



Winter leaves by Belinda Dale

**WVBKA Charity Registration
Number: 517008**

Pre-Christmas lunch – Saturday 3rd December

This year’s pre-Christmas lunch will be held again at The Castlefields on Saturday, 3rd December. If you would like to attend then please contact June Williams by phone and we might be able to squeeze you in. The price is slightly up on last year but it does include coffee and a mini mince pie. We hope to see as many of you there as possible, especially those who were awarded trophies at the Honey Show. There will be a raffle as usual so contributions of modest seasonal items will be much appreciated.



Diary Dates

December 3rd

- Christmas lunch

2017

January 18th

- Committee meeting - pre AGM

February 18th

- AGM 2:00pm Moccas Hall

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Queen Colour of the Year:

2016 is: **WHITE**

2017 is: **YELLOW**

Membership renewal

It is nearly time to renew your membership for 2017. As agreed at the AGM in February, the fees will be the same for 2017 as there were this year. Attached to this newsletter is a form which can be used to let Lee have your renewal information and contact details for the coming year. (See the news about website payment developments elsewhere in the newsletter.) Please ensure that you renew your membership as soon as possible as we have to make our payment to BBKA early in the year and we can lose out if we do not apply for the correct number of members.

There is a new membership category introduced by BBKA this year called a *Countryside Membership*, which is for anyone who does not have bees but wants to be associated with the BBKA and ourselves. A definition of all the membership categories is shown below.

Membership categories

Membership is open to all persons interested in actively furthering the objectivess of the Association upon payment of the appropriate annual subscription:

Full Membership – gives full voting membership of the WVBKA which allows access to all our meetings, on-going training, apiary facilities, newsletter and website. This also includes membership of the BBKA and includes all the BBKA benefits and resources plus their monthly newsletter and also included is BDI insurance for 3 hives (or more for an additional fee).

Partner Membership – provides the same benefits as the Full Membership but without the newsletters from BBKA and WVBKA. No BDI insurance is included.

Countryside Membership – for anyone 18 or over who is interested in beekeeping, but does not own any bees. Includes BBKA correspondence and a copy of BBKA News, gives non- voting membership of the WVBKA and allows access to meetings, on-going training, apiary facilities and newsletter by email. No BDI insurance is included.

Junior Membership – gives non-voting membership of the WVBKA and allows access to all our meetings, on-going training, apiary facilities, newsletter by email and website, BBKA Junior membership but not BDI insurance.

Newsletter Membership – gives non-voting membership of the WVBKA and allows access to meetings, on-going training, apiary facilities, newsletter by post, but not BBKA membership or BDI insurance.

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Honey show results for 2016

BBKA Certificate of Merit (Best Exhibit)
M & A D Williams Challenge Shield
The Sheldrake Challenge Cup
The Wye Valley BKA Challenge Cup
The Golden Valley Apiary Cup
The Heather Honey Plaque
The Rosemary Meehan Trophy
The Ralph Dover Cup
The Baker Cup

Ruth Taylor
David Williams
Bob Mendy
David Williams
David Preece
David Williams
Margaret Woodward
Ruth Taylor
Rob Duran



Class 1 Light Honey	1st Rob Duran	2nd Mike Price	3rd David Williams
Class 2 Medium/Dark Honey	1st David Williams		
Class 3 Set Honey	1st David Bannister		
Class 4 Novice Honey	1st Ruth Taylor	2nd David Sharples	3rd Juliet Parker-Smith
Class 5 Heather Honey	1st David Williams	2nd Bob Mendy	
Class 7 Cut Comb	1st Bob Mendy	2nd Pam Mendy	
Class 9 Three Moulded Candles	1st Bob Mendy		
Class 10 Three Candles Not Moulded	1st Pam Mendy		
Class 11 Any Exhibit to do with Beekeeping	1st David Preece	2nd Juliet Parker-Smith	3rd David Sharples
Class 12 Bottle of Mead	1st David Williams		
Class 13 Honey Fruit Cake	1st Margaret Woodward		
Class 14 Welsh Cakes	1st Margaret Woodward		
Class 15 Honey Cookies	1st Rob Duran		



General Husbandry assessment preparation training

BBKA has announced that a successful bid to DEFRA under the *Healthy Bees Plan* will provide the funds for the local support to those who plan to take the General Husbandry assessment in the near future.

The training will run between January and April 2017 and will be facilitated by a team of 14 Master Beekeepers who are also General Husbandry assessors in the following areas of the country: North West, North East, South Wales, South West, Midlands, East Anglia, South East and Yorkshire.



