



Wealden Apiarist

Newsletter of the High Weald Division of the
Sussex Beekeeping Association

Secretary: John Preston T: 01892 862581 E: secretary@hwbka.org.uk
Editor: John Lyte T: 01435 872559 E: apiarist@hwbka.org.uk

January - February 2016

Features



AGM and Honey Show



Christmas Party

High Weald Beekeepers Events Diary 2016

Date	Event	Address
Thursday 4 th Feb 7.15pm	Preparing Honey for Shows by Maggi Pratt	Kings Head East Hoathly
Tuesday 23 rd Feb	Bee Banter	Rose & Crown Mayfield
	Any further events will be confirmed by email or posted on the website	

EDITORS BUZZ....

I don't know about everyone else, but I find this peculiar weather a bit unsettling. Senator Trump says it's nothing to do with climate change, so that's all right then. My main concern, perhaps unfounded, is that the bees keep flying and I wonder whether the queens will continue laying. If this is the case I can only presume that they'll be using a lot of energy and consuming stores when they should be hunkered down. I've hefted the hives and they seem quite weighty, but I've started to feed fondant as a precaution. There are fears that they may be an increase in colony loss due to starvation, so I guess the answer is to feed and monitor very closely as we approach February and March. I'm sure I'm speaking for all of us, but I for one would welcome any advice right now. *Over to you Malcolm.*

John Lyte



This year the HWBKA Christmas dinner was held at a new venue, familiar to those who attend the Crowborough Bee Banter, The Crow and Gate.



Around thirty of us attended. The food and service was good and it was a great opportunity to catch up in very convivial surroundings.



A special thanks should go to RoseMarie (in the red hat) for organising the event (lost bookings by the pub notwithstanding), moving house and all the other things she's had to manage over the year.

It was a very good end to the year and a great start to the Christmas festivities.

Good Luck everyone for 2016.

Saturday 21st November and the Annual AGM and Honey Show rolled round once again at Five Ashes village hall. Despite the chilly weather around thirty-five attended, bringing with them an impressive range of honey, cakes and products.



This year was distinguished by the inclusion of a special award: the Vera Becvar Honey Cup. This cup is in dedication to one of the associations longest serving members and will be highly prized for many years to come.



This year the AGM was a greatly streamlined event, with all reports sent out in advance to the membership. Essentially, instead of the time consuming process of reading out reports, proceedings were confined to a useful Q & A session.

We then moved on to the raffle results, award giving and, of course, the first winner of the Vera Becvar Honey Cup, none other than Peter Coxon, our invaluable web-master.



The afternoon then concluded with tea and cakes and an enthusiastic tasting and scrutiny of all the goodies on display.



The HWBKA is a very successful association and the AGM and Honey Show is an important event for all of us. AGM's can put people off with the prospect of endless reports and discussion. However, this year was a very streamlined and enjoyable event, not something to be wary of. And the honey show is the best part. A fun event, where everyone is encouraged to bring along your honey, or any other related goodies: cakes, biscuits, mead, candles, etc, etc etc. Anyone, novice or experienced, stand an equal chance of walking away with an award. Don't be shy and see you next year.

HIGH WEALD BEEKEEPERS - HONEY SHOW 2015 **RESULTS**

WINNER OF THE VERA BECVAR HONEY CUP – Peter Coxon

CLASS ONE - Clear Honey - Open

1st – Peter Coxon
2nd – Steve & Clare Adams
3rd – Malcolm Wilkie
Highly Commended – John Preston

CLASS TWO - Set Honey - Open

1st – Elizabeth Missen
2nd - Helen Searle
3rd – Chris Chandler
Highly Commended – John Preston

CLASS THREE - Cut Comb - Open

1st – Helen Hadley
2nd - Brian Hopper
Highly Commended – John Lyte

CLASS FOUR - Clear or Set Honey - Novice

2 entries – added to Open Classes

CLASS FIVE - Cakes or Confectionery

1st – Malcolm Wilkie
2nd – Chris Chandler
3rd – David Tasker

CLASS SIX - Biscuits

1st – John Preston

2nd – Samantha Bowles
3rd – Amanda Savage

CLASS SEVEN - Preserves & Mead

1st – Robert Stovell

CLASS EIGHT - Dipped Candle

1st – Johannes Blummel

CLASS NINE - Moulded Candle

1st – Johannes Blummel
2nd – Chris Chandler

CLASS TEN - Any other Wax, Pollen or Propolis Product

1st – Johannes Blummel
2nd – Amanda Savage

CLASS TEN - Handmade Beekeeping item (Voted by the Attendees of the AGM)

1st - Helen Hadley

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS!

Please send them to the Editor apiarist@hwbka.org.uk

Next newsletter out at the end of April