

NEWSLETTER #221 – December 2016

**Next meeting: 26 January 2017.** Rhu Church hall, from 7.15pm:

**The AGM.** Please make an effort to come along. Members of the committee will be elected and now is the time to air anything and become more involved. Cameron will be sending relevant documents in due course. Of note, please inform Cameron of any issues at least 14 days prior to the meeting. Following the AGM there will be a talk by Michelle Berry who is Development officer for the SBA.

### What's happening in the hive?

Compared to the summer, not much. The queen's laying is around its lowest ebb. This lack of brood (more specifically the lack of sealed cells) means that now is the opportune moment in which to treat with oxalic acid as all the mites will be exposed to the treatment. It should be clear from Cameron's emails that the Association cannot provide oxalic acid solution this year. The recommended option is Api-Bioxal. Unfortunately the logistics are awkward as, once the solution is made up, it is only good for 24h. It's therefore going to be most cost effective to assemble into beekeeping clans and organize the treatment of several peoples' hives

### Winter fair

The winter fair was a raging success. Members were able to sell all of their produce, with the added benefit of incidental advertisement for beekeeping and HDBA. The only improvement is to have more people involved; hopefully next year everyone will be able to contribute in one way or another.



Looking after the stall at the winter fair. (photo: Niki and Eddie's Bees)

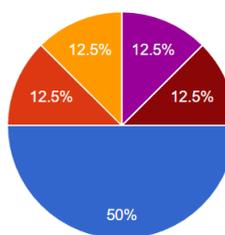
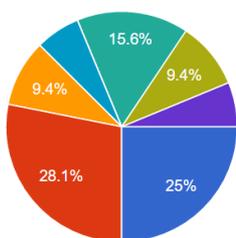
### Bees, Varroa and viruses

At the November meeting Professor David Evans from St Andrews University gave a talk about the three way interaction between bees, Varroa and viruses. Sadly it's a critical factor in beekeeping today and something that requires careful management. Once more, here's the link to his blog where you can sign up for weekly posts: <http://theapiarist.org/>.

## Members' colony survey

Thanks again to everyone who has provided details of their colonies for this year. If you're interested in the breakdown of numbers, here are a couple of pie charts.

How many colonies did you end the season with? (32 respo) How many colonies did you supply to other beekeepers?



## Club Apiary

Please note that Neil will no longer be manager of the club apiary next year. We are still looking for volunteers to take up this task. With many people helping through the summer this needn't be an onerous task.

Link of the month: [https://www.etsy.com/uk/market/beekeeper\\_gift](https://www.etsy.com/uk/market/beekeeper_gift)

Want Thornes vouchers for Christmas? Here's some alternative ideas – jewellery, mugs, ties, a print of old hive parts....

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**Happy Christmas and a happy new year!**