

Cumbria

Bee Times



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(Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor and do not necessarily present those of the CBKA)
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June in the Apiary

I have just read in the BBKA News "With warm weather in June the bees will be hard at work". Well, certainly not this week! As I write, it is cold and wet, with a forecast very much the same for the next week. How different this is to last year when we had scorching temperatures and very little rain, although up to now this year has been comparatively dry. It is very difficult to plan anything that relies on the weather and at times like this the bees need all the help we can give them.

One way is to make our gardens bee friendly by growing flowers that will attract bees and other beneficial insects. It is something that I have done for many years and it is surprising the variety of insects that can be attracted to the urban garden.

In regard to this I was particularly grateful to Margaret Riches, of Penrith Beekeepers, for sending me the following article that she had read in the Telegraph.

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust has upgraded its Bee Kind tool so that gardeners can assess their plants and receive recommendations on ways to raise their garden's bee-friendly score.

The free app assesses the latest scientific findings and gives plants a Bee Kind score, depending on which plants work best for the insects. It also contains a wide range of new features allowing users to personalise the planting advice they receive.

The Bee Kind plant information will be continually updated as more scientific data becomes available.

The Trust says the tool is suitable for schools, businesses, local authorities and the public to improve gardens and green spaces for bee and other insects.

Give it a try. Go to:-

beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org

In our garden we have a number of species of solitary bees nesting in various places, including, I suspect, under the floor boards, having gained access through a ventilation brick! This picture is of one of the culprits on

the cotoneaster and is one of the many Mining Bees. I am reluctant to say which one as there are a few that look similar to each other.



Cotoneaster is an excellent shrub for attracting bees, of all types. The flowers are extremely small but during early June they are covered in bees and during the winter there is an abundance of red berries which the Blackbirds love and during very cold snaps we have had Fieldfares taking their share.

Dates for Your Diary.

There are a number of interesting and informative events that have been organised to further your interest and knowledge of beekeeping.

Cumbria Beekeepers – Cockermouth Branch Autumn Convention – 7 Sep 2019 Admission £10

Embleton Village Hall, Nr. Cockermouth
(Includes free tea, coffee and biscuits)

For Booking Contact:- Peter Weatherill
peterweatherill@btinternet.com

- 9.00 am Welcome/Coffee
- 9.30 am Beekeeping and the Law – Dr Fred Ayres
- 10.45 am Tea/Coffee
- 11.15 am What the books don't tell you – Tony Jefferson
- 12.45 pm Lunch (This is available from the nearby Embleton Spa Hotel at a concession rate or attendees may bring their own, tea/coffee will be available in the venue. Other eateries are available in the village)
- 2.00 pm An Alternative Approach to Beekeeping – Dr Fred Ayres
- 3.15 pm Tea/Coffee
- 3.30 pm Never Waste a Queen Cell – Tony Jefferson
- 4.15 pm Raffle Draw and Close



Charity number: 1170487

[Taking a Closer Look at the Opportunities to Learn More about Beekeeping through the British Beekeeping Association \(BBKA\) Assessments.](#)

**Saturday 19th October 2019 at
Newbiggin Village Hall, Newbiggin,
Penrith (CA11 OHT)**

One of the BBKA's charitable aims is to raise the standards of beekeeping practices through a series of courses and exams. Taking the practical and written assessments will help you understand

more about Beekeeping and become a more confident practitioner.

The day will aim to provide more information about:

- the assessment opportunities which BBKA offers on the topics that individual beekeepers would like to learn more about.
- approaches to preparing for these assessments and what will be involved in the assessment procedure
- accessing support networks

Each training session will be led by **Margaret Murdin.**

Margaret is currently the President of the BBKA Trustees. She has been a member of the Exam Board and is currently Assistant Moderator for the written exams. Margaret is a BBKA Assessor for the Basic, General and Advanced Husbandry Assessments and writes, moderates and marks the written papers. She is also a tutor for Correspondence Courses.

Programme Outline:

Beekeepers across Cumbria were recently invited to indicate the assessments that they would most like to learn more about. The programme is based on the information that was received. The two sessions focusing on assessments which involve a written exam, will also include guidance related to study techniques, the importance of study groups and opportunities through the correspondence courses.

You are invited to sign up for **one or more** of the sessions as required.

9.15-10.30	Basic Assessment
10.45.-12.00.	General Husbandry Certificate
12.45.-2.00.	Honey Bee Health Certificate
2.15- 3.30.	Pest Diseases & Poisoning (exam)
3.45.-5.00	Honey Bee Biology (exam)

Tea and coffee will be available between the sessions, but those opting to stay all day, or for sessions 2 and 3 will need to bring a packed lunch/make other arrangements. .

**Cost : One session: £15 Two sessions: £25
Three or more sessions: £30**

Concession: In full time education 50% discount.

**For further information contact: Margaret Riches
Tel: 01768 894404 / E mail: mr4cnr@gmail.com**

Fancy buzzing off to Slovenia??

Penrith Beekeepers Association invites you to join them on an

Excursion to Slovenia

Monday 31st August - 5th September 2020

One in 200 Slovenians is a beekeeper. There are more than 4,500 colonies in Ljubljana, which is becoming recognised as the 'beekeeping capital of Europe'.

Penrith Beekeepers Association, in collaboration with Aritours and the Apiroutes Travel Agency, is planning a 6 day excursion to Slovenia, based in Ljubljana, but visiting beekeepers and places of interest further afield.

The programme will be designed to be of interest to non-beekeepers as well as beekeepers. Family members/ friends are, therefore, also welcome.

The cost per individual will be based on the overall group size and the exchange rate at the time of booking, but is likely to be in the region of 700 Euros, excluding flights.

Places are limited. Provisional reservations are now being taken.

For further information contact:

Margaret Riches Tel: 01768 894404 / E mail: mr4cnr@gmail.com

Expressions of interest will not be regarded as a commitment at this stage, but will ensure that you will be sent:

-updated versions of the programme as it develops

Cumbria Beekeepers Autumn Honey Show

Sunday 3rd November 2019, 9.30am to 5.00pm at the Braithwaite Institute, Keswick.

Cumbria Beekeepers AGM

Saturday 7th March 2020, 2.00pm to 4.00pm at the Braithwaite Institute, Keswick.

Next Issue of the Bee Times

Deadline for submitting articles for inclusion in the next issue of the Bee Times is September 2019.

I look forward to receiving articles from you. I am sure that you all have a story to tell that will be of interest to readers of the Bee Times.

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