

# Whitehaven and District Beekeepers Newsletter

## November 2015

### Apiary News

It has been a mixed year for the bees at the Apiary, with a cold, late spring, a poor summer, but then a warm and dry autumn.

The colonies were slow to build up at the start of the season, and there were problems with poorly-mated queens, leading to drone layers in some hives later in the summer.

Fortunately the fine autumn weather prolonged the season for the bees, with 5 fairly strong hives going into winter.

We were able to extract and bottle about 30 lb of honey, enabling us to pay our annual rent in honey to Westlakes.

### The apiary garden

The garden has developed so much this year.

The first picture shows the garden almost exactly 2 years ago, just after the first planting had been done in the newly-cleared area.



The second picture shows the garden at the end of September this year, with lots of flowering plants providing forage for the bees.



A small team of volunteer gardeners meet at the apiary most Wednesday mornings, to weed and plant. Any new recruits are very welcome to come and join us.

### Apiary Visits

In early September, a group of staff from the Westlakes Science Park came to visit the apiary and look through some of the hives. It seems that some of the people who work on site enjoy walking up to see the garden in their lunch breaks.

### WDBKA Events

#### Second Skep making Day

Following our successful skep-making day in May, we ran a second day in September. This time, the event was advertised to all the branches of Cumbria Beekeepers, so we had

an opportunity to meet people from the Kendal, Penrith and Cockermouth associations. Maggie & Eddy Sewell very kindly offered to host the day in their barn again, and everyone made lots of progress with their skeps.



The chickens seemed very interested, and came in to help, though the main attraction for them was the odd bits of grain in the bundles of straw we were using!



## **W&DBK AGM**

The AGM was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November, at Lamplugh Village Hall. There was a good turn-out, with 25 people attending,

and 12 apologies. The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted and signed off, then the officers reports were presented to the meeting. The treasurer presented the audited accounts of the Association. The bank balance is currently standing at £3,022.46

Alex Nancollis resigned as Membership Secretary, and Piers Manson was elected as her successor. Maggie Sewell has agreed to join the Committee.

The proposition that there should be no increase in the subscription rate was passed unanimously, as was the proposition that the constitution be amended to allow AGM notifications and minutes to be sent to members electronically, except when a member requests a paper copy.

After the AGM, everyone enjoyed a pie and peas supper.

## **Subscriptions for 2016**

The subscriptions for 2016 are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January. The cost of the subscriptions will stay the same as for 2015, namely;

Individual Membership = £27.00

Family Membership = £32.00

Associate Membership = £5.00

Piers Manson is taking over from Alex Nancollis as Membership Secretary, and he will be contacting everyone about their subscriptions before the New Year.



