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CYMDEITHAS GWENYNWYR SIR GAERFYRDDIN



Newsletter 25



CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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John Verran Regional Bee Officer instructing members at the open day at Cwmburry Honey Farm, Ferryside



Dressing up in bee suits before inspecting the bees.



A well earned cup of tea and more information on testing colonies for nosema ceranae.

NEXT MEETINGS

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1st at 7.30 p.m. at the New Stags Head, Red Street, Carmarthen
PREPARATION FOR WINTERING YOUR BEES.**

**MONDAY OCTOBER 6th at 7.30 p.m. at the New Stags Head, Red Street, Carmarthen
PREPARING EXHIBITS FOR THE HONEY SHOW**

BEEKEEPING NEWS

INFORMATION FROM JOHN VERRAN REGIONAL BEE OFFICER FOR WALES

Inspectors are reporting starving bees. Unheard of in August but I am getting reports of starving bees. Winter feeding may well need to be brought forward and given in greater quantities than is usual.

FEEDING BEES It is time now to feed the colony for the winter replacing the Honey taken. What honey I hear some of you say? This is done by adding 1 Kg bag of Granulated Sugar to a pint of water and heating until all the sugar is in solution, This season it may be advisable to add Fumidil B which will be effective for reducing *Nosema apis* and *Nosema ceranae*. The colony will need *at least* 15Kg (more for the bigger hives) of this Syrup to make it through the winter. Feeding needs to be completed before the end of September allowing the colony to process off the excess water. Don't forget to fit a mouse guard to the entrance.

CHARLES GWYN DAVIES 1917-2008 It was with deep regret to learn of the passing of our President at the age of 91 after failing health. The Association sends condolences to his family. The service of celebration and funeral service was held at Narberth Crematorium on 1st July 2008. Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association was represented by Maureen Macleod, Gwylum Rees, John Burgess and Brian Jones.

TYPES OF FEEDERS



ASHFORTH FEEDER



METAL FEEDERS



PLASTIC BUCKET FEEDER



Whatever type of clearer board you may use to clear the bees from the honey supers, don't forget to remove them and replace with a bee proof crown board.



LEFT Bees will winter well with OMF Open Mesh Floors. But if you treat with Apiguard gel seal the floor to retain the Thymol fumes. Or wait till treatment is finished and then change to an OMF



RIGHT Don't forget those mouseguards.

Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association Sixty Years Ago

Carmarthen Branch : The Branch has continued to be active and nine meetings were held during 1948. A Field Day was held at Llanllwch Vicarage and thanks are due to the Rev. E. M. Davies for his kindness. The Mayor of Carmarthen and the County Education Officer attended this event and expressed their pleasure at the useful work of the Association.

The first Annual Dinner of the Branch was held in February, 1948 when Mr. E. O. James, presided. The Rev. E. J. Davies, Llangoedmore gave an excellent talk on the Snelgrove System of swarm control.

The dinner was well attended and proved a great success. Many members of neighbouring Associations were present and the local people were glad to welcome them.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 2nd March, 1949, and Mr C. H. Friend was elected as Chairman, with the Rev. Ben Davies. Trelech, as Vice Chairman. Mr H. Lewis Capel Dewi, was thanked for his good work as Chairman during 1948.

In fact Mr. Lewis had a difficult year as Chairman, as the Branch had considered forming an Association separate from the County Association.

The County Association was very concerned about this and Messers A. M. Smith, E. M. Jones and D. M. Wilkins attended a meeting to express their points of view. The Branch complained of insufficient co-operation from the Council. Fortunately it was finally decided to defer the matter and the threatened split was avoided.

As the air has now been cleared it is hoped that the Association will continue to work amicably for the good of all beekeepers.

The finance of the Branch continues to be satisfactory.

W. V. Thomas Branch Hon. Secretary

Extracts from the Annual Report of the Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association for the year ending 31st December 1948.

The association at that time had 158 members. There were Llanelli and Carmarthen branches.

Brian.

PLANTS FOR HONEY

AUGUST

Minor honey plants (Some may be major honey plants in some locations)

Balsam	Borage	Chicory	Cucumber
Dwarf Gorse	Fuchsia	Golden Rod	Helenium
Knotgrass	Mallows	Marjoram	Meadowsweet (Pollen)
Michaelmas Daisy	Mint	Mullein	Sunflower
Purple loosesstrife	Sages	Scabious	Sea lavender
Snowberry	Thistles	Toadflax	Travellers joy
Vegetable mar-row	Virginia creeper	White charlock	White horehound
White melilot	Wood sage		

This list from a leaflet supplied by E H Taylor and courtesy of the Bee Research Association. See over for major honey plants.

