

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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Good Bee Husbandry Day

Newbiggin Penrith Saturday July 12th

Over 60 beekeepers enrolled for the fourth Bee Husbandry Day run by Fera in the North this summer. The day was organised into 4 workshops of 1 hour each and included a practical demonstration of 1/How to examine Brood frames properly for the signs of diseases, 2/How to change old comb for new, 3/Varroa management and 4/ Brood diseases recognition session. The weather was glorious which made it a pleasure to examine the live bee colonies in the shade of a gazebo.

The chance to see diseased combs, once we were dressed in protective gloves and aprons, in a closed room was invaluable. No beekeeper would wish to see AFB or EFB in his apiary, so better to gain experience of the signs of these and other diseases with the guidance of Bee Inspectors than miss them later on. Good examples of other diseases were included; sac brood, bald brood, chalk brood and also varieties of mislaying (Drone layer, laying workers, so called scrub Queen cells etc)

There were plenty of the updated Fera booklets on Bee Diseases to collect for bedtime reading later, as well as books and information sheets on Bee friendly garden planting. A disease recognition quiz acted as an aide de memoire for the day's lessons.

Thanks to both our Northern Bee Inspectors and Penrith beekeepers for a very interesting day.

Microscopy for Beekeepers

In the Autumn Whitehaven Beekeepers will be running another Microscopy Day for beekeepers who wish to improve their microscopy skills. Depending upon demand this will be a day concentrating on either some common Bee diseases or on identifying some of the many pollens collected by bees during their foraging trips. There will be microscopes available for those who do not have their own, and all necessary equipment and tuition to enable all those who attend to go on to become confident microscopists.

Airedale Beekeepers Association are concerned about the BBKA declining to support the moratorium on neonicotinoids. It was clear from audience questions and informal conversations at the YBKA spring conference that many YBKA members share this concern.

Studies continue to show a strong connection between neonicotinoids and bee mortality. For example, a study by the Harvard School of Public Health, published in May, replicated a 2012 finding of a link between Colony collapse disorder and sub-lethal doses of imidacloprid and also found the same effect from clothianidin, both neonicotinoids, independent of mite infestation

On June 24th 2014, the Task Force on Systemic Pesticides, a group of global independent scientists, conducted a meta-analysis of 800 peer-reviewed reports, concluding that "...neonicotinoids pose a serious risk of harm to honeybees and other pollinators". Dr Jean-Marc Bonmatin of the French National Centre for Scientific research, stated, "We are witnessing a threat to the productivity of our natural and farmed environment equivalent to that posed by organophosphates or DDT. Far from protecting food production, the use of neonicotinoids is threatening the very infrastructure which enables it".

Finally, in March 2014 the US-based Centre for Food Safety released a scientific literature review, stating that neonicotinoids, which are used indiscriminately and prophylactically, appear to offer "...little benefit, do not increase crop yields... claimed crop yield benefit is largely illusory."

The evidence against neonicotinoids is mounting, yet the current EU neonicotinoid moratorium lasts only two years (ends in 2015). We therefore feel the issue is urgent for both beekeepers and pollinators.

In the light of the above and other recent studies as well as the requirements of the precautionary principle, we would like to find out the extent to which these issues concern other BBKA members. We have therefore attached a short survey which you can access at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JFYVYRP> and we would greatly appreciate your completing it by July 25th.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GOSFORTH SHOW. WHITEHAVEN AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ANNUAL HONEY SHOW

Gosforth Show Ground August 16th

Schedules and entry forms are available from the Whitehaven Secretary. Closing date for entries is 1st August.

COCKERMOUTH CONVENTION

Embleton Village Hall Sept ember 13th

Speakers will be Margaret Murdin, Master Beekeeper, Examiner for the BBKA Examination Board and winner of the Wax Chandlers Award, and Martin Smith previous President of the BBKA, and at present President of the BDI. For more details look on the CBKA website. Booking is not necessary– just note the date and turn up for a good day of talks on Beekeeping

CUMBRIA BEEKEEPERS ANNUAL HONEY SHOW AND CONFERENCE

Newbiggin Village Hall November 15th

Details will be posted on the website, and will be available in the next CBT

Hive Alive

If you missed the two programmes about beekeeping on BBC 2 on Tuesday 15th and 22nd July, they are worth catching up with on I player. Martha Kearney and Chris Packham were guided around the bee colony and the hive with the help of Professor Adam Hart and red and white tagged bees Some of the photography was stunning including close ups of waggle dancing and of Queen mating.

Local Beekeeping Suppliers

Bankhead Bee Supplies

For all your Beekeeping Requirements
Bankhead Farm, Newby East, Carlisle, CA4 8RA
Telephone:01228 573289
Your local agent for Thorne and Sherriff

Richard & Anne Kenyon

Burnsmead Farm
Little Urswick, Ulverston
Tel 01229 869363
A hive for all your Apiary equipment
Agents for Thorne

Beehivemaker

Beehives made to order
Peter Harris
Unit 8A Port Road Business Park
Carlisle
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Mobile no: 07830432014

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The Bee Book Paper

Northern Bee Books have launched a monthly newsletter including a catalogue of Bee books for sale. They also now have a facebook page and plan an inventory of second hand books for sale to be included in future. The first newsletter concentrates on “natural beekeeping” including Warre and Top bar beehives . Go to:www.northernbeebooks.co.uk.

Summer worker

