



# WOKINGHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Helping honeybees & beekeepers since 1946



website:  
www.wdbka.org.uk  
or scan the above code

*Bee-news-ed*

W&DBKA Newsletter

2019 Issue 10, November

(To contact the editor please e-mail [wokinghambeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:wokinghambeekeepers@gmail.com) )

## *The Committee...*

The committee met on Tuesday 05 November. New member Georgina Adey came along to introduce herself, meet the committee and observe the chaos. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 03 December.

## *Annual Honey Show @ November Bowls Club Meeting*

Ted Buckingham (our new Honorary President) came along to present rosettes and trophies to the worthy winners. Ted also brought along one of his own frames ready for extraction and invited members to guess the weight.

The volunteer judges for the Honey edibles category had a reasonable number of different entries to taste this year. They took it very seriously and sitting round the table they reminded me of a panel of judges on Master Chef! I also noted that the two mead entries proved popular - there wasn't much left!

Congratulations to the night's winners who were:

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
Honey Cake/edibles	Mary Gillan	Evan Reynolds	Robin Roberts
Mead Two entries	Karen Roberts	Yvonne Goddard	N/A
Photograph	Russell Walkden	Nigel Perkins	Andy Ormiston
Runny Honey	Lorna Rivett	Tim Nabbs	Russell Walkden
Set Honey	Andy Ormiston	Nigel Perkins	Lorna Rivett
Wax goods Three entries	Lorna Rivett	Mary Gillan	Robin Roberts
Frame for extraction	Karen Roberts	Nigel Perkins	Robin Roberts
Guess the honey frame weight	Tony Lack (who won a prize donated by the President)		

## *Bee-news From the Apiary*

Tony, our new apiary manager has rehung the gate whose post had collapsed at the end of last season. It was done at no cost to the Association using spare items he had handy.

We have eight active colonies going into the winter - one of which is in a nucleus box. Evan put fondant feed on the colonies on Saturday 09 November... essential for the nuc and some of the weaker colonies that were low on stores.

Nigel, Russell and Evan intend to carry out the oxalic acid treatment for varroa a week or so earlier than usual - probably the weekend before 20 December.



# WOKINGHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Helping honeybees & beekeepers since 1946



website:  
www.wdbka.org.uk  
or scan the above code

## *Christmas Social: Wednesday 11 December*

This is the next Bowls Club meeting. Here is an early reminder that a successful evening relies on your donations of nibbles (ie food) ... and of course the usual raffle prizes (wrapped in Christmas paper please).

There will be a non-bee based, Christmas quiz for you to have a go at on the night. Thanks to Mary Gillan for that.

## *Another Social Event Date for Your Diary*

We are planning a social event at the Jack O' Newbury, Binfield where there is a skittle alley. <http://www.jackonewbury.co.uk/> The cost will be £11 per person if we can get bookings from 25 or more of you. There will be a buffet of hot food and of course skittles. The maximum is 50 people. Members' partners are very welcome.

The date to put in your diary is 29 January 2020. Express your interest by emailing us on our Gmail account or by using the website's contact form. We will be taking payment in advance nearer the time. First come first served.

## *Bee Collection Exhibition At the Museum of English Rural Life*

The Museum of English Rural Life has a new exhibition that may be of interest to members. The exhibition, 'The Romance of the Hive: books from the Cowan Bee Collection' runs from 6 Nov 2019 till 31 Jan 2020.

The collection is said to be the most comprehensive collection of its kind in the world, the Cowan Bee Collection contains 1,800 volumes of books, pamphlets and journals relating to bees and beekeeping, including many rare foreign language titles. The items date from the sixteenth to the twentieth century, and were owned by T. W. Cowan (1840-1926), a co-founder and president of the British Beekeepers Association.

This exhibition provides an opportunity to view some of the many treasures from this fascinating collection. Use the link to see more about the exhibition: <https://merl.reading.ac.uk/news-and-views/2019/11/buzz-new-exhibition-romance-hive-books-cowan-bee-collection/>

The museum is located on the University of Reading campus, Redlands Road, Reading RG1 5EX

## *...And Finally... Annual Hive Equipment Clean-up*

This has been scheduled for Saturday 04 January. Probable start time: 09.30am. Come along and get some fresh air after over indulging during Christmas and the New Year. All are welcome, even if you can only attend for part of the time.

Volunteers please email us on our Gmail account (see start of newsletter). Alternatively use the website contact form to let us know. Make your communications for the attention of the Apiary Manager, Tony Lack.

Equipment to bring (if you have them) are: a Black & Decker Workmate (or similar), a large seed tray (to collect scrapings of excess wax etc) and a hive tool. Optional contributions: biscuits, cake, your preferred snacks or milk.