PLANTS FOR HONEY AUGUST



Common Name: Bell heather **Latin Name:** *Erica cinerea*
Family: Ericaceae (Heather family)

Bell heather is an evergreen straggly dwarf shrub, with leaves in whorls of three at each node. The bell shaped flowers are bright reddish-purple or white and it can be found growing in dry heaths alongside [heather](#). *Erica* plants have a symbiotic relationship with [fungi](#) that grows inside and between some of plant root cells. The plant thrives in the presence of the fungi and the fungi benefits from some of the plants nutrients. Honey from bell heather does not gel like the honey from ling heather. Picture from www.yorkshiredales.org.



Common Name: Blackberry or Bramble **Latin Name:** *Rubus fruticosus*
Family: Rosacea

Wild forms are often rampant and will overgrow hedges. Tips will root readily in the ground. Major source of pollen and nectar. Garden cultivars are often large fruited. Choose from Bedford Giant, Himalayan Giant these have thorns or from Oregon thornless and Smoothstem which as the name states are thornless. The honey from blackberry is slow to granulate.



Common Name: Ling heather or Heath **Latin Name:** *Calluna vulgaris*
Family: Ericaceae (Heather family)

It is a small [perennial shrub](#) growing to 20-50 cm tall (rarely to 1 m), and is found widely in Europe and [Asia Minor](#) on well-drained [acidic](#) soils in open sunny situations and in moderate shade. It is tolerant of moderate grazing and can regenerate following occasional burning. It is often managed in nature reserves using a light burning method. It is a common, often dominating, component of [heath](#) and [moorland](#) habitats, and also on [peat bogs](#) and in open [pine](#) forests. It is separated from the closely related genus *Erica* by its four-parted [corolla](#) and [calyx](#). The flowers emerge in late summer, and in the wild species these are usually in purple or mauve shades.



Common Name: Rosebay Willowherb **Latin Name:** *Epilobium angustifolium*
Family: Onagraceae

A large patch forming perennial with long flower spikes and alternate lanceolate leaves. Flowers are 20-30mm, pinkish purple; four petals slightly unequal; stigma four lobed. Small seeds have a long plume of silky white hairs. Flowers June – August. Found in woods, heathland, mountains and waste places. Often in profusion by railways as the steam trains of the past used to set the embankments on fire and willowherb was one of the first plants to colonize the areas. Also known because of this as Fireweed.



Common Name: Red Clover **Latin Name:** *Trifolium pratense*
Family: Fabasiae

Most valuable plant for stock feeding mainly grown for hay. Superior to white clover but has long flower tubes, not normally available to the honeybee whose tongue is 6mm long. Usually pollinated by Bumble bees whose tongues are 8-21mm. However the second cut produces smaller flowers and the nectar can well up in the flower in warm conditions and can give abundant crops in a few days.

**SAMPLE JUDGING SHEET SHOWING THE CLASSES FOR THIS YEAR
CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION HONEY SHOW 2008**

JUDGING SHEET Name of Judge.....

CLASS COMPETITOR 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

LIQUID HONEY DARK MED OR LIGHT

1st.....2nd.....3rd.....

ANY GRANULATED HONEY

1st.....2nd.....3rd.....

HONEY CAKE AS RECIPE

1st.....2nd.....3rd.....

ANY ITEM FROM BEESWAX

1st.....2nd.....3rd.....

BOTTLE WINE RED, WHITE OR MEAD

1st.....2nd.....3rd.....

PHOTOGRAPH Beekeeping Theme

1st.....2nd.....3rd.....

CRAFT ITEM Beekeeping Theme

1st.....2nd.....3rd.....



The honey show held at the New Stags Head Carmarthen in 2007

The Honey Show was good fun last year so this year it will be run on the same lines. Simple classes so that everyone can take part

A honey show just for fun. Everyone will be a judge. Give each entry a mark out of TEN Then work out who came first, second or third in each class.

Judge the honey on presentation, clarity taste etc. Any container will be allowed. Honey can be Dark, Medium or Light. There is a separate class for Granulated Honey. Wines can be Red or White sweet or dry Mead can also be sweet or dry.

Any item from beeswax such as blocks, candles models etc. Any photograph so long as it is connected with beekeeping. Craft item anything as long as it has a connection with beekeeping.

Please hand in your judging sheet as soon as possible for the adjudicators to add up the marks.

There will also be a collection of foreign honey. For tasting. If you have any left over from holidays or find something unusual in the supermarket bring it along.

