

Diary Dates

Saturday 11 th April	Clean Up day at the Association Apiary, Walby at 2pm
Saturday 18 th April	BBKA Spring Convention, Stoneleigh
Sunday April 26 th	Apiary Day at Walby at 2pm
Monday 27 th April	Bee Disease Identification Workshop at Houghton Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Please bring samples of 30 bees, fresh or recently frozen.

Association Apiary Programme

Syd Parker agreed to manage the apiary and institute a queen rearing programme. The timetable is

Sat 11 th April	Clean up day – assess equipment and order foundation, etc
Sun 26 th April	Assessment of colonies for queen rearing
Sat 9 th May	Select colony for drone rearing. Methods for obtaining young nurse bees for making up nucleus hives.
Sun 24 th May	Decide on colony for queen rearing. Select a breeder colony. Methods of queen introduction.
Sat 6 th June	Start of queen rearing
Sun 21 st June	Queen cells ready to emerge. Introduce to mating hives or mini nucs.
Sat 4 th July	Mated queens may be available. Discuss methods of introduction.
Sun 19 th July	Mated queens available.

From Helen Griggs

I have some items for sale and thought there maybe someone new who would be interested? I have quite a lot of unwired shallow foundation and could do with either swapping it for deep wired or selling it for a small fee. I also have sections which I don't think I will use. They are flat pack and there is wax to go in them too. I might also have a couple of second hand nationals going cheap. Lastly a small double strainer, it is old but good condition, it is not stainless steal. Would do for someone with a couple of hives.

Contact Helen Griggs info@nookfarmhoney.co.uk

For details of DEFRA's new 10 year bee health strategy plan called 'Healthy Bees' go to <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2009/animal-0309.htm>

New Website for Cumbria Beekeepers

We are in the process of re-creating the Cumbria Beekeepers website - and of particular interest to ourselves - the Carlisle Beekeepers section of the website. The idea behind the website is to:

- ☐ Promote beekeeping in Cumbria and Carlisle
- ☐ Advertise the club to the public
- ☐ Provide information to club members
- ☐ Create a focal point for all club members
- ☐ Encourage greater participation in the club

To do this we need to make the website as interesting as possible – we need to make people want to keep coming back to the website. Some of the website pages will be fairly standard, but we also need to put some regularly changing and interesting pages. The planned pages are:

- ☐ Cumbria home page – details of the county association – this would be the site home page
- ☐ Carlisle (local) page – details of Carlisle Association & Committee – who's who
- ☐ Contact page – email form to contact the club
- ☐ Events – programme of summer and winter events
- ☐ Newsletters – download the newsletters
- ☐ Membership details
- ☐ Apiary programme – apiary days and queen breeding programme
- ☐ Gallery – if we get enough good photos we could possibly run a photo competition?
- ☐ Articles – we need people to write articles for the website

We could use articles on almost any topic to do with beekeeping, honey production, making hives, or related crafts. You all have skills and experience that other members want to hear about; you just need to write them down. It doesn't matter if you haven't written before, or don't have a computer to type it on, if you can draft the article we can put it into a form that will work on the internet.

Please have a go at writing and send in any photos you have that we can use – the more people that take part the better we can all make the website.

Nigel Vear

Beginners Course

The Beginners' course will start on Sunday 26th April 2009 at Houghton Village Hall 10:00 – 12:00. Subsequent dates Sat 2nd May, Sat 9th May, Sun 17th May, Sun 24th May – all at the Houghton Village Hall 10:00 – 12:00. The last week will be a practical at the apiary on Saturday 30th and/or the Sunday 31st morning. The course is free to Carlisle BKA, to join the course please email silverhive@hotmail.com or phone 01461 205525

Christine Matthews

Furness Beekeepers Spring Convention

This is held at The Malt Kiln, Bardsea, Near Ulverston on Saturday 2nd May 2009.

The speakers are well known internationally – Jim Ryan from Co Tipperary on *Summer Management and Swarm Control*; Phil Chandler from South Devon on *Top Bar Hives – a novel and simple way to keep bees inexpensively*; and Patrick Mouldsdales based in Somerset on *Holistic Beekeeping and Warre Hives – Beekeeping without the use of chemicals and a lot less work*.

Convention fee is £12.50 for the whole day or £6.25 for the afternoon session.

Refreshments included, but not lunch which can be arranged at the Braddlylls Arms, or take a packed lunch. Application forms can be obtained from

www.furnessbeekeepers.co.uk or by phoning the secretary on 01539 721501

Contact Details

Chairperson Mr Charlie Savage, Northsceugh, Ainstable, Carlisle, CA4 9RD

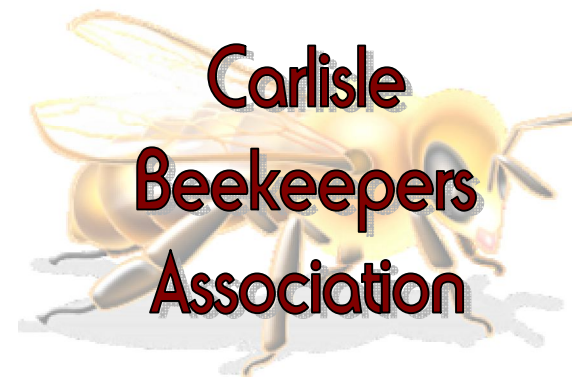
Tel: 01768 896235

Secretary Mr Walter Mcphee, Low Buildings, Castlesteads, Brampton, CA8 2AX Tel: 016977 41530

email: mcphee@yahoo.com

Treasurer Miss Donna Melbourne, 16 Woodleigh, Walton, Brampton, CA8 2DS

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April 2009 Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Our February meeting was a bee quiz with cheese and wine which was very well organised by Christine Matthews with a fine selection of cheeses etc and enjoyed by all those present.

March has arrived rapidly and anyone who hasn't renewed their membership by the end of March will no longer be covered by BBKA insurance for hive product and third party.

Four Carlisle members recently attended a disease awareness and recognition day at Keswick. This will no doubt be very beneficial to members especially at our April meeting of Disease Identification.

It has become absolutely imperative to check hives for varroa mites. Resistance to Bayvarol etc is endemic in Cumbria. Up to 50% hive losses have been reported in parts of the county. **To do nothing is not an option.** To rely on strips is not an option anymore. We must all keep on top of the little red varmint to keep our bees healthy.

This is the time of year when hives can be short of food, as laying increases. We owe it to our bees to keep them fed.

We all look forward to a much better summer than last year, don't we!

Charlie Savage,