

# 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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## Autumn and the Bees

The nights are drawing in and the drones are leaving home –it is time to be getting ready for the winter.

The first thing to consider is how many colonies you wish to take through the winter. Is that small colony which never really got going worth treating, feeding and worrying about, for it to surely die out due to lack of numbers as the cold sets in? Combining hives is easy and makes for a greater chance of survival for the larger colony. It also concentrates the mind on getting rid of poor or old queens, and boosting the numbers for the better colonies.

Varroa counts will give you an idea of levels of infestation. Biotechnical control methods through the summer should have kept numbers down and treating now will ensure stronger bees for the winter months, with the possibility of a mid winter treatment with Oxalic acid when broodless. Options for Autumn treatment all have some drawbacks to consider. If you opt for thymol (Apiguard) the temperature needs to remain around 15 c for the duration of the treatment which involves one tray over the brood box followed by a second after two weeks, remaining on until empty, only after which can feeding be started. Bees seem to dislike the treatment and can become quite agitated.

Pyrethroid strips are now little used because of the development of resistant mites ( partly due to beekeepers forgetting to remove the strips after the 6 to 8 week treatment period). However for many, these might be an option if they have not been used for several years. If in doubt you can use a pyrethroid test kit first to determine resistance.

MAQS strips are easy to apply and have the advantage of killing Varroa mites within the brood. However they certainly take a toll on the bees with smaller colonies often being wiped out. Other options include Apilife Var and more toxic compounds.

Whatever you choose Varroa mites need controlling before feeding the bees well to ensure that they start next year in a good state to build up for the 2016 honey season.

## Greystokes Castle October 16th 7.30pm

Penrith Beekeepers invite you, your family and friends to a Tudor Banquet. Entertainment will be in suitable style(Northumbrian Harpists, Morris dancing, Mummers) Tudor dress is optional. For more details contact Sue Hannon 01768 341489 or suehannon782@yahoo.co.uk.

### 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

## Cockermouth Convention Sat 5th Sept

Parking at the Embleton Hall was a lot easier this year with the development of the new car park

Those who came to the day enjoyed entertaining talks from Ian Craig and Stewart Beattie.

Ian, is well known, not least for his method of keeping bees on a two brood box system, explained the advantages of this for management throughout the year, including better ventilation, insulation, comb movement and feeding, and since he has averaged 61 lbs honey per hive this year despite the poor summer we should take notice. In his afternoon talk he gave us tips on preparing different types of honey for the show bench and for sale.

Stewart Beattie talked in the morning about Queen rearing using various methods but especially the Jenter kit equipment, and in the afternoon gave a clear and timely talk on Varroa treatment and the risks to bees in this area from other diseases. He demonstrated the relative risks of each disease through the last century with comparable charts of human disease incidence.

Thanks go to the Cockermouth Branch for an enjoyable day. We will return next year to the same venue on the same Saturday( date for your 2016 diary: the Saturday after the August Bank holiday)

## Dates for your Diary

### Next Cumbria Beekeepers Exec

#### Meetings:

Sat 19th Sept 14.00 and Sat 17th Oct  
at Southey St Methodist Church,  
Keswick.

Please make sure at least 1 member  
attends from your Branch. If in doubt  
contact your Branch Secretary for  
more details.

Sat 7th November :

### Annual Cumbria Beekeepers Honey Show

Southey St Methodist Church,  
Keswick. Full details including  
Speakers and Show classes are  
available from your Branch Secretary,  
the CBKA Secretary or the website.

Sat 28th Nov :Wax Day

at Ravenbridge Mill

Details from Sarah Wilson

sarahravenbridge@gmail.com

## Stuck on You, by Pam Ayres

I miss my lovely wife, she's gone, I've lost her, that's for  
sure,  
Bees have tampered with her brain; she is besotted, she's a  
bore,  
She talks a different language; it's all gibberish to me,  
With her Modified Commercial and her WBC.

She's working in the shed, I am a very lonely chap,  
She's making up the frames, going tappy-tappy-tap.  
I get no smile of greeting as she nails another batch,  
Her mouth is full of gimpy pins. They might go down the  
hatch.

Every time I see my wife I think I'm going to choke,  
She is permanently trapped in an engulfing cloud of smoke,  
We'd apples on the branches once, that's how it used to be,  
Now great swarms of honey bees are hanging from the tree.

I see a stealthy figure in the dingy undergrowth!  
I catch a flash of metal and I swear a mighty oath,  
"A terrorist" I cry, and leap up brandishing the poker,  
To see my wife emerging with a hive tool and a smoker.

My spouse was cool and fragrant; once we cuddled and we  
kissed,  
Before she took the veil and called herself an apiarist,  
She drops her suit and doesn't care what anybody thinks,  
It may be smoke or sweatiness, but either way she stinks.

I miss her company; we don't do anything together,  
She takes her bees to Scotland; they go camping in the  
heather,  
Then, when they come back again, her one and only topic,  
Is honey Caledonian and glories thixotropic.

When buying birthday presents I am overwhelmed with  
gloom  
She's not a gal contented with a bottle of perfume,  
Her needs are very complex. Can I find? Can I afford?  
A solar wax extractor, straining tank and Snelgrove board?

Autumn is upon us; bleakly now the leaves are lost,  
The hives are cosy in the cold no matter what the cost,  
Varroa has been taken on with remedies assorted,  
Mice are disappointed; Woody Woodpecker is thwarted.

My wife's on the extractor and the house looks like a slum,  
She makes me wind the handle which in turn rotates the  
drum  
Thickly in the warming tank we watch the honey pour,  
With hands stuck to the table and with feet stuck to the floor.

Now from our endeavour, see the product, see the fruits,  
Of summer days spent sweltering in reeking gloves and  
boots,  
By tanks of golden honey we are richly reimbursed  
I'd give my wife a cuddle... if she had a shower first.

(Reproduced by kind permission from Pam Ayres)

provided by Sarah Richards from the W&DBK newsletter.

#### CONTACTS FOR BRANCHES

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Full details of CBKA events and  
Officers contacts can be found  
on the Cumbria Beekeepers  
website  
Cumbriabeekeepers.co.uk

There are several other non-  
affiliated Associations in the  
North West

#### Beehivemaker

Beehives made to order  
Peter Harris  
Unit 8A Port Road Business Park  
Carlisle  
CA2 7AF  
Mobile no: 07830432014