

the Petersfield Beekeeper

DIARY

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
New Beekeeper Training	23 February, 1, 8, 15, 29 March	Petersfield Community Centre

Please send items for inclusion in the March Newsletter by 25 February to depeyrecave@gmail.com

DON'T FORGET TO FILL IN AND RETURN YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORM BY 15th MARCH TO AVOID JEOPARDISING YOUR INSURANCE!

TUNDRA

By Chad Carpenter



AGM REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019

The Association's beekeeping year started in February when nearly 50 aspiring beekeepers attended the first of the five Sunday afternoon sessions in the Community Centre. This year we again incorporated the apiary clean-up to give them a taste of one of the other necessities that accompanies the pleasure of working the bees. When apiary days started, the number of attendees at the beginning was a steady 18-24, reducing marginally to 18-20 when the apiary finally closed. There is much more about the Apiary report but it says much about the quality of the training offered at the apiary that those constant numbers were maintained throughout the season and our grateful thanks go to all who contributed to that.

The Honey Show report gives all the details but it was its usual success with a good number of entries. It is always very helpful to have a Senior Judge with us and it was a notable achievement that the judge recommended to a new beekeeper that their class winning entry should be entered in the National Honey Show. Thanks are due to David Parkinson and his band of helpers for all the meticulous arrangements that make the show such a success.

Association Members attended 8 local shows, one of which was a 2-day event, spreading the word about the importance of bees - and a taste for local honey. Remember, if you help at one of our Shows, you can sell your own honey & wax. Members also visited schools, libraries and clubs on the same mission. A dedicated band of regulars support and our thanks to them; it would be good if others were able to support this worthwhile and enjoyable Association activity.

Bee health and the threat to bees were again a major concern. The Association's Asian Hornet Action Team has remained ready to respond but mercifully has not been called out. Asian Hornet, once established, is devastating to bee colonies and Members will need no reminding that we must all remain vigilant and at this time of year, whilst the trees are still bare, to look particularly for nests.

HBA, our County Association, with a new Chairman and largely new trustees, is looking to refresh that association, starting with the adoption of a new, compliant constitution which will shortly be sent out to member associations for comment. HBA is also planning to hold both a convention and a honey show later in the year

I have mentioned, with thanks, those who do so much to support the Petersfield Beekeepers and in that category I must also include our Committee members who also act as the trustees of the charity. Without the involvement of them all we would be unable to fulfil the Association's Charitable Objects to promote and further the craft of beekeeping in our area.



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2019 - FEBRUARY 2020

The main point of interest is the bottom line which this year shows us making a gain of £2,513.15 against a gain of £1271.63 in 2018. While looks like a big increase we need to take into account the Gift aid, there are 2 years' worth in the 2019 accounts and none in the 2018 accounts. If we correct this then 2019 revenue decreases to £1762.17 and 2018 increases to £2,022.61 therefore while we still made a good profit in 2019 it was less than 2018. A trend we need to consider in the coming year.

Membership was down slightly. Our membership however stands at some 159 against 156 in 2018.

I am pleased to confirm that BBKA and BDI have frozen their fees for another year. Our finances are still strong and so I propose that our fees remain the same at £8.50 – the same as for the last 12 years. This will mean that the full membership will be £29.50, other classes of membership will remain as for 2019.

The 2020 Membership Forms are available after the meeting and they will be available on our website and distributed by email. Please check the return date and ensure your membership form is completed by 15 March 2020. The new BBKA system is fully functional and will make life a little bit easier, HOWEVER as it is now a 'System' there is no facility to accommodate late completion and return of the forms.

The Swarm List is now open on a first-come, first with the membership form basis!!

This is my third year as your Treasurer and Membership Secretary and it's time to move on so we need to find a willing volunteer to take over the role/s from the end of 2020, I will be more than happy to assist during this year if we have a volunteer.

Dave Hall

UNSUNG HERO

This year, the committee of Petersfield and District BKA has voted for Elizabeth Eveleigh to be our Unsung Hero!

Elizabeth and I started beekeeping together in 2009 having both completed the PDBKA Beginners' course the year before. She was always helpful and also knowledgeablebecause she reads books! So second year in, we had to do the Bee Basic assessment.....she is also persuasive....

