

OBKA NEWS

November 2011

Sunday 20th November OBKA Honey Show, Cumnor Village Hall

Now is the time to submit your entry forms and start preparing your exhibits for this year's Honey Show. Classes cover everything from honey, wax products and mead to cakes, biscuits, fudge and photographs and there are attractive trophies to be won. What better than to be able to tell your friends and customers that you can offer them prize-winning honey!

Schedules and entry forms were posted to members in October and are also available on the OBKA web site.

Please contact me if you have any questions about entering or attending the Honey Show.

While members are encouraged to enter the show, non exhibitors are also very welcome as Martin Buckle, our judge, will be offering many valuable insights on methods that can be used to improve the quality of the various hive products on show. As well as being an experienced judge, Martin is also a very entertaining speaker.

At the show, certificates will be presented to those OBKA members who have been successful in this year's BBKA Basic Examination. Attendance Certificates will also be available for the 46 members who have completed the beginners' training course this year and satisfied the attendance criterion.

Doors open at 13.00 for the setting out of exhibits and judging will commence promptly at 14.00, when all members attending the show should be seated. Judging will be followed by afternoon tea for which food contributions are welcome. We would also welcome prizes for the raffle.

Mike Rose
Honey Show Secretary
Tel 01608 737237
mike.w.rose@btopenworld.com

Directions: From Oxford, leave the A420 three miles from the A34 ring road onto the B4017 northwards signposted Cumnor. Drive through Cumnor on the B4017 almost to the derestriction sign at the northern edge of the village. The Village Hall is on the left and there is ample car parking.

From Eynsham (have 5p ready for the Toll Bridge) take the B4017 towards Cumnor. On entering the village the Village Hall is on the right about 100m past the 30mph sign.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Association:

Sean O'Sullivan	Denchworth
Mark Blanchette	Abingdon
Antoinette Reboul	Ramsden
Ann Poulter	Oxford
Sarianne Durie	Bampton
Ellen Pattullo	Oxford
Wendy Reid	Thame
Lesley Winward	Thame
Matthew Scarborough	Oxford
Melvyn & Michelle Wray	Worminghall
Warren Davies	Duns Tew

Pete Chaunt
Membership Secretary

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

October Meeting

Big Bees, Little Bees and Bees that don't Sting

Approximately 25 members of OBKA arrived at the Coach House, Old Headington on the evening of 14th October to hear Claire Waring, the editor of Beecraft, give her talk on the above subject. Initially there was some concern that the talk might have to be abandoned as Claire couldn't get her computer to talk to her projector, but thanks to the IT skills of Phil Sharman, the problem was fixed and we sat back to enjoy an excellent talk –with superb illustrations–recounting Clair's work in countries such as Mexico and Nepal. She was working with the charity Bees Abroad to develop the production of honey as a necessary source of income –especially for the female members of the families – for villagers in remote parts of the country with few natural resources. Clair showed us some of the incredible techniques used to extract honey from a variety of natural and handmade hives. In particular I was impressed with pictures of mountain bees in Nepal whose colonies could only be accessed by descending down rope ladders on the side of one hundred metre plus cliffs. Honey was then extracted with the help of four metre long bamboo" hive tools ". Rather different from the experiences of most beekeepers in Oxfordshire!

Claire finished her talk with a "plug" for her charity and suggested that if anyone outside the meeting wanted to make a donation or learn more about the work of the charity, they could get information by accessing their website : Bees Abroad Org UK

After a vote of thanks to Claire from Martin Seth Smith we were served refreshments from Gill Oliver and Co. with her team's high quality homemade cakes. Thanks again Gill and helpers for your efforts and to Ros Connell for organising another highly stimulating and successful evening.

Pete Chaut

September Meeting (cont)

After the inspection of the Teaching Apiary Hives we withdrew to a nearby classroom where Nigel Semmence, our Regional Bee Inspector gave a talk on Bee Diseases followed by a display of actual AFB and EFB diseased frames. This was a very valuable opportunity to see what these diseases look like in the comb.

Many thanks Nigel.

FUTURE MEETINGS

7.30pm Fri 9th Dec

A talk by Dr Micheal Keith-Lucas on Bees, pollen and forensics.

Venue- The Coach House, Headington.

Dr Keith-Lucas teaches at the University of Reading in the School of Biological Sciences. His research interests include woodland/tropical rainforest ecology, woodland history, especially prehistoric clearance and pollen studies on archaeological sites, in plant taxonomy, forensic sciences & allergy.

Join us for what is sure to be a fascinating talk.
Directions next time.

SWARM COLLECTORS

If you would like to join the list of Oxfordshire swarm collectors please send a BLANK email titled 'Swarm Collection' to mo.leen@ntlworld.com. You will be sent a reply asking for various details and links to useful sources of information.

We need three beekeepers to act as local district (esp SODC and VOWH) co-ordinators to work with the Swarms Liaison Officer, if you think you could help or would like more information regarding the role please contact him at the above email address.

Mo Leen

OBKA MICROSCOPE

If any OBKA members would like to use the microscope please contact Janet Hillsdon on Oxford 376155 (Kidlington)

I am in most evenings/ weekends and can give any help as required.

Janet

HONEY SUPPLIER WANTED

We are seeking local (Oxfordshire) suppliers of small batch, independently produced honeys to sell in our new outlet opening early next year:

www.thequincetree.com

We will have over 2,000 sq ft of quality fresh and ambient food retail as well as a large café, pub, restaurant and private room facility.

We are very keen to champion local produce and local supply wherever possible.

Contact Kevin Webley at

kevin@fordmcdonaldconsultancy.com

OXFORDSHIRE HONEY FOR SALE

30lb buckets, mostly OSR blend. Filtered and ready to bottle. £80 including the bucket.

Contact Phil 01865 396383

OBKA

The Oxfordshire Beekeepers Association is a registered charity, number 1005846.

The OBKA website is now on-line. Visit

www.oxfordshirebeekeepers.com to see details of future events, links to other useful sites and other relevant information.

The password to the members section is NUTT.

Our Secretary is Mark Lynch, Tel 01993 883266.

Our Membership Secretary is Peter Chaut, Tel 01869 338625.

Our Swarms Liaison Officer is Mo Leen, email

mo.leen@ntlworld.com

Our Seasonal Bee Inspectors are Margaret Holland, Tel 01327 857328 for **North Oxfordshire** and Philip Spillane, Tel 01865 396383 for **South Oxfordshire**.

If you have any articles or information for the Newsletter, items wanted or for sale, or any comments for the editor, contact Phil Spillane. 77 Nightingale Avenue, Oxford, OX47GD. Tel 01865396383. Email

phil@pressexpress.freeserve.co.uk

THORNES AGENT

John and Val Harris are main agents for E H Thorne, and can supply most beekeeping equipment. Contact Val at 95 Buckingham Road, Bicester, OX26 3ES. Tel (01869) 252098.