

# Cumbria Bee Times

New issue 1

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(Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent those of those of the CBKA)



## Introducing your new Editor

Cumbria Bee Times has been a feature of the County Beekeeping scene for over 50 years and although my skills in editing and publishing are rudimentary I really feel that to see the bi-monthly newsletter wither away is something that I cannot stand by and allow to happen. I would like to receive bits and pieces of interest to Beekeepers from as many members of the Association as possible. It would also be helpful to be sent constructive criticism and ideas for future features. Also may I have notification of any events which may be of interest to members of Branches? Publication will continue to be bi-monthly (May, July, September, November, January and March)

Please may I receive articles, dates of forthcoming events etc for inclusion by 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month? These can be sent by e-mail or by post to the above address.

## **BANKHEAD BEE SUPPLIES**

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### **Stoneleigh 2009**

As usual the Annual BBKA Convention at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> was packed out. There were some excellent lectures on both the Members day and on the Saturday, the day when there were also many real bargains to be found at the traders' stalls. The Thornes stands were just about cleared out by mid-day. I thought the halls by that stage resembled Boxing day sales in the big name high street stores. If you have never been to the BBKA convention

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make a note to put it on your agenda for next year. It is worth the long trip.

## **BBKA Statement on Research Funding Announcement**

**Martin Smith**

Chairman, BBKA

Published Apr 21, 2009

The British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) today, 21 April, 2009, welcomes the announcement that additional money is to be found to fund bee health research. This is in addition to the £2 million already promised by Defra and will take the total funds available to some £10 million. The new money comes from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), the Scottish Government, and the Wellcome Trust. The BBKA has recently published its document "Honey Bee Health – Research Concepts" which identifies key research projects to be pursued, covering a range of work from Varroa to viruses, queen bee quality to bee breeding and husbandry to habitat loss. This new funding will enable Research Institutes to make bids to fund the urgent research work needed to combat the threats facing honey bee health. The BBKA looks forward to playing a full part in identifying and prioritising the research projects to be initiated.

**Tim Lovett, President of the BBKA,** said: "This news is most welcome and represents a victory for the campaign that the British Beekeepers have undertaken during the last 12 months. It is vital that these funds are committed to the work that can make a real difference and meet the challenges facing honey bees. Our sincere hope is that the majority of these funds will be directed towards practical research into the problems and threats that honey bees face in this country. We very much look forward to working closely with the funding bodies to ensure the correct projects and priorities are identified and supported based closely on our document 'Honey Bee Health – Research Concepts'.

## **Branches and Secretaries**

The Cumbria Beekeepers Association currently has five Branches, whose contact details are:

### **Carlisle:**

Walter McPhee,  
Low Buildings,  
Castlesteads  
Brampton,  
CA8 2AX  
016977-41530

### **Cockermouth:**

Bill Mackereth  
6 Whiteside Avenue,  
Cockermouth  
CA13 9AR  
01900-825188

### **Keswick:**

Sandra Wallace  
Spooney Green  
Keswick  
CA12 4PJ  
017687-72601

### **Penrith:**

### **Whitehaven:**

Val Sullivan  
Brackenwray Farm  
Kinniside  
Cleator  
CA23 3AG  
01946-862604

## **1. Who killed the honey bee?**

Shown on television - BBC4 on April 28<sup>th</sup>, and worth searching out if you missed seeing it. Martha Kearney outlines the devastating losses of colonies in the USA, and attempts to put a perspective on the possible causes for the general public.

## **2 Farming today**

Radio4 5.45 am. For early risers there is a slot each day on the farming program following the progress of a hive which the presenters have adopted at the BBKA Apiary at Stoneleigh. and their Queen Bee now has a name—"Auntie Beeb"!