In the committee, everyone relies on Elizabeth to take the minutes and then produce a light hearted version for circulation via the newsletter. She knows about native bees, bumble bees, wasps and hornets, and how to tell them apart. She happily gives talks to children and they are always entertained and save us a few false swarm calls by instructing their parents.

Another of Elizabeth's fortes is making wonderful cakes so she tests the Honey show recipes and the committee gets the chance to evaluate the results....keeps the committee happy! That is only one of her duties at the annual honey show, she also organizes the venue, cake, wax judging and photos.

Moving on, she is pretty good at processing wax and she shares that expertise, patiently, with groups in her kitchen and..... anything involving wax in kitchens, definitely shows devotion to duty.

During the summer months, she can also be counted on to help at the shows and she keeps us up to date with a page on Facebook.

But the most remarkable point is that a few years ago, Elizabeth suffered anaphylactic shock so she cannot keep the insects that interest her so much.....amazingly, she is still here helping everyone!



WINTER TALKS

Bee Diseases ~ Hilary Hayward

So, Wednesday 8th January saw a good number of us meeting up for a spot of winter training; a great topic for this first one. Ann-Chantal & Hilary managed magnificently as we all relocated to a cupboard after it was discovered we were double-booked with a photography group. We could be magnanimous in our chivalry as we had cakes, of course, and they only had biscuits!!



Hilary's talk covered a great deal of ground and questions were taken as we went along due to the fact that the planned 'after-presentation' information boards were not as accessible as Ann-Chantal & Hilary had hoped and planned. Nevertheless a timely revision for everyone before the new season gets going and a reminder as to what we need to be checking for. There should always be a reason, more than idle curiosity, for opening the hives and checking for disease or infestation is one of the most important.

Elizabeth and Liz operated a field kitchen system to bring cups and hot water from the kitchen so we had tea to accompany the cakes; well done the team.

The final slide of Hilary's presentation was a bit of fun but thank goodness we don't have bears to contend with though I gather badgers can be almost as destructive but less of a threat to us personally. Our son, Mark, lives in black bear country in Nova Scotia so I don't think we will be recommending bee-keeping to him as a hobby!

Hopefully see a good turnout for the AGM on February 1st and without a clash on bookings!

Shelagh Phelps

Beekeeping Archaeology ~ David Sandwell

After our AGM David Sandwell of Meon Valley Beekeepers showed us some of the 35mm slides he had been given by Stewart Scott who took photos for Eva Crane's book on the archaeology of beekeeping. These included pictures of bee boles in Cumbria which were used in the 17th and 18th centuries to provide shelter for bee skeps from the inclement Cumbrian weather. There were also photos from the Penrith Beekeepers Association apiary

which showed the extensive use of WBC hives (also due to the wet weather) and a number of dartington types. They also showed that the use of bee suits was by no means extensive! It was interesting to see that the bees were very much darker and also larger than the ones we keep in Hampshire today.

Cumbrian bee boles in a dry stone wall



HdeP



New home wanted - for the Archive.

I have the Archive which consists of a box file containing some historical information about the forming of the association, photographs and newspaper articles from the past few years. Plus other bits and pieces.

Also, I have copies of The Petersfield Beekeeper newsheet going back to 1981 but mainly from 2000 onwards. That pile is about the same size as the box file.

It is not an arduous task as most things are now digital but we need to keep this information somewhere for it to be available for future generations to research and as I am downsizing I will be unable to keep it much longer.

Please let a member of the Committee know if you are able to help.

Penny

**Wisborough Green Beekeepers Association
"Let's All Have Better Bees"**

Saturday 28th March 10.00 - 4.00 approx
Hampers Green Centre, Petworth, GU28 9NL

Beeswax Food Wrap Workshop. Saturday 21st March.

Venue:- Emmanuel Fellowship Chapel, Spy Lane, Loxwood. RH14 0SS

Further details and booking forms available [here](#)

Your Committee for 2020/1

Chairman	Graham Rowden	01730 895368
Honorary Secretary	Melanie Espin	01730 823405
Hon Treasurer/Membership Secretary	David Hall	01730 893423
Committee Members: Anne Chantal Ballard (Education), Nigel Easton, Elizabeth Eveleigh (Minutes sec), David Parkinson (Honey Show Mngr), Graham Rowden, Kate Guscott, Martin Smyth, Chris Clark		
Apiary Custodians: Graham Rowden, Rowan Roberts, Peter Reader, Chris Clark		
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