

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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Himalayan Balsam

From late July through to September beekeepers are delighted to see their bees arriving at the hive entrance covered in a whitish pollen, from Himalayan Balsam. From a distance they almost look like snow flakes floating down. The bees work the Balsam avidly -a great source of nectar late in the season. I have often wondered about the nutritional value of the pollen, as I have observed bees emerging from the hive to go foraging with as much pollen on their backs as when they had returned from a foraging flight.

There may be other reasons such as the bees are too busy to fully clean themselves or that the pollen is difficult to remove. Twenty years ago I may have heard of Himalayan Balsam but I had never seen it, even though it was introduced into this country in 1839. Now it is everywhere, and has, to non- beekeepers, become a major problem. The EU has updated the Regulation on Invasive Alien Species such that Himalayan Balsam is one of five plants widely grown in UK gardens that are to be banned from sale, and further controls include the cultivating, transportation and releasing the species into the wider environment. So, beekeepers beware, don't spread the seeds as you will be liable for a hefty fine!

Is this the beginning of the end of a late and useful source of nectar? I doubt it, as it will be difficult to eradicate the plant completely. However, sensible control without the use of herbicides is obviously required, to prevent further damage to river banks and the exclusion of native species.

I. Gregory



Honey Bee, covered in white pollen, leaving a Himalayan Balsam Flower.

CUMBRIA BEEKEEPERS AUTUMN CONVENTION HOSTED BY COCKERMOUTH BEEKEEPERS

SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

Admission £10

The Convention will be held at Embleton Village Hall,

9.00am Welcome/Coffee
9.30 am Thermo-Regulation of the Bee Hive – Keith Bartlem
10.45 am Tea/Coffee
11.00 am My 60 Years with Bees – John Horborough
12.00 pm Bees v Elephants my experiences in Sri Lanka Rebecca Sargent
12.45 pm Lunch (available from the nearby Embleton Spa Hotel at a concession rate or bring your own. Tea/coffee will be available in the venue all day the day.
2.00 pm Queens – Politics of the Hive – Keith Bartlem
3.15 pm Tea/Coffee
3.30 pm TBD - John Horborough
4.15 pm Raffle Draw and Close

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

Cumbria Beekeepers Association

*Present their Autumn Conference and Annual honey Show at the Newbiggin Village Hall.
Saturday 4th November 2017 at 09.00am*

Admission £10.00 to include a light lunch of soup and rolls.



JUDGE Peter Matthews
STEWARD Christine Matthews

Classes:

1. Two Jars Light Honey
2. Two Jars Medium Honey
3. Two Jars Dark Honey
4. Two Jars Granulated Honey
5. Two Jars Creamed Honey
6. Two Jars Chunk Honey
7. Two Jars Heather Honey
8. One section, free from heather honey
9. One section, Heather Honey
10. Two Cartons Cut-Comb Honey
11. One Shallow Frame, (not heather) suitable for extraction
12. One Shallow Frame (heather)
13. One cake of Beeswax – Plain
14. One cake of Beeswax – Decorative
15. Two Beeswax candles – Dipped
16. Two Beeswax candles – Moulded
17. One Apiary Product ready for sale (jar, cut-comb, section etc.)
18. One bottle of Mead – dry
19. One bottle of Mead – sweet
20. Six Honey Biscuits:
21. One Honey Cake:
22. Open Confectionary class
23. Beginners Class – One Jar of Honey

The Cumbria Honey Show

is the one occasion in the year when you can show off your apiary produce and possibly take home one of those coveted trophies. It is a great occasion for meeting other Beekeepers and for attending some good lectures without having to travel far. **Your Branch Secretary will have all the information, rules for exhibits and directions for the venue. There are no excuses for missing this day!**

Dates for your Diary

CBKA Committee meetings

Dates to be announced

Cockermouth Convention Embleton Village Hall 9th September Full details from your Branch Secretary

National Honey Show Sandown Park Surrey 26th-28th October

Cumbria Honey Show Newbiggin Village Hall Saturday 4th November Full details from your Branch Secretary



BRANTWOOD

This country house in Cumbria, overlooking Coniston Water was the home of a number of prominent people, most notably John Ruskin. The house and grounds are administered by a charitable trust, the house being a museum dedicated to Ruskin. He designed the gardens to contain many interesting bee friendly plants and also a bee house for the skeps of the household's bee colonies.

