

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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Preliminary Report from 2013 Annual Delegates Meeting at Stoneleigh, 12th Jan

The CBKA Secretary Stephen Barnes attended on our behalf and put forward the Cumbria Proposition that "Capitation dates be united from the present two to a single capitation date in September." Stephen reports : "The ADM was chaotic with an appalling sound system. There was little support for our proposition, being voted down by 51 votes to 7. There was little debate on the £2.00 capitation increase for next year, with a further £2.00 in 2015. The budget for next year was passed with a sleight of hand in that an amendment requires the executive to reconsider the projections for income, a rather meaningless exercise."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BBC LOOK NORTH

6.30PM AND 7.30PM ON 24TH OR 25TH JANUARY
WILL BE SHOWING BEEKEEPERS AT THE
COMPLEMENTARY CARE CENTRE AT MUNCASTER

CUMBRIA BEEKEEPERS TASTER DAY

MARCH 23RD

NEWBIGGIN HALL PENRITH. A DAY TO GIVE
POTENTIAL BEEKEEPERS INFORMATION AND
ADVICE. IT IS PROPOSED TO HAVE A "STATION" FOR
EACH OF THE 5 CBK BRANCHES TO MAN WITH
DISPLAYS RELATING TO ASPECTS OF APICULTURE,
AND A SERIES OF SHORT TALKS RUNNING
THROUGHOUT THE DAY. ASK YOUR BRANCH
SECRETARY FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

HELP WILL BE NEEDED

3RD NORTHERN BEE AUCTION

20TH APRIL 2013

AT HOUGHTON VILLAGE HALL
CONTACT "BEEHIVEMAKER" FOR MORE DETAILS

BBKA SPRING CONVENTION 2013

12TH - 14TH APRIL

HARPER ADAMS COLLEGE. SHROPSHIRE
DETAILS IN BBKA NEWS

<https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/protect-our-bees>

38 degrees are running a campaign. If you wish to know more this is their their web-site.

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

Food Hygiene Course

On February 2nd Cumbria Beekeepers are running a Food Hygiene Course in Carlisle with emphasis on hygienic honey production There are still a few places available. The CBKA is subsidising the cost for members and the examination at the end (which is not compulsory!) leads to the Stage 2 Food and Hygiene certificate, a necessary qualification for anyone who makes and sells food products to the public. For more details get in touch with Stephen Barnes CBKA Secretary.

Beehivemaker

Beehives made to order at our
joinery workshop
90 Ennerdale Avenue, Botcherby,
Carlisle, CA1 2TR
www.beehivemaker.co.uk
Tel 078304 32014

Furness Beekeepers Annual Convention

Saturday March 9th

The Malt Kiln, Bardsea, Nr Ulverston.

The Speakers: Ian Homer. "Changing combs"

Gerry Collins "What's going on in
my Hive?"

" Emily Adams "Report on PhD project
involving Cumbrian and Lancastrian Beekeepers"

Lunch at the Ship Inn or TYO

For more details contact the Secretary of Furness
and District Beekeepers

Richard & Anne Kenyon

Burnsmead Farm

Little Urswick, Ulverston

Tel 01229 869363

A hive for all your Apiary equipment
Agents for Thorne

Pennine Bee Supplies

Agents for Thorne.

Honey jars at competitive prices
Reasonable price paid for surplus honey
(in plastic buckets)

Stoney Lane, Galgate, Lancaster, LA2 0OY

Tel: 01524 751347 daytime

01524 791328 evening



*In this snowy weather remember to
clear the alighting boards*

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The B B K A 2012 Honey

Survey

highlights a dramatic fall in honey yield - many experienced beekeepers describe it as their "most difficult beekeeping year ever" Key points:

- Average annual honey crop per hive down by 72 per cent compared to 2011.
 - Just eight pounds of honey produced per hive, compared to annual average of 30 pounds.
 - Unprecedented mid-summer starvation warning issued by the BBKA to keep honey bees alive.
 - Rain and cold weather cited by 88 per cent of beekeepers as main factors affecting poor honey supplies
 - The poor summer may have longer term detrimental impact with new queens unable to produce sufficient brood to see colonies through to next year
- The nation's honey bees now face an even more trying winter than usual with vastly depleted stores and even greater reliance than usual on the feeding skills of beekeepers to prevent mass starvation. Poor weather caused the BBKA to issue an unprecedented **mid-summer** warning to beekeepers to check the stores in their honey bee colonies and to feed them if they were inadequate to avoid starvation.

Putting the Buzz into Learning:

Penrith Beekeepers have recently been piloting work with two schools to promote 5-10 year olds awareness of honey bees and their importance as pollinating insects. Both projects included opportunities for the children to have a close look at bees in an observation hive, honey tasting surveys, candle making and other cross curricular activities.

Further details can be obtained by contacting Margaret Riches ; mr4cnr@gmail.com

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A review of the socio-economic value of neonicotinoids has been published

Ahead of the publication of a long-awaited risk assessment on the chemicals by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

The review, published by EU think tank, The Humboldt Forum for Food and Agriculture, was funded by Bayer Crop Sciences and Syngenta with the support of the European Seed Association, EU farming body Copa-Cogeca and the European Crop Protection Association. It estimates that at the EU level:

- Neonicotinoids contribute over £1.6 bn (€2bn) annually to commodity crop revenues and reduce production costs by £800 million (approx €1bn) across the EU compared to alternatives.
- The annual economic benefit of the pesticides to the grower, when compared to not using pesticides at all, is over £3.2bn (€4bn)
- The overall cost could be as high as €4.5 billion and over a five-year period, EU wealth could erode by up to £13.8bn (€17bn), putting the jobs of over a million people engaged in arable production across the EU at risk 50,000 farm jobs could be lost across the EU.

Commentators on this review state

Facts which the review does not consider include: France lost over 1 million bee colonies in three years from 1994-97 when 'Gaucho' (imidacloprid) was introduced as a seed coating for sunflowers and oilseed rape. After 6 years of rising bee deaths - the French government considered 243 peer reviewed science studies and BANNED the use of imidacloprid for sunflowers and OSR. The Americans have lost over 6 MILLION colonies of bees since Clothianidin was introduced on maize in 2003 (over 92 million acres of American corn are now treated with this highly persistent neurotoxin). Argentina lost more than 3 million hives of bees after neonicotinoids were introduced onto Soya crops in 2006. Some farmers will realise that there are enormous consequences if we wipe out the world's entire pollinator stocks - along with ALL insect life on arable farms. It is not just bees - birds are disappearing from farmland like snow off a dyke. RSPB/ BTO surveyed 19 common species and found that the AVERAGE decline was 70-80% in the last twenty years: skylarks, partridge, yellowhammer, thrush, sparrow, starling . . . and many more. Simple reason: no insects means no insectivorous birds. Finally, most farmers have children and care about their health. Does the idea of deliberately putting a neurotoxin into every grain of wheat, barley, maize, OSR, potatoes, tomatoes, peas, beans etc seem a good idea?