The twenty-hour-long programme will cover both practical and theoretical aspects of the General Husbandry assessment, aiming to give the participants an understanding of what the assessment entails and what they need to do in order to be successful.

The candidates are required to have taken the Basic Certificate and be registered on BeeBase. The enrolment fee is £50. For more information or to subscribe contact Marin Anastassov via email at: manastassov@aol.com

DAVE'S BLOG

December/January notes

Now is the time you could get a bit of woodpecker damage if you're not careful. If in doubt, protect your hives with some kind of netting. I use old used bale wrap the same as used on round bales. In addition be careful that no hives get blown over; this can be a problem at this time of year with heavy winds. The bees will no doubt be well tucked up, according to what I see there is not much more you can do at this time of year except keep an eye on the above-mentioned. Of course it goes without saying you should be cleaning any equipment which you need. Don't forget to protect your supers against mice damage, if you put an excluder at the top and bottom of the pile that should keep them out.

Many people have asked how to store their bulk honey. Bulk honey should be kept in sealed containers and stored at a constant temperature, around about 50°F is ideal. The honey should be properly sealed at the point of extraction with not too large an airspace between the honey and lid.



Most honey stored like this will remain saleable for several years. The plastic containers which we use today are much better than the old 28lb tins which we used to use years ago. The honey seems to keep better in those with no apparent problems. Another way to store honey is to put plastic liners in the container making sure that there is no air left. This is quite easily achieved with a straw, you can suck the air out and then seal. Remember honey attracts moisture, any containers should be sealed.

We have heard of cases where people have had problems with their honey fermenting. It is far better to bottle as required. When nectar arrives in the hive it is almost like water; the bees drive off this excess moisture bringing it down to round about 17% moisture content. If it is too high it is more

likely to ferment in the jar. If you have lots of jars with a space between the lid and the honey it is a recipe for disaster if stored that way for long periods. Usually these jars are kept in a pantry or in a kitchen where the temperature fluctuates, another reason for not bottling until you are at the point of sale.

Presentation is important; clear honey should be clear at the point of sale, granulated honey should be set. Many people fall into the trap of not advising shopkeepers on the best way to present honey for sale. If honey is put on sale in the shop window where it is subject to very high temperatures it will almost certainly spoil the presentation quite quickly. That's all for now folks, have a good festive season.

Dave

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Welsh Beekeepers' Association convention 2017

The meeting will be held on Saturday 25th March 2017. As quite a few of our members now attend this meeting at Builth Wells, we are wondering if it would be worthwhile to organise a minibus to take a group of people.

If anyone is interested please contact David Williams.

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WVBKA Officers for 2016-17

Chairman:

Peter Woodward
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Vice Chairman:

David Williams 07875 426089

General and Honey Show Secretary:

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Librarian:

David Williams

Association Apiary Manager:

- TBC

Newsletter Editor:

Tim & Belinda Dale: beedale@outlook.com

Committee:

- David Bannister
- Geoff Dutson
- Jane Matthews
- Andy Strangeway
- June Williams
- Suzanne Wenczek

Catering Committee:

- Rosemary Bashford
- June Williams

Mentoring Team:

- Geoff Dutson 01981 500491
- Cliff Rose 01981 251844
- David Williams 07875 426089
- Peter Woodward 01981 240280

Technical Advisers:

- Gareth Baker 01600 714323
- Dave Williams 01981 550320
- John Howarth 01981 550733

Website Editor:

Greg Fisk

Honorary Auditor:

Mike Price

Association website

A new website is being prepared at the moment and it should be ready to go live in a few weeks. I will contact you all when it is available so you can have a look. Hopefully the new features of a members area and discussion forum will be a useful asset to us all. I am working on a membership renewal system for the website which will allow membership to be selected on-line with subsequent payment by BACS. Hopefully this will be operational for 2017 renewals and those that want to renew this way, rather than by post will be able to try it out.

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Sad news about Ian Hydes

Sadly, Ian died on November 10th after a short illness. In September 2015 after a reduction in mobility, Ian moved into Oaklands Nursing Home where he was very well cared for and received frequent visits from his family and friends.

Ian was a long-time member and stalwart of the Wye Valley Beekeepers and a good friend to many of us. Ian became a keen beekeeper at the age of eight years old when he was first handed a frame by his uncle.

We send our condolences and best wishes to Lynda and Timothy.

If you would like to make a donation in Ian's memory then please give to the Beekeepers Association at:

http://www.bbka.org.uk/join_us/donate

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Notice:

This month's issue covers both December and January 2017. The last date for submitting articles for the February 2017 issue is: 22 January 2017.

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