

Cymdeithas Gwenynwyr Conwy Conwy Beekeepers' Association

www.conwybeekeepers.org.uk

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NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2009

Our next meeting is at St David's College on Monday 2nd March **Honey Tasting with Kath McNulty**, starting at 7.30pm.

We will be tasting and comparing different honeys, using the Odour and Aroma Wheel developed by Apimondia. This will enable us to compare honeys objectively. If you have any of your own honey left, or some of your favourite shop honey, please bring it along for tasting. The exercise only requires small quantities, but it will be very interesting to taste different local honeys, and other honey from around the world.

Professional honey tasters are recommended to leave two hours between their last meal and the honey sampling. We do not suggest anything as severe, however we do recommend not eating a large meal just before the meeting.

Wednesday 25th February **Conwy Farmers' Market** at the RSPB Reserve, 9am to 1pm.

Wednesday 18th March, CALU workshop on **Small scale fruit and vegetable production and marketing** at The Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop. Free entry. See attached flyer. Ring Nico Jenkins at CALU on 01248 680450 or email <n.jenkins@bangor.ac.uk> to book a place.

Thursday 26th March **Conwy Seed Fair**, Conwy High Street 9am to 4pm. Space available for plants and seed stalls, crafts and home produce.

Summer programme

Apiary Meetings at Tal y Cafn start on Saturday 4th April. Our full summer programme is now on the website.

Call for members to raise nucs

- Geoff Critchley asked members at the AGM last month to commit to raising nucs of bees, for sale to new beekeepers in 2009.
- Our current evening class has 41 pupils, and they are looking forward to a great summer with their new bees.
- Geoff can supply ripe queen cells if members will make up the nucs.

- Raising nucs for sale can be quite lucrative. Last year's price for a nuc with a laying queen, three combs of brood and five combs of bees was £75 in a returnable nuc hive. Catalogue prices for 2009 are as high as £135 per nuc!
- Members would be asked to mentor the new beekeeper, to ensure the colony builds up well and is prepared for next winter.
- Geoff Critchley will advise when queen cells will be available for transfer to a new nuc.
- Please consider this request carefully and let us know if you can support it.

Members' websites

Geoff Critchley <http://www.honeyhouse.biz/> Bees and beekeeping

Wynne Jones <http://www.beesupplies.co.uk/> Beekeeping supplies

Helen Lowe <http://www.laughingbird-bodycare.co.uk> Hand made bodycare products

Jim Pennington <http://www.conwytrees.com/> Local trees

Contact us if you would like a reciprocal link to your own website on the Conwy BKA website.

The bees are working on the snowdrops now. Stand by the hive on a warm morning and just watch them bringing in the first pollen of the year. This is one of the joys of beekeeping!

Regards.

Peter McFadden

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