

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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Small Hive Beetle confirmed in Italy

On September 11 2014, the Italian National Reference Centre for beekeeping confirmed the first detection of the presence of Small Hive Beetle (SHB) in South West Italy, in the port city of Gioia Tauro. The samples were taken from a bait trap (similar to the Sentinel Apiaries in the UK) belonging to the University of Gioia Tauro.

Since its discovery, urgent measures are underway to measure the extent of the outbreak, complete tracings (sales and movements of bees from the area) and eradicate and control its spread in line with EU legislation and safeguards. Measures include the destruction of all colonies where the beetle is found and treatment of soil surrounding the land.

Since 2011, there has been a substantial level of imports of package bees and queens from Italy into the UK. The NBU is arranging for further inspection of colonies belonging to these beekeepers, but in the meantime beekeepers are reminded to remain vigilant when checking their colonies and to report any suspicious sightings.

For more information about this exotic pest and the things beekeepers should do look in the NBU advisory leaflet 'The Small Hive Beetle'.



Small Hive Beetles; adults and larvae

Brougham Hall Bee Festival

Brougham Hall's first ever Bee Festival at the end of August proved an outstanding success, bringing together experts and bee enthusiasts from all over the county. The aim of the festival was to highlight the plight of bees whilst demonstrating how important they are to our own lives and promoting ways to support bees in our Ecosystem.

The Cumbria Beekeepers Association was well represented by a variety of different branch members who provided an impressive array of beekeeping equipment, literature and on-hand expertise to the public.

Other organisations present included The Bumblebee Conservation Trust, The National Trust from Acorn Bank, B&Q, Newton Rigg College, Friends Of The Earth and many more.

Members of Penrith Beekeepers Association provided a range of activities for all ages to participate in, from being a Bee Detective to making your own bees wax candle. Honey extractions proved very popular and took place all afternoon under the expert eye of Dennis Chambers, Penrith's Branch Apiary Manager. PBKA raised just over £100 which included selling £45 of Acorn Bank honey from the Branch Apiary.

Many members of the public commented on what an interesting and productive day they had at the Festival so congratulations to all who supported the event.

Sue Hannon

Classifynder

You may not have heard of the Classifynder yet, there are only a few of them available at present and the only reason they have come to the editor's attention is because Ken Hodgson, a Cockermouth beekeeper, has a relative who has been part of the development team for this invention. The Classifynder is a system which will examine glass slides of pollen, classify and count the grains and give feedback to Palynologists. This will take the drudgery out of manual pollen counting in all sorts of applications; Forensic science, climate change assessments and honey quality assessments to name but a few.

Cumbria Beekeepers Association

Present their

Autumn Convention and Annual Honey Show

at The Newbiggin Village Hall.

Saturday 15th November 2014 at 10.00 am

Admission £10.00 to include a light lunch of Soup and Rolls.

The doors open at 10.00am for registering and staging exhibits. During the day there will be talks on Pollen and on Queen rearing. The annual Branch Reports after lunch will be followed by the usual "Ask the Experts" session and demonstration of interesting bee related gadgets. The presentation of awards for the best exhibits will include explanations by the Judge of his reasons for the awards. For full details of the show look on the CBKA website, or ask your secretary for a paper copy of the catalogue.

Bankhead Bee Supplies

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Your local agent for Thorne and Sherriff

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Cockermouth Convention 13th September

The Cockermouth Convention at Embleton Village Hall was a great success with a good turn out on a gloriously sunny Saturday.

Margaret Murdin, Master Beekeeper and winner of the Wax Chandler Award, spoke about moving on from being a novice to becoming a proficient beekeeper and also on how to improve bee stocks.

Martin Smith, past President of BBKA and presently of the BDI, spoke about beekeeping trends and also gave us 10 top tips from 30 years of beekeeping. At least one of these tips was hotly contested by the audience.

Both speakers expressed the wish to see more new beekeepers take the Basic Assessment, and confirmed their willingness to facilitate this next year.

Thanks to the Cockermouth Branch for an excellent day.

C B K A Executive Meeting Sept 6th

Following recent criticism of the CBKA (What is it for? What does it do? Who is on the Executive committee?) it was decided at the most recent meeting, on 6th September, that minutes of the meetings will be posted on the website for all members to see; Agenda, discussions, decisions.

The CBKA constitution will also be posted on the site. Members will notice that the constitution invites two members from each branch to attend meetings as well as the elected members.

Next Executive meeting: Sat 4th Oct 2.00pm
Southey St, Keswick.