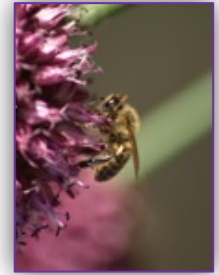


SEVENOAKS AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS BEEKEEPERS BRANCH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024

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AGM and Prize-giving



There was plenty of time for everyone to chat over drinks and nibbles at the Branch AGM and prize-giving. The Chairman, Cliff Hayward, succeeded in his aim to keep the business part of the meeting as concise as possible. In his annual report, he thanked all the officers and committee members for their hard work. He said the threat from the Asian Hornet was a recurring theme throughout the year, and was highlighted at fetes and other events. Our teaching apiaries, particularly Barrwood, suffered losses at the beginning of the year but the colonies had gradually recovered. Those at Hilbert Road were able to



supply a small amount of honey for the Branch to sell. Cliff said the honey show and craft fair had proved successful although it attracted fewer members of the public than last year.

In her Membership report, Liz Birchenough said there was quite a high churn rate of members so it was important to continue to recruit new beekeepers. Wearing her Treasurer's hat, she reported that the Branch had improved its financial position during the year. Spending on Trappit bait and equipment to combat the Yellow-legged Hornet had been lower than expected, thanks to some generous donations from Parish Councils.



The Branch Officers were all willing to stand again apart from John Farrow, who has decided to give up the role of Secretary after many years. The meeting elected Cliff Hayward as Chairman, Martin Barrett as Vice-Chairman, Liz Birchenough as Membership Secretary and Treasurer, Tim Johnston as Secretary. The Committee Members were all re-elected. They are: John Farrow, Sarah Rapley, Huw Griffith, Sue Knights, Chris Stewart, Bob Blair, Liz Seal.

Cliff awarded the Chairman's Cup to Liz Birchenough for what he called her big contribution to the Branch. He said she was the driving force behind so many of the Branch's activities.

Prize-winners from the Honey Show also received their cups and certificates. *(Cliff presents awards to Martin Barret, top left, Jane Price, top right and Liz Birchenough, above. Pictures by Tim Johnston)*

New Year Social

There are plans for a social event in the New Year. The Cinnamon Square restaurant in Hildenborough has been provisionally booked for the evening of Thursday January 16. More details will follow in next month's newsletter and via email.

December Meeting

Part Two of the Branch Halloween Extravaganza will be on Tuesday December 10 at Weald Memorial Hall, Long Barn Rd, TN14 6PT at 7.30pm. In October, Huw Griffith presented the first section of his talk about his career in forensic science and this is the second part. This talk is open to guests. Please be aware there will be descriptions and images of evidence which may be distressing.

There will be a Christmas themed raffle and refreshments. We are asking for a small donation of £3 on the door towards expenses. Please email Liz Birchenough if you are planning to attend:

membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk

Course for New Beekeepers

There will be two Introduction to Beekeeping Training courses in the New Year. These are full day classroom events focusing on the practicalities of domestic beekeeping. There are two dates available, Sunday 25th January or Sunday 16th February from 10am to 4pm. The courses will be held at Weald Memorial Hall in Sevenoaks Weald. The fee is £55 for members or friends of Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Beekeepers, £65 for non-members. Anyone who is interested should contact Liz Birchenough for an application form:

membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk

Send photos or articles for the newsletter to: marystaffurth@yahoo.com

Go to our website for all the latest beekeeping news: <http://www.sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk/>