

# 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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## Cumbria Beekeepers Association Annual General Meeting

19th March Southey St, Keswick

Just under 20 members made the effort to attend the AGM this year. Following the acceptance of the minutes of the 2015 AGM the Executive Committee Chairman reported on a difficult 2015 with poor summer weather and then a pleasant warm October. He mentioned the problems of poor Queens and the need to feed stocks right through the year. Several Beekeepers had lost some, or all of their stocks during the winter floods which hit all parts of the County. He thanked Stuart Beattie, who retired at the end of 2015\* as the Seasonal Bee Inspector, for all his work and praised him for taking on the role of Membership Secretary for CBK. He also thanked Stephen Barnes for his dedicated work as our Delegate to the Annual Delegates Meetings at Stoneleigh, which involve lengthy journeys and lengthy meetings. He finally reminded the meeting that Margaret Wilson is our Trustee representative with the BBKA.

The Accounts were presented by the retiring Treasurer Christine Matthews and accepted by the members. Election of Officers; Christine Matthews was thanked for her long and dedicated service as Treasurer, and Melanie Vincent was then elected to fill the vacant post. Martin Gearrish had notified his resignation from the committee and Grahame Pinches was elected to the vacant post. All other posts continue.

Propositions were accepted unanimously. These can be seen on the CBKA website.

No new Life members were elected.

It was suggested that the list of the assets include a contact number for the holders.

It was noted that the Keswick and Carlisle websites need updating.

Date for next AGM: 18th March 2017. Venue to be announced.



## Introducing Beekeeping

Penrith Beekeepers Association (PBKA) has now established its training apiary at Acorn Bank, National Trust property near Penrith. This year we have arranged for Julia & Martin Hoggard to run a course for us: **Introducing Beekeeping**. It will be of interest to anyone **who would like to become a beekeeper** as well as those who have started beekeeping, but consider themselves to be **beginners**.

Julia is a highly experienced beekeeper and trainer. She and Martin run the Brigsteer Bee Reserve, just outside Kendal. More information about Julia, the Bee Reserve and her training programmes, along with course feedback, can be found at [www.BeeEd.org.uk](http://www.BeeEd.org.uk)

**Introducing Beekeeping** is a two day course. It will run on the following weekend:

**Saturday 2nd July and Sunday 3rd July**

## Improver Course for Beekeepers At Blencow Village Hall, near Penrith

Julia & Martin Hoggard will also be running an **Improver Course for Beekeepers** on behalf of Penrith Beekeepers Association. It will be of interest to anyone who has been a beekeeper for **at least one year** and would like to improve their skills, knowledge and understanding about beekeeping.

Julia is a highly experienced beekeeper and trainer. She and Martin run the Brigsteer Bee Reserve, just outside Kendal. More information about Julia, the Bee Reserve and her training programmes, along with course feedback, can be found at [www.BeeEd.org.uk](http://www.BeeEd.org.uk)

## New Venue for the 2016 National Honey Show

This year's National Honey Show will take place at Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey KT10 9AJ on Thurs 27th, Fri 28th and Sat 29th Oct.

Sandown Park is close to Esher railway station and High St. It is a larger venue with free parking, wifi, cafes, and everything for the show under one roof.

## \* Seasonal Bee Inspector Vacancy

Since the retirement of our Seasonal Bee Inspector there is a vacancy for the post of SBI for the North of England for the 2016 season.

[DEF/86/16 Seasonal Bee Inspector-Home based](#)

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Cumbria

Salary :£22,800 National-£26,040 National

Applications close April 5th

Reference :1486507

For more information contact:

Andy Wattam, National Bee Inspector

01522 789726

[Andy.wattam@alpha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Andy.wattam@alpha.gsi.gov.uk)

From the March edition of BBKA's publication "Worker Bee":

### FLOODS WASH AWAY HIVES

As the news broke that Cumbria was underwater not once but with too regular frequency, the nation was horrified and collected for those who had lost everything.

Some of our members and fellow beekeepers were affected by the flooding in Cumbria and some lost all their colonies and supplementary equipment.

Most affected beekeepers have now had equipment donated by, and offers of colonies from, generous local beekeepers, helping them to get re-established this Spring. However, If you would like to help those who haven't got themselves up and running again - please contact the [Chairman of Cumbria](#) with any offers that you may be able to make. With thanks

## Getting ready for the season

Does your Branch Apiary need newly made-up frames for the 2016 season? Whitehaven Branch have been running a yearly frame making evening to which all members, but especially newer beekeepers, are invited. The Branch orders the frame parts and foundation and also brings old **cleaned, wax free** frames for dismantling. Tools, nails and foundation are supplied. Then an evening is spent in good company making up frames to use in the Apiary and by the end of the session everyone is competent at frame making, common faults have been addressed (eg nails protruding through the top bar) and the frames are ready to go back to the Apiary for use. This is followed by refreshments and bee-chat.



## CONTACTS FOR BRANCHES

### **Carlisle**

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### **Cockermouth**

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### **Keswick**

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Cockermouth,  
CA13 0BG  
01900 824972  
braithwaitebees@sky.com

### **Penrith**

Sue Hannon  
penrithbka@gmail.com  
suehannon782@yahoo.co.uk

### **Whitehaven**

Grahame Pinches  
41 John Colligan Drive  
Cleator Moor  
CA25 5JX  
01946 812100  
grahame.pinches@googlemail.co.uk

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

## 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

## Bee Diseases Insurance A SYNOPSIS

### Purpose

The purpose of BDI is to help in the control of honey bee diseases by providing compensation to those who have their equipment destroyed by Defra. Destruction of equipment is a legal requirement in cases of colony infection by a notifiable disease under The Bees Act 1980 and Bee Diseases Control Order 2006, such as Foul Brood, and it is aimed at preventing disease spread. An additional purpose of BDI is to sponsor research into the causes of bee health problems and help to educate beekeepers about the issues in bee health and management of bee diseases.

### History

BDI was set up over seventy years ago and is owned by its member beekeeping associations of England and Wales. There are no premises or staff; it is run by beekeepers who work from their homes.

If your Branch association is a member of BDI it owns one share with a nominal value of £1 but no value other than an entitlement to vote at the BDI AGM.

BDI is registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, regulated by the Prudential Regulation Authority and supervised by the Financial Conduct Authority. One of the requirements is that BDI has adequate reserves to meet claims even in a worse-case scenario. In addition it has to make sure that membership dues (that is the colonies included in the basic subscription, together with premiums for additional colonies) are sufficient to cover the claims and expenses for a normal year.

## April Northern Bee Auction

Remember the Northern Bee Auction at Houghton Hall Jackson Road near Carlisle on April 16th. For more details contact P. Harris (Beehivemaker)



Busy bees in March sunshine

### Beehivemaker

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