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24.02.2025



1979 UK Spring flower stamp set

## Hello All

We are pleased to announce that our March Meeting is an 'In house affair' with long term Beekeeper and North Staffs member David Teasdale covering the topic of Swarming. The timing of David's talk is a reminder for beekeeper's that they cannot sit back on their laurels.

Equally, below we have a summarised account of a visit that was made to another long serving committee member John Coady.

Like David, John has been a dedicated servant of our association.

We introduce an exciting project that we hope you will all get involved in.....the  
"Silver Bee Programme"

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From Your Chair

I hope this message finds you buzzing with excitement for the beekeeping season ahead! I wanted to take a moment to bring to your attention a trend we've noticed: our attendance at the monthly meetings has been dwindling somewhat.

I'm sure most of you are aware that these gatherings are not just another event on the calendar; they are an excellent opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who share your passion for bees. Over a welcoming cup of coffee or tea and a biscuit, you can engage in lively discussions about our favourite pollinators or simply share stories about your day-to-day activities.

Our dedicated Programme Secretary works tirelessly to bring us an interesting lineup of speakers, many of whom travel considerable distances to share their expertise with us. This ensures our meetings offer valuable insights into the wonderful craft of beekeeping and the bees themselves.

We truly value each and every meeting and your presence makes a significant difference.

So we would like to ask you to give us your full support where you can.

Lets come together, share our love of bees , and make these gatherings vibrant and enjoyable for all.

Looking forward to seeing you there !

Brian.

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## Swarming

**Wed 05 Mar 2025**

**Speaker: David Teasdale**

**From 19:30**

**At Friends Meeting House**

## 2 Miller St, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Newcastle ST5 1QJ

**note: raffle donations will be greatly appreciated**

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David and his wife Margaret commenced beekeeping in 1985  
He was a founding member of the Longsdon Bee  
Breeding Group and Secretary of North Staffs Beekeepers  
Association for many years.

He served as a BBKA Trustee for six years during which time he  
had responsibilities for the BBKA attendances at National Shows  
such as the Gardeners World Live , Blenheim Palace and  
Chatsworth etc.

He also chaired the production of the new BBKA website and in  
conjunction with Doug Brown designed and implemented the  
BBKA National Swarm List System.

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The developing trend of working towards sustainable bee stocks as a long term goal is something that we would like to see our membership embrace.

Working with your local bee stocks and raising your own queens not only fits with the ethos of sustainability but is more cost effective for the beekeeper, adds to your beekeeping skill set and brings fun into your beekeeping activities too! There is nothing more pleasing than to see a colony of your bees headed by a queen you have produced

So you may ask where do I start?

Well this is where we can help with our new initiative "The Silver Bee Programme" for raising your own queens.

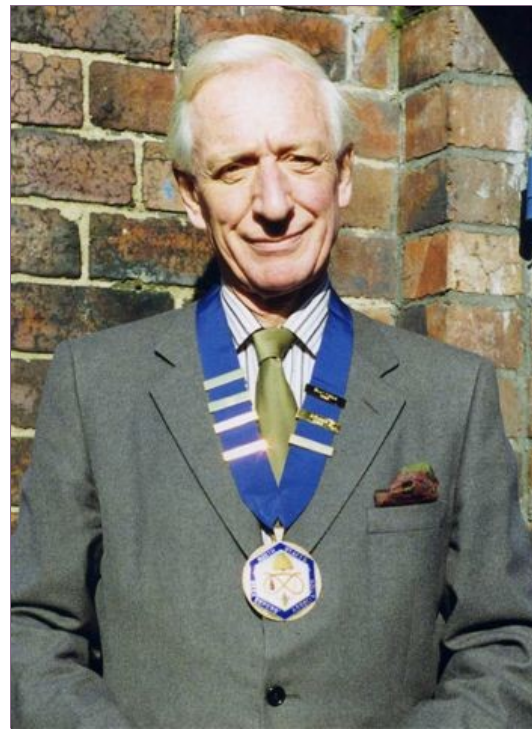
For all the details and to get involved visit the website and complete the expression of interest form without delay!

We need member participation for this project to go ahead  
Here's your link

<https://northstaffsbees.org.uk/join-the-silver-bee-programme/>

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**A VISIT TO NORTH STAFFS MEMBER  
John Coady**



Left hand photo: (left) Mike Birks, Honey Show Manager, (right) Tim Waye, our current President of NSBKA, meeting up with John Coady, ex Chairman, ex President and long serving member of NSBKA.

Right hand photo: John Coady wearing the Presidents Badge of Office.

John started beekeeping in 1979 when he ordered a nuc of bees he saw advertised. In those days a nuc with bees cost £25. After a while he received an urgent call from Stoke Station advising that they had a box for him and it was buzzing. This was the start of years of beekeeping, firstly in his back garden, where he currently lives and then onto a local allotment. John and his wife also had a holiday home in Anglesey where they would stay for several weeks at a time and they used to take their bees with them in the back of the car. He entered the Honey Shows and won many prizes; his name is on some of the trophies and he still has many of his prize cards today plus records of his honey harvests over the years.

John recalled his early life in farming where he started as an apprentice and went on to obtaining an Agricultural Degree at Reading University. The University fees at that time were £50 pa and residence was £99 pa which included 3 meals a day. Then he went up to Kings College in Newcastle and did a Masters Degree in Agriculture engineering. He then became a Farm Manager looking after 2000 acres of farmland and then Managing Director of 1000 acres of farmland in Anglesey. He became a well known celebrity after being a resident on several BBC Radio farming programmes. John also had a spot on Radio Stoke talking about

bees.



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