

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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Hairy-footed flower bee

This spring I have observed a new visitor to our garden; A Hairy-footed flower bee. I had never seen or heard of one before and was intrigued as much by the name as the bee itself. This species used to be found only in southern parts of the UK, but in recent years has made its way north and there are now records from central Scotland, and so has probably been in Cumbria for a while.

The female bee is all black and resembles a bumblebee but has rapid darting flight. On my first sighting I thought it had yellow pollen on its hind legs but further investigation revealed that it is the colour of the hairs, although the females do collect pollen. It has a relatively long tongue and feeds from flowers with long tubular corollas, such as the Pulmonaria that it is pictured on. This bee is a mining bee and emerges early in the year and is an important pollinator of early spring flowers.

The males are light brown in colour and have very long distinctive hairs on their legs which is where they get their descriptive name from. I have yet to see and photograph the male of the species.

I Gregory



Dates for your Diary

CBKA Committee meetings

Dates to be announced

Gosforth Agricultural Show and Whitehaven Annual Honey Show

Saturday August 19th (Entries by 1st August)

Cumbria Honey Show Newbiggin Village
Hall Saturday November 4th

American Foul Brood again

Unfortunately there has been another outbreak of American Foul Brood in Cumbria, this time in the North of the county.

The Seasonal Beekeeper is hard at work trying to assess the scale of the outbreak, the second in a year in the county. It would be prudent to make sure that your Branch has all its' BDI returns correct and up-to-date, or if the Branch does not insure with the BDI, it may be time for another look at the benefits of membership.

Bees for development

Martha Kearney and Bill Turnbull invite you to this year's Bee Garden Party 5-8pm on Thursday 29 June in the bee-planted gardens of Marlborough House, in London's Mall. A fun evening focussed on all things-bees, with fabulous food and wine. Star Auction run by Bill Turnbull With kind permission from the household of HM The Queen, and in the presence of the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Baroness Scotland, all funds to support the Charity Bees for Development. Tickets £50; call 01600 714848. Beekeeping groups and associations: please call for special group rates!

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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

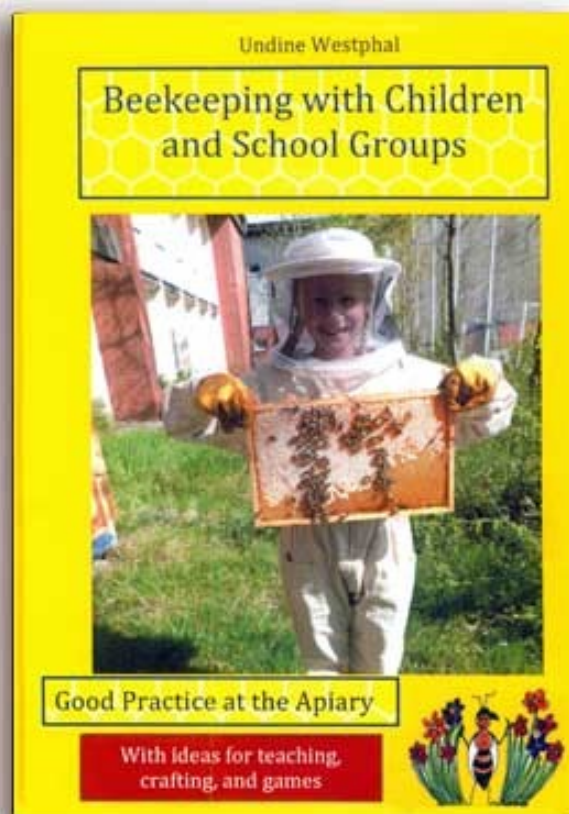
The 2017 International Meeting of Young Beekeepers

The International gathering of young beekeepers will be coming to Britain in just over one month's time. More than 20 teams of young beekeepers aged 12 to 16 will descend on the beautiful and historic Wiltshire town of Marlborough to test their beekeeping skills and knowledge.

Working in mixed nationality teams of six, communication will be the key as they take on beekeeping challenges and also take time out to visit Avebury and other historic sites. Vita are major sponsors for the event and the BBKA membership have each contributed through their County Associations to the costs. Unfortunately Cumbria have no participants this year, but it is to be hoped that reports from the event may inspire children to take up beekeeping locally.

D. Walmsley's bees

David Walmsley, a founder member and Secretary of the independant Furness Beekeepers is downsizing over the next few months and has several colonies of bees, housed in Commercial hives in the Furness area which he would like to see go to good homes. If you are interested please ring David on 01539721501 to negotiate prices and re-location.



If your Branch hosts visits by children's groups such as Cubs, Beavers, and School groups to Teaching Apiaries, a copy of this book is worth buying. Published by Northern Bee Books at £24.00 it is a price worth paying for good practice. With ideas for Teaching, Crafting, and games it provides sound advice and guidance for the teaching bee-keepers.

CONTENTS

- Preparation before introducing bees
 - Preparation for practical work
 - Child/bee hazards & accident prevention
 - Good practice in the Apiary
- ideas for teaching, craftwork and games

“This book is a wonderful guide and aid for experienced beekeepers who can and want to offer children more than simply letting them watch bees behind a mesh enclosure (and) this is an invaluable book for anyone who wants to, or is currently, teaching children the craft of beekeeping and I would thoroughly recommend it being added to your association library or your own bookshelf.” **Gareth Morgan, BBKA Trustee**