



# Cumbria Bee Times

Editor: Ian Gregory, Mount View, Carleton, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA1 3DZ  
Telephone: 01228 524054, email: [iangregory550@gmail.com](mailto:iangregory550@gmail.com)

(Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent those of the CBKA)  
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When I first started Beekeeping if someone had said to me that I would need a computer with a video camera and an internet connection I would not have known what they were talking about. The Bee Times was produced on a type writer, on foolscap paper, reproduced a number of times on a Xerox machine and posted out to all members. The only computer I knew about was called Ernie, probably the size of a house, and the internet had not been invented! How things have changed; Even the bee hives can now be monitored remotely. Perhaps the next step is a robotic bee hive, Robohive, and everything will be done remotely. I hope not! However, the modern technology has been extremely useful during this pandemic allowing people to keep in touch, attend meetings and listen to speakers from far afield who would normally not be accessible. Unfortunately there are people who do not have access to this technology, for various reasons, and it is important that they are not forgotten about. The Cumbria Executive Committee, now holding meetings via Zoom, is conscious of this and would like Branches to use alternative methods to keep members, without internet access, informed and involved.

The cover picture shows a honeybee foraging on a Mahonia bush during the middle of November. This late flowering bush is a useful source of nectar and pollen for the bees during the winter months. The winter, so far has been relatively mild and on some days my bees have been taking in pollen as if it was Spring. They are most likely still raising brood and with all this activity there is danger that they could be using up their stores. It is

important that hives are checked for weight and food given in the form of sugar candy or bakers fondant. One indication that the bees may be short of stores is; if there are a lot of bees at the top of the brood nest. Normally during the winter the bees will be lower down and gradually working their way up to consume stores.

The following article is reproduced from the Daily Telegraph and was provided by Margaret Riches of Penrith Beekeepers:

## **Beekeepers stung by invasive plant “hoax”** *by Olivia Rudgard*

Beekeepers are importing the invasive plant goldenrod after falling for fake news on social media, a study has warned.

Researchers at international universities tracked the progress around world of tips on planting and caring for solidago canadensis, also known as Canada goldenrod, which is native to the US but invasive in the UK. In the UK the seeds are available to buy from sellers based in the US and North America on online sites including Tsy, Ebay and Amazon. Claims about the health properties of the plant as a superfood which can cure kidney disease have lead to it being imported into countries across Europe, particularly Poland and Hungary.

But it is widely believed to be one of the worst invasive plants in Europe because of its destructive impact on native wildlife, crowding out wildflowers and decreasing biodiversity. In the UK it is less common, though the authors of the study in *Ecology Letters* said beliefs were prompting more people to seek it out.

The team looked at search results for the term, "how to plant goldenrod for bees", "goldenrod honey" and "goldenrod superfood" in countries including the UK, finding tens of thousand of results for each. They also carried out an experiment testing the survival rates of bees fed solely on goldenrod, comparing this to bees fed solely on goldenrod, comparing this to bees fed on nectar from a mixture of plants and from sugar water. They found the survival rates of the bees fed on goldenrod were tenfold lower.

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**SAVE OUR BEES!  
SAVE OUR FOOD!**

YOU CAN HELP the bees by buying the Penrith Beekeepers Association 2021 Calendar.

£5 each or 3 for £10

To preview the calendar visit [www.penrithbeekeepers.org](http://www.penrithbeekeepers.org)  
To order copies contact 01768 894404 or email [mr4cnr@gmail.com](mailto:mr4cnr@gmail.com)

## Dates for your Diary and Other Events

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### Introducing Beekeeping Course

At the 'Club House' on the Greystoke Castle Estate,

Johnby, near Greystoke.

A PBKA Course

5th- 6th June 2021 led by Julia Pigott & Martin Hoggard.

**beekeeper** as well as those who have started beekeeping, but consider themselves to be **beginners**.

Julia is a highly experienced beekeeper and trainer. She and Martin run the Brigsteer Bee Reserve, just outside Kendal. More information about Julia, the Bee Reserve and her training programmes, along with course feedback, can be found at [www.BeeEd.org.uk](http://www.BeeEd.org.uk)

**Introducing Beekeeping** is a two day course. It will run on the following weekend:

- **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

**Day one** will commence at 9.00. (registration) and finish at 5.45.p.m.

**Day two** will commence at 9.00. and finish by 5.00.

The course will combine theory with practise and will involve an introduction to all the basic skills needed to become a competent, confident beekeeper . It will include a colony inspection.

**Fee: £100** This includes: tuition; loan of kit; information to take home; light refreshments, EXCLUDING lunch. Participants are invited to bring their own packed lunch

**Concessions: £80** PBKA Members **£70** \*students in full time education.

*\*Minimum age 12 years. Students U.18 must be accompanied by an adult who is parent/guardian or officially acting in 'loco parentis' and is also attending the course.*

**Places are limited.** To reserve a place please contact PBKA asap: see below.

Closing date for applications: Fri 21st May 2021.

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### FOR AN APPLICATION FORM & COPY OF THE PROGRAMME

Contact Margaret Riches (PBKA Contact Margaret Riches (PBKA Treasurer)

TEL: 01768 384404 or E mail: [mr4cnr@gmail.com](mailto:mr4cnr@gmail.com)

Or visit PBKA website: [www.penrithbeekeepers.org](http://www.penrithbeekeepers.org)

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Julia Pigott & Martin Hoggard will run the **Introducing Beekeeping** course on behalf of PBKA. It will be of interest to anyone **who would like to become a**

**AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 4  
2021**

**Penrith Beekeepers Association invites  
you to join them on an excursion to**

**Reservations closing date: 31 DECEMBER  
2020**

## **Buzzing off to Slovenia**

**Ljubljana, the ‘beekeeping capital of  
Europe’ .**

**For further information E mail:  
[mr4cnr@gmail.com](mailto:mr4cnr@gmail.com)**

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The next **Cumbria Exec. Meeting** is on 6th February 2021

The **Cumbria Beekeepers 2021 AGM** has been scheduled for 6th March 2021.

For those of you who have internet access try the following link to beekeeping events throughout the UK:

<https://beekeeping.events/>

This gives details of:

The BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting 16th January 2021 and many other interesting talks.

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### **Zoom presentations by Buckfast Beekeepers Association, to be hosted by Penrith Beekeepers Association.**

**Thursday**                    **‘Reading the Colony’ : a presentation by Martin Hann & Clare Densley  
from Buckfast Beekeepers Association**

**14<sup>th</sup> January  
2021  
7.30.p.m  
Zoom**

This talk covers the principals of understanding what can be seen, heard and smelled when looking at and inside the hive and how to put these clues into a meaningful context.

**Thursday  
18<sup>th</sup> February  
2021**

**‘Swarming – oops my bees have swarmed!’  
a presentation by Martin Hann & Clare Densley from Buckfast Beekeepers Association**

**7.30.p.m.  
Zoom**

This talk looks at the reasons bees swarm and the mechanics which unfold prior to that big exit. It looks at a few simple ways to work with the bees to stop them going; the back-up work needed to check how it all went; and encourages the beekeeper to embrace the phenomena of swarming to be full of opportunities, rather than something to be feared or viewed as a nuisance.

To reserve a place/s for one or both of these zoom presentations:

contact Margaret Riches : E mail: [mr4cnr@gmail.com](mailto:mr4cnr@gmail.com) / Tel: 01768 894404

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