

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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Happy New Year!

A Patricia Cornwell Day for Beekeepers

I have held the opinion that the Cumbria Beekeepers Association members hold expertise in all manners of the beekeeping art and science. On Saturday 23rd November I attended a Bee Anatomy Day sponsored by the Whitehaven and District Beekeepers Association. I arrived at the Lamplugh Village Hall for 9.00am to be presented with a sea of Microscopes and equipment set out and ready for use on several tables. Tea and biscuits scoffed, Val Sullivan presented the first lecture on Bee Anatomy to beekeepers from all around the county. Dominic Rhodes followed with a lecture on the Use of Microscopes. The overhead projection of pictures of bees were particularly impressive. An electron microscope view of the bee's eye looked like a work of art.

We each had our own allocated microscope. After lunch the first task was to embed a freshly killed bee into wax that had been set in a jam jar lid. This was done by heating the end of a tent peg in a meths burner and melting a small area of wax with the hot tent peg before sitting the bee face down in the pool of wax. Once set, the task was to cut away the top part of the abdomen exposing the internal organs. A liquid was added to the jam jar lid to allow the body parts to float out when encouraged with a probe. Using the microscope, I was able to identify the various parts of the gut. A further poke around into the abdomen and I was able to float out the sting. This I transferred to a microscope slide for better viewing.

Another separate task was to check for Acarine. This is a mite that lives and multiplies in the breathing tubes within the bee's thorax. So, you take a dead bee and pin it to a block of rubber. Then cut off its head and look inside the thorax to see the breathing tubes (tracheae). If no acarine mites are present, then the tubes appear white. If the mites are present then the trachea is brown. Fortunately, the bee from my hive was white and clear of any evidence of the mite. I understand that the treatment for varroa will also kill any acarine mites.

Richard Robinson did a test for Nosema spores in a Whitehaven apiary hive by collecting 30 bees, removing their abdomens and grinding them into a paste.

A sample was set on a slide and placed under the microscope to check for evidence of the rice grain shaped spores. The hive was given the all clear.

If you are interested in this side of beekeeping keep a look out for these events advertised within this magazine.

A good starter book is the 'Practical Microscopy for Beekeepers' by Bob Maurer.

An excellent day for all. Thanks for the effort of our fellow beekeepers, who presented the subject in a very interesting and informative way. The standard of training would not be bettered in any part of the country.

M.Fitzgerald Cockermouth



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A hive for all your Apiary equipment

Agents for Thorne

From "**The Honey Bee: A Beekeeper's Manual 1853**

Rev.L. Langstroth

"I shall now show how liquid honey, exceedingly beautiful to the eye, and tempting to the taste, may be made to great advantage. Dissolve two pounds of the purest white sugar, in as much hot water as will be just necessary to reduce it to a syrup; take one pound of the nicest white clover honey, (any other light colored honey of good flavor will answer,) and after warming it, add it to the sugar syrup, and stir the contents. When cool, this compound will be pronounced, even by the best judges of honey, to be one of the most luscious articles which they ever tasted, and will be, by almost every one, preferred to the unmixed honey"

They did things differently then!

Beehivemaker

Beehives made to order

Peter Harris

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Carlisle

CA2 7AF

Mobile no:07830432014

FURNESS SPRING CONVENTION

Furness and District Beekeepers March 1st

For more information contact the Furness Secretary

BEEKEEPING FOR THE BEGINNER

Whitehaven and District Beekeepers March 8th

A one day course for people who want to know what beekeeping entails. 9.45-4.30 at Lamplugh Village Hall
Contact the Whitehaven Branch Secretary for more details

BBKA SPRING CONVENTION

Harper Adams April 4th -6th

Trade Show open on 4th and 5th .Contact BBKA for more details
Penrith BKA may run a bus to the convention on Saturday5th.

BEE AUCTION

Houghton Village Hall 26th April

(if the Spring weather is bad again the date may be changed to 24th May)

Contact P.Harris for more details.

He also has some second hand Nationals for sale

DISEASE/GOOD HUSBANDRY DAYS

In 2014 the Northern Inspection Team will be organising 4 one-day "Disease and Good Husbandry" events throughout the region. The locations, dates and contacts are:

Stockport-Saturday May 17th.

Contact Mr Roy Brocklehurst on 0161 480 2637 -no e-mail

Lancaster Saturday June 28th

Contact Ms Alayne Robin on 01524221592 or 07766516327;
e-mail alaynerobin@gmail.com

Penrith Saturday July 12th

Contact Dr Margaret Riches on 01768894404 or 07957867324;
e-mail mr4cnr@gmail.com

County Durham Date to be confirmed, probably July

Contact Mrs Lynn Ramsay on 01388527819 or 07969020508;
e-mail lynnrmsay@hotmail.co.uk

These events will focus on

- 1.Varroa control/management
- 2.Good husbandry/hygiene/barrier management
- 3.Diseased and "confusion" comb recognition
- 4.Nosema diagnosis and management
- 5.Practical hands on examination of honeybee colonies for disease

Further information of timing and locations will be forwarded to your Association in the early part of 2014. Associations will be asked to encourage 1st and 2nd year beekeepers on the course and particularly beekeepers who have not attended this type of training course before. Pre-booking to reserve a course will be necessary

(From the Annual FERA disease report. The rest of the document can be seen on the CBKA website)