



# Cumbria Bee Times

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(Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent those of the CBKA)  
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Looking at the March issue of the Bee Times I made the opening remark "At last we are emerging from winter!" How wrong can you be? The middle of May and it is still cold and after an exceptionally dry April we are now getting the showers that should have brought forth the May flowers. However the Dandelions have been quite prolific this year and on warm days the bees have been working the flowers for nectar and pollen. I discovered the other day that there are 250 species of Dandelion in the British Isles although it is very difficult to identify many of them. However, there is one species of Dandelion that may be of interest and use in the future. This is the Russian dandelion *Taraxacum kok-saghyz*, commonly referred to as the Kazakh dandelion. During World War II the Russians used the latex from the plant to manufacture rubber to make tyres. After the end of the war rubber from trees became more easily available and it was no longer financially viable to produce rubber from the Dandelion. However, in recent years the trees from which rubber is extracted have become threatened by a disease which scientists are concerned that the disease could seriously threaten the production of rubber. Also there is a lot of deforestation to make room for the rubber trees. Tyre manufacturers are again taking a serious interest in the Russian dandelion although it could be another ten years before we have tyres on our cars produced from the latex in the dandelion. So looking to the future Dandelions could be the next crop for farmers and for us Beekeepers!

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### Swarm immunity.

Most of us will by now have been vaccinated against Covid virus and as with many human inventions, when we think that we have found something novel, very often Nature has beaten us to it. Margaret Riches, of Penrith Beekeepers sent me an article on Swarm immunity that was published in the *Journal of Experimental Biology* by Gyan Harwood of the University of Illinois. Being gregarious, honey bees are at constant risk of diseases sweeping through their colonies. Most

animals which live in crowded conditions have particularly robust immune systems. Apparently honey bees do not and this has long puzzled entomologists. In fact the honey bee actually possess fewer immune-related genes than most solitary bees. It has been discovered that queen bees **vaccinate** their eggs by transferring into them, before they are laid, fragments of proteins from disease causing pathogens. These act as antigens which trigger the development of a protective immune response in the developing young. Dr Harwood discovered that the nurse bees incorporate into the Royal Jelly fragments from pathogens they had consumed while eating food brought onto the hive by the foraging bees. These findings suggest that nurse bees are indeed, passing antigens to the larvae which are fed royal jelly for the first few days of their life. Each infant bee is therefore being **vaccinated twice**. Not herd but swarm immunity.

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### Cumbria Beekeepers Executive Committee.

There have been a few changes to the Committee.

The Chairman is now Grahame Pinches

The Secretary is now Debbie Keighley

The President is now Walter McPhee

The Asian Hornet Co-ordinator is Piers Manson

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### Dates for your Diary.

**Saturday 10th July 2021** Sale of Beekeeping Equipment. See details below for this event.

**Saturday 11th September 2021** CBKA Autumn Conference run by the Cockermouth Beekeepers and to be held at the Embleton Village Hall.

**Saturday 20th September 2021** CBKA Honey Show to be held at the Braithwaite Institute.

Bankhead Bee Supplies  
For all your Beekeeping  
Requirements  
Bankhead Farm  
Newby East  
Carlisle  
CA4 8RA  
Tel. No. 01228 573289

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## Cumbria Beekeepers Sale of Beekeeping Equipment

On: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021

At: Newbiggin Village Hall, Newbiggin, Penrith CA11 0HT

Time: Set up: 10.00 - 11.00 Sale: 11.00 - 15.30

Cost: Vendors: £10/car (+ one free car per Branch) Buyers: Free

Plenty of car parking space. Light refreshments available in hall Thornes Agent in attendance

### CONDITIONS

- All unsold equipment to be removed by the seller.
  - All equipment to be free of wax (no drawn comb, etc)
  - Prices for goods to be set/negotiated between Buyer and Seller.
  - Only bee related equipment will be sold.
  - Any bees in nucs will not be allowed to fly.
  - The event is open to both CBKA members and those not associated with CBKA.
  - CBKA members with 1 item to sell may use their Branch car/table.
  - Vendors must manage & remove their own waste.  
Arrangements

This event is for the sale of surplus bee related equipment and literature plus nucs of bees. It will be run as a "Car Boot Sale".

Any social distancing and other Covid measures still in effect on 10<sup>th</sup> July will be followed.

Equipment and bee sales will be outside. Refreshments will be served in the hall. (Bring a mask if appropriate)

## Buyers

- No entry fee.
- Plenty of parking spaces.
- Prices to be negotiated with vendors.
- CBKA does not take any responsibility for sales or equipment sold (i.e. caveat emptor)

## Vendors

- All vendors must register beforehand and provide name and address (see form on page 3).
  - There will be an entry fee of £10/car.
  - Each CBKA Branch may bring one car free of charge.
  - Vendors wishing to use a display table, need to bring their own table.
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## Application Form

I wish to book a vendor space at the CBKA sale of equipment on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Cost is £10/car (pay on arrival).

Please indicate below if you are booking the free space for your Branch

Name:

Postal address:

Contact phone number:

Email:

This is the free space for.....Branch (delete if not relevant)

**Send completed forms to:**

Debbie Keighley, CBKA Secretary, Moss Ghyll,  
Asby,  
Workington,

CA14 4RP

Tel: 01946 861538

E-mail: [debbie.keighley@btinternet.com](mailto:debbie.keighley@btinternet.com)