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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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Winter again and nearly Christmas! As you become older the years seem to pass quicker but the last two years seem, to me, to have moulded in to one. Other people I have spoken to feel the same and all agree it is down to the pandemic and the resultant lockdowns which has restricted our activities. Unfortunately, the Honey Show was, again, cancelled due to the pandemic. Everything seemed to be sorted with a venue booked, a risk assessment carried out and a one way system within the hall planned, and then at the last minute the speakers announced that they would not be able to travel. However, the Honey Show has now been arranged for Saturday the 5th March 2022 at the Southey Street Methodist Church in Keswick. Since the last Cumbria Beekeeper's event held at the Southey Street Church, the building has been refurbished to a very high standard and now provides an excellent venue for the Honey Show, AGM and the speakers following the AGM. Further details will be issued in the New Year.

Recently, we have had early snow and the blackbirds have been feasting on the cotoneaster berries thanks to the bees pollinating the flowers earlier in the year. This is a great plant for attracting all species of bees and hoverflies into the garden. It is not just us humans that rely on the bees for our food but also all the wild animals that live on the berries that grow in the hedgerows and our gardens.



Red Mason Bee on Cotoneaster

Attracting different species of insect into the garden provides the opportunity to observe the differences in the species; their markings and their behaviour. The familiar honeybees and bumblebees are just two of the many diverse stripy insects and not all of them sting. Telling them apart is not easy, but observing their behaviour can help.

Bees are generally hairy and busy, visiting flowers in rapid succession. Wasps hunt other insects, bobbing around flowers and leaves as they search for their prey. Hoverflies don't have a sting, and only two wings, usually held in a delta shape when at rest. They have large eyes which, in the males, take up most of the head, and generally have short, knob like antennae.

The following article was provided Margaret Riches and is from the journal *Science Advances*

Bees use social distancing to stay safe when under threat from dangerous parasites, researchers have found. A study by University College of London found honeybee colonies increase the distance between young and old bees during an infestation of varroa mites. Researchers found that older forager bees move towards the periphery of the nest while young nurse bees move towards its centre. The bees also stop carrying out waggle dances in central parts of the hive, which can increase varroa transmission. The team discovered the new bee behaviour by comparing colonies which were infested with varroa mites, with those that were clean.

AUGUST 29 – SEPTEMBER 3 2022

Buzzing off to Slovenia Penrith

Beekeepers Association invites you to join them on an excursion to Ljubljana, the 'beekeeping capital of Europe' .

Reservations closing date: 31 DECEMBER 2021

For further information E mail:

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Penrith Beekeepers Association have produced their annual calendar for 2022



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This has been a familiar advert in the Bee Times for over 25 years. However, owners John and Mary Harris have now decided to retire and will no longer be providing this service to the beekeeping community. Throughout this time Bankhead Bee Supplies have

supported the Bee Times in many ways. Before the digital age they provided paper for the Bee Times to be printed on and topics of interest from Thorne's news bulletins . They also supported the Cumbria Autumn Conference, run by Cockermouth Beekeepers, by providing a stall at the event and raffle prizes.

John is a Life Member of the Cumbria Beekeeping Association and earned this recognition for his role as Chairman and his support to the Cumbria Executive Committee.

We wish them both a long and happy retirement and our grateful thanks for their work and commitment to the Cumbria Beekeepers.

Dates for Your Diary

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty over the ongoing pandemic, there is not much to report although the Executive Committee are doing their utmost to bring social meetings back to normal.

5th March 2022 AGM and Honey Show at the Southey Street Church Rooms, Keswick.