



Newsletter December 2017



All is quiet in the apiary, though I'm never sure if that's a good thing or not at this time of year. There's been a bit of coming and going, the bees are chomping their way through the fondant at interestingly varying rates and we're weighing the hives periodically as if we know what we're doing. They might get an extra, festive feed this month if they ask Santa nicely and we've taken the opportunity to get hives off rickety wooden stands and onto more robust breeze blocks. The good news is that the vandals who have been inexplicably setting fire to sheds on the allotment haven't turned their attention to the hives. Phew!

Meetings and Events

The programme for 2018 is being finalised but the first meeting will be

Saturday 6th January, 2.30 - 4.30pm
St Anne's Millenium Centre, Rainhill
Equipment maintenance

Some of our more experienced members will be on hand to advise on cleaning, sterilising, building new hive components and getting ready for the forthcoming season. This could be a good time to get those new frames assembled.

More of our Committee mates...



David Thornton
Committee member
At the heather



John Heath
Committee member



Eric Graham
Rice Lane Apiary



John Mooney, Librarian &
Rob Myron, Honey Show
Secretary

Annual Branch Dinner 2018

The annual dinner will once again be held at Blackburne House Bistro, on 23rd February, 7.30pm. It will be £20 per person, to include three courses, menu as follows:

Starters

Winter Vegetable Soup
Smoked Mackerel Pate with Farm House Bread

Mains

Nut Roast Topped with Goats Cheese
Salmon Fillet in a Fresh Garden Herb Cream Sauce
Chicken Breast Provençale
All served with Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables

Desserts

Crème Brulée
Lemon Tart
Cheese board

I'll take bookings and menu choices from 1st January. There is no deposit to pay, but if you cancel less than a week before the event you will have to pay in full.

Back in the day...

To end the year our new Membership Secretary, Geoff Todd, edits this month's Tales from Bygone Days

29th October 1977

A special mention was given for the legendary Arthur Gillett for setting up a 'new comb for old wax recovery scheme' for the first time.

30th November 1970

It's that man again!

Arthur Gillett was duly elected as Foul Brood Officer, continuing with his regular job as Show Secretary

3rd November 1984

Some of our more mature members of today take up new roles in 1984:

Doug Jones steps down as Treasurer to take on the role of Secretary.

Arthur Gillett had been Secretary for years and this year he had been heavily involved with the International Garden Festival (Remember that!).

John McCann steps up to the role of Treasurer

October 1976

The great honey fruit cake debate continues for 40 years!

An anomaly was raised by one of the lady members regarding a discrepancy between the weight made to the official recipe of 1¹/₂ lbs to the stated required recipe weight of 1 lb.

(Serious stuff). Another lady member seized on the opportunity and recommended extra butter. The Chairman faced with this dilemma made the decision for the branch to establish its OWN recipe for the Honey Show. Recipe discussions continue to this day.

2nd December 1944

Tea Secretary – The Secretary stated that...whoever held the post of secretary had so much business to attend to that someone should be appointed to look after the provision of refreshments at meetings... Miss Freeman was elected.

Hear hear!

13th December 1950

The Secretary had been granted a license to obtain rationed food for use at our meetings. The Quantities were not yet known but butter, sugar and tea would be available.

The Gift Honey received from the Liverpool Show had been donated to the Childrens Hospital, Myrtle Street.

A donation of £5 had been received from the Liverpool Show Committee. It was decided to obtain crockery, for use at meetings.

Finally, polite reminder - if you haven't paid your subs, due on 1st November, it would be appreciated if you could do so now. Details in last months Newsletter.

Thank you!

*Wishing you a peaceful Christmas
and a happy New Year!*

