

# north staffordshire beekeepers association

([www.northstaffsbees.org.uk](http://www.northstaffsbees.org.uk))

## October 2010 NewsLetter

**Next Meeting:**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**  
**58<sup>th</sup> Honey Sow**  
**7p.m. for 7.30 start**  
**The Friends Meeting House,**  
**Newcastle**

### “Chairman’s Chat” October 2010

At the time of writing, Sunday evening 12<sup>th</sup> September, I have just returned home from Trentham Gardens, where North Staffs Beekeepers had been present, in force, to educate the Public about Beekeeping. On each of the two days we were there, we were represented by ten of our members, some of us doing both days. Quite a few of our newer colleagues turned out to help, ‘great!’, we had our newly refurbished marquee, notice boards illustrating aspects of our craft, bee-suits for visiting children (with Mums taking photos) and the virtual hive to unlock the secrets of the bees, as well as sales of honey and ‘honey marmalade’ (I must confess I loved this!) I was proud of



everyone who attended and would like to thank them most sincerely for their efforts. We cannot have failed to make a good impression with the attending public.

The next event that I need to publicise is our next meeting at the friends meeting house, namely the Honey show on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>. I want all of you to look at the schedule and see areas that you can compete in. The important thing is just to have a go, don’t worry if you think your exhibits are not up to scratch, this is how you learn. It helps you get better at presenting your honey for sale, as well as on the show-bench, and the open judging is a great way to improve. No names are displayed on the jars, so you can have a go without feeling you are being judged. If you don’t have honey this year, then why not look at the other classes, cakes, photos or the like. Come on! Support your honey show.

I look forward to seeing you there.

**Dave Cheek** [davidcheek@talktalk.net](mailto:davidcheek@talktalk.net)

### Dates for your diary:

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Our 58<sup>th</sup> Honey Show**

Open judging by Steve Guest of South Cheshire BKA will give newcomers to showing direct comment on requirements of the very exacting aspects of preparation and presentation.

**Wed 3rd Nov:**

“My way of making beeswax polish”  
(demonstration) - Steve Guest,

**CHESHIRE BKA AUTUMN  
CONVENTION AND ANNUAL  
HONEY SHOW**  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010**

**At Frodsham Community Centre,**  
**Fluin Lane, Frodsham WA6 7QN**  
**10.30 am to 4.15 pm**

#### **SPEAKERS:**

Michael Young M.B.E. (N.I.)  
Bees and Honey  
Michael Keith-Lucas  
Pollen in Forensic Science

Honey Show to include members and open classes

Convention Ticket Admission £13 in advance (£15 on door) to include Lunch and Refreshments. These are available from Branch Secretaries or direct from:

**Pam Hatton, Tel: 01925 263023 Email:**  
[pamela.hatton200@btinternet.com](mailto:pamela.hatton200@btinternet.com)

Honey Show Details available from: John Goodwin Tel: 01477 535032

Also: Grand Raffle, Trade Stand Plants Books & Honey pots

## North Staff Beekeepers Annual Honey Show 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Steve Guest is a long serving member and outgoing Show Manager of the South Cheshire BKA. He has been working tirelessly over the years to build up the showing and help beekeepers improve the presentation of their produce.

Steve has carried out closed judging of many of our previous honey shows. Our exhibitors have become eager to learn more about the criteria, how the judge carries out the task and what points they need to consider when preparing hive produce so I asked Steve if he would be willing to perform open judging. As a result he has recently been demonstrating the techniques whilst judging, commenting on how the findings influence his decisions.

It would help Margaret Teasdale our Show Manager Tel. 01782 502495 if you would contact her and tell her what you are entering because without entries, the show cannot happen. Full details were published in the September NewsLetter.

**Don't forget that Class 1 is only open to members who have not previously won a prize at our Show**  
**Tim Wayne**

### Meeting content and social events

On Wednesday 1st September we hosted Gerry Collins of the National Bee Unit who gave his talk 'Reading the Combs'.

As with all our events I value your feedback. How relevant was the topic? Was the talk pitched at a suitable level? Did you feel comfortable with having your questions answered? How useful it was to you? etc. Do please let me know. Looking ahead to 2011 I'm seeking your ideas for meetings format, topics, activities speakers etc. to include in the programme. You may even have something yourself to offer to other members which we can share at a meeting. Please put your thoughts, ideas and comments to me by email, phone or in person so I can produce a programme to suit.

Regards, Tim Wayne. Programme Secretary - T: 01782 611890, M: 07762 930578 or [tim@microwayes.net](mailto:tim@microwayes.net)

### Membership Renewal – due October 1<sup>st</sup> for 2010/2011

Just a gentle reminder that your membership of YOUR Association is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 and should be paid by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010. Please do it **NOW**

### What to do in October – from National Beekeeping Suppliers website

With all the required syrup now in the brood chamber all should be well for winter. Fit a mouse guard to the entrance if not done already. Strap and or weigh down the roof against winter wind. Monitor the now small entrance regularly for the build up of dead bees. Bees are dying all the time and just a few can block the entrance leaving the others unable to get out for water or toileting. Unchecked a few dead bees can lead to the loss of the whole colony.

Feeding should not be required yet but keep an emergency block of Candy with you just in case, Most of the colonies that die out are due to starvation. Most important remember bees are Livestock and we have a duty to look after them as best we can.

#### What you will need with you

Protective Clothing, Smoker, Hive Tools. Record Book. Blocks or bricks, Straps. Mouse guards & Drawing pins

### VARROA TREATMENT

In your September NewsLetter, an article on this subject mentioned a reference to treating and some notes that appears on the Welsh Beekeepers' Association website [www.wbka.com](http://www.wbka.com) Click on Information Station - Post-pyrethroid varroa control using a combination of Apiguard and oxalic acid. I commend this to you all as useful reading.

**DT**

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