



Newsletter

January 2020

Happy New Year to you all - I wish I could guarantee it will be a good one for you and your bees but I don't have 2020 vision!

I realise this Newsletter is reaching you quite soon after the December issue but this is intentional - to act as a reminder about a couple of events not to be missed...

First of all, we have:

Monday 13th January 2020

'Bee Diseases' by our Regional Bee Inspector, Mark Mcloughlin

This is the first Branch meeting of the new decade. Taking place at the cosy venue of St. Helen's Bowling Club (Post Code WA10 3HU), it will take the form of a picture quiz. How well can you recognise problems that you may encounter when looking through your bees - and what would you do about them? Mark will explain all! Get yourself there and test your knowledge. Tea and cakes will be provided (the bar will also be open) plus the chance to win great raffle prizes! All beekeepers welcome.

And secondly...

Friday 31st January 2020

The Annual Branch Meal

Hurry! There are still places available for the social event of the year... our Annual Branch meal on Friday 31st of January at West Lancs Golf Club. The Golf Club is at Hall Road West, Blundellsands, L23 8SZ and the dinner will be a carvery (plus a non-meat option) with three courses for £25. The menu is below. You will be able to help yourself to all three meats at the Carvery.

Starters

Soup of the day: Vegetable

Fresh melon

Three-meat Carvery

Honey roasted ham, roast turkey and sirloin of beef

Served with all the trimmings: roast potatoes, Yorkshire puds, veg, gravy, sauces

OR

Non-meat or vegetarian option – (brie and beetroot tart)

Desserts

Sticky toffee pudding with ice cream

Fresh fruit meringue

Get back in touch with me ASAP to book your place and avoid disappointment. Not forgetting to let me have your starter and dessert options and any other dietary requirements.

Notes for the diary for 2020

Our exciting, action-packed programme of Branch meetings for next year is taking shape. Please support your Branch by attending as many of these meetings as you can.

January 13th (7.30pm)	"Bee Diseases": Mark Mcloughlin	St Helen's Bowling Club
January 31st (7.30pm)	Branch Annual Meal	West Lancs Golf Club
*February 28th (7.30pm)	"From Bee to Bottle": Northumberland Mead (with mead tasting after the talk!)	The Park Hotel Netherton
March 14th (2.00pm)	"Planting for Bees": Stuart Hatton	St Anne's Millenium
April 25th (2.00pm)	"Prep Queens for Nuc": John McCann	Methodist Church
May 9th (2.00pm)	"Branch Nuc": John McCann	Woolton Apiary
June 13th (2.00pm)	"Shook Swarm": Ian Molyneux	Woolton Apiary
July 11th (2.00pm)	TBC	Tony Gordon's Garden
August 22nd (2.00pm)	"Selecting Queens to Breed": Karl Colyer	Woolton Apiary
September 19th (2.00pm)	TBC	TBC
October 17th (2.00pm)	"Wax": John Zamorski (TBC)	TBC
November 7th (2.00pm)	Branch Honey Show & AGM	St Anne's Millenium

* This meeting is a chance for members to bring along guests who have an interest in beekeeping and for us all to learn about the process of making mead and sparkling mead - then trying some! Free to members, with a £2 charge to guests. Let's make it a real social event - more information to follow soon.

Education

If you have made a New Year's resolution to broaden your bee knowledge then contact Cliff Porter, our Education Secretary and sign up for any of the bee modules on offer. You don't have to have taken the Basic Assessment first. But if you haven't taken the Basic Assessment then why not have a go at that too?

Branch History

Notes for Beekeepers from January 1950

"During January nothing can be done in the apiary except checking up on the weight of the hives. Beekeepers who have weighed their stocks after completing Autumn feeding, can soon find out what stores have been used up. Only robbed colonies will show any serious loss of weight, and a cake of candy should be placed over the cluster if this unhappy condition is detected. All other stocks with plenty of store should not be disturbed at all - CANDY SHOULD NEVER BE USED with such colonies.

This is the ideal time to move the position of a colony in the apiary. This should be done with great care without jerking the hive. If the distance is considerable, a wet cloth is placed over the front of the entrance during the moving and the hive placed in slings between two poles, the two persons carrying, walking even step.

Make sure all hive entrances are free from obstruction.

Hives can be weighed by hooking a Salter Spring Balance under one side and lifting a quarter of an inch, after reading the weight repeat on the other side and add the figures."

1950 Recipe for Candy for winter use

6lbs. of sugar to one pint of water, add the sugar slowly and stir incessantly, then add one teaspoonful of vinegar or half a teaspoonful of Cream of Tartar. Boil until the temperature reaches 230°F. or until candy sets without being sticky when a spoonful is placed in cold water. Allow to cool as quickly as possible and stir vigorously when cloudiness appears. Pour into the required dish before the candy sets too thickly.

Talking of sugar...

Remember sugar will be available at next week's meeting (Monday 13th January 7.30pm at St. Helen's Bowling Club). Anyone wishing to take some could perhaps make an appropriate financial donation to the Branch or donate a raffle prize? If you are interested, make sure you bring your own bucket to put the sugar in!

Membership / Finance

FINAL reminder for those who have yet to pay their membership to re-join and avoid the £5 late payment penalty if fees are paid after 31st January. It couldn't be easier - you should have already received an email with a link to the eR2 site, all you need to do is complete your details and make payment.

*A small number of members have completed the eR2 form but not followed it up with payment - if this is you, please make your payment as soon as possible.

See you all on Monday. Or failing that at the Branch Meal on the 31st!

*John Mooney, Branch Secretary, contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk
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