and interest in/of our meetings

NSBKA NewsLetter Electronic Copies

Just a reminder to all members that if you have access to the Internet, you can save some trees and your Association money by receiving an electronic copy of the NewsLetter.

Receiving the electronic copy does not preclude you from printing either all or part of it for your future information or reference but If members have any difficulties, please contact DT

Please note that paper copies can still be provided.

Hive Treatments from Paul Cooper

I am a new member and have one hive waiting for its Spring residents and I am following-up on the subject of preserving hives which was featured a while ago.

I have treated mine with linseed oil as this was recommended in one of the books that I have read over the last few months. I used boiled type of linseed oil as the raw one does not completely dry. I followed the recommended "recipe" and mixed it with pure turpentine (not turpentine substitute) which I believe is to do with drying, but I am not completely sure.

I bought from the Kraftkabin in London Road Stoke. They have a good selection of wood preservatives and stains and are a lot more helpful than the DIY places. I hope this will be of help to members. I have now put the hive up till spring and await the bee's arrival.

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