RECIPE FOR THE HONEY CAKE

6 Ounces Self Raising Flour 6 ounces Butter or Margarine 6 Ounces Sultanas

6 Ounces Liquid Honey 3 Eggs Small pinch of Salt

METHODCream the butter and honey well. Beat the eggs well and add them alternatively with sifted flour and salt.

(Save a little flour to add with the sultanas) Beat well and lightly. A little milk can be added if necessary.

Turn in the sultanas and stir well. Bake in a grease lined tin 6 1/2 ins—7 1/2 ins diameter for one and a half hours at 350 degrees Fahrenheit or 180 degrees Centigrade. Allow to cool before removing from the tin.

The Honey Show will be held on Monday 1st December 2008 at The New Stags Head, Carmarthen. GOOD LUCK.

Listen! O, listen!

Here come the hum the golden bees

Underneath full blossomed trees,

At once with glowing fruit and flowers crowned.

James Russell Lowell



LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

The National Audit Office is undertaking a Value for Money study into how the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is working to safeguard the health of honeybees in the United Kingdom. Our final report is due to be published around the end of the year.

So we can take into account the views and experiences of beekeepers in England and Wales (where the Defra-sponsored National Bee Unit operates) we are asking you to complete a short survey.

Please complete the survey as an individual beekeeper rather than in collaboration, for example with other members of your local beekeeping organisation. We shall be seeking input from beekeeping organisations through different routes. The survey should take around 15 minutes to complete.

All information received will be used solely for the purpose of informing the NAO study and will not be passed on to third parties.

If you have any queries or further comments please forward these to beestudy@nao.gsi.gov.uk. Alternatively call John Hardman (020 7798 7877) or Rachel Coffey (020 7798 5388).

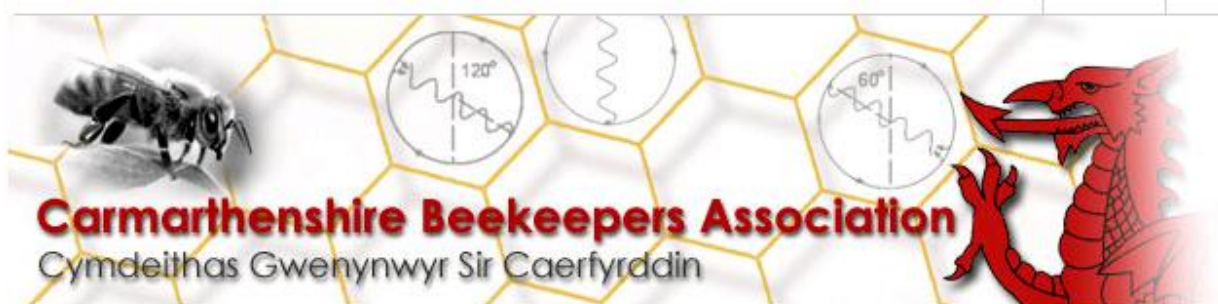
If you are not contacted by the NAO you can view a form on their website www.nao.org.uk

The survey itself closes on 12th September 2008.

SECRETARIES RAMBLINGS

2008 Will probably be remembered for its wet weather. The golden honey crops have at least been exceeded by our Olympic sports men and women. I had been waiting for weeks for my inspection from Paul Key and we only managed to go through the hives a week ago. I nearly cancelled the visit as our Welsh Black Bull Rhys decided the grass in the apiary was better than the grass in the next field and pushed his way over the fence, exiting at a great pace knocking over four hives and taking the gatepost with him. He ended up with a few hundred stings and was a bit sorry for himself for a few days. The bees were a bit touchy too. We decided that two of the hives could not be inspected. Thankfully all 31 we checked were free from brood diseases, apart from a bit of chalk brood. 5 however were queenless and one had a drone layer. The drone layer I shook out away from its site and removed the hive letting the flying bees take their chance to join adjacent hives. The others have been united with queenright stocks and hopefully have been accepted. Most of the stocks have plenty of stores as I leave them a super to winter on. But this has left me a bit short on surplus honey for harvesting. Like all optimistic beekeepers we look forward to next year and perhaps a bumper crop. Meanwhile don't forget to treat for any varroa or nosema infestation, and make sure your bees have adequate stores for the coming winter.

Brian



CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS WEBSITE ADDRESS IS

www.carmarthenshirebeekeepers.org.uk

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association's committee. Whilst every effort is taken in compiling the contents to ensure they are correct and accurate the club assumes no responsibility for any effect from errors or omissions. Editor / Hon. Sec. Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association BRIAN JONES. CWMBURRY HONEY FARM, FERRYSIDE, CARMARTHENSHIRE TEL: 01267 267318 Email: beegeejay2003@yahoo.co.uk