



Photo: Autumn leaves by Belinda Dale

October/November 2019

WVBKA Charity Registration Number: 517008

URGENT Notice
The Open Meeting/Speakers' Day event on 12th October has been cancelled for this year.
The next event is Christmas Lunch on 7th December, venue to be confirmed.
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Kington Show – 14th September

For the second time in a month, club members rallied round to erect our pop-up gazebo, display various bee-related wares and court new members. Geoff, Bob and Fletcher joined Andi and I on the Friday evening to set up ready for the show – definitely a case of many hands make light work – all good except for our disappointment at being next to 'Mr Misery' and his very noisy generator/candy stall for the second year running.



entertainment that rural summer shows provide. Andrew L, Fletcher and Geoff took the morning stint, with Andi and I joined by Bob, Claire and Duncan in the afternoon.

The weather on the day was fantastic, what a change from last year, which saw Fletcher, Geoff and I clutching the gazebo and nearly taking off on several occasions! People flocked into the show ground to enjoy the great family

A constant stream of interest from all age groups was apparent throughout the day until our 5.00pm finish. After an efficient pack up we were off and with £130 ready to bank from apiary honey sales.

This is such a worthwhile event for the club, with several visitors showing an interest in joining us and an excellent day out into the bargain. Thanks to all those who helped on the day and to Patricia for admin duties.

Juliet

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Queen Colour of the Year
2019 is: **GREEN**

The Honey Show 2019

The annual Association Honey Show was held at Poston Mill today and attracted entries to all categories bar the novice's prize. Twenty six members and guests attended for lunch and at least half those watched the open judging with spellbound interest, Dave Williams adjudicating.

We learned several expert tips such as what a 'well-travelled' comb of honey looks like compared to a fresh one and how difficult it can be to fill a pound jar with heather honey (it being thixotropic, you know). Also, how honey in the jar must be the exact weight, while that in the comb may be approximate.



When preparing block wax for presentation, remember to give it a good polish and make sure it doesn't take up the maker's embossed name from the dish in which it is set (if there is one).

Dave was very patient in working through the classes in anticipation of reaching the mead entry and the audience were likewise itching to share in the delight he had in tasting this and the other delicious confections.

Overall winners of the best exhibit and the aggregate Shield were Juliet and Andi Parker-Smith. Congratulations to them and all the other worthy entrants.

Many thanks to Juliet as Steward, Karen as Show Secretary and June for arranging the event, as ever.

Hopefully, those new members who joined this year will have been greatly encouraged to compete at the next show. The more the better.

Rob D

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Cups and Trophies Awarded at the 2019 Honey Show

BBKA Certificate of Merit – Andi & Juliet Parker-Smith, Best Exhibit in Show (Beeswax)
 The M & AD Williams Challenge Shield – Andi & Juliet Parker-Smith,
 (Highest aggregate points in Classes 1-8 Honey & Beeswax)
 The Sheldrake Challenge Cup – Andi & Juliet Parker-Smith, (Cut Comb)
 The Wye Valley BKA Challenge Cup – Chris Robinson (Honey)
 The Goodman Cup – Geoff Dutson (Shallow comb in case)
 The Wye Valley Rose Bowl – Andi & Juliet Parker-Smith (Beeswax)
 The Golden Valley Apiary Cup – Andi & Juliet Parker-Smith (Any interesting exhibit)
 The Heather Honey Plaque – Mike Price
 The Rosemary Meehan Trophy – Geoff Dutson (Highest points in the cookery section)
 The Baker Cup – Geoff Dutson (Honey Fruit Cake)

Well done to everyone and many thanks go to all who entered. Without entrants there would be no Honey Show. Thanks too to our new Show Secretary Karen, who did a wonderful job.

All these cups carry special memories as they were donated either by former or late members.

Once they've been engraved, these cups will be re-presented at the pre-Christmas lunch in December.

June

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October/November Notes

Here we are at the end of the season and all is well. The bees at Shenmore are quite happy and they have been fed. For those who are not up to speed, we have adopted a policy of not treating the Shenmore bees, only time will tell if we are successful in our endeavour. If things are going to go wrong and the little pesky mites builds up then we may have to resort to some kind of treatment. Because we are adopting this new policy it may be prudent to look at what other people have been doing with this. I will be talking to Dr Nicola Bradbear about this subject and Clive Hudson in North Wales who have been extolling the virtues of not treating their bees

and according to them they are still surviving. As you know I am not happy about using any kind of chemicals for treating our bees, it has long been a worrying situation. No doubt we will come out the other side having learnt a few lessons on the way. Our cousins in the medical profession are finding things very difficult to with some strains of bacteria treatment with antibiotics, in some cases having failed.

I know there is a fine line between success and failure; however on balance the medical profession have made wonderful strides in treatments. I myself had a triple bypass about 11 years ago, I doubt if I would be alive now and writing these notes if it was not for a very talented surgeon Mr Graham who carried out my bypass. Anyway, I will keep you all informed through these notes about the varroa situation. Many of you will have heard of what was called the Isle of Wight disease. It is almost non-existent in our indigenous bees now but it was a real problem many years ago. So you see folks bees do adapt to circumstances but we will of course be keeping a watchful eye on the situation. My thanks go to all who have attended sessions which we have been regularly putting on throughout the season.

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Honey Show Secretary:

- Vacant

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

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- Geoff Dutson

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- Geoff Dutson
- Duncan Penkey
- Andy Strangeway
- June Williams
- Peter Woodward

Catering Committee:

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Website Editor:

- Rob Doran

Honorary Auditor:

- Mike Price

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Further Study

There is a suggestion in the pipeline that we should meet at least once a month to discuss a specific topic chosen the previous month. I am informed from some of the members that this kind of study works very well so we are going to give it a try this year providing we can get an audience of at least six who will participate. It may well be a means of further enhancing what we already know.

Dave

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Retail Shop Opening

Laura Hall is happy to announce the opening of her new retail shop on 30th September. She will be focussed on selling all things bee-related and aiming to raise awareness of the importance of bee conservation.



hey, honey!

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Editor's note:

We're entering a quiet time for beekeeping so this issue covers both October and November. The next newsletter will also be a double issue, covering December and January and will be distributed at the beginning of December.

