

Cumbria Bee Times

Editor: Val Sullivan, Brackenwray Farm, Kinniside, Cleator, Cumbria, CA23 3AG

Telephone: 01946 862604, e-mail: brackenwray@aol.com

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

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Dates for your Diary :

17th August Gosforth Agricultural Show Whitehaven Honey Show. New classes for childrens Bee pictures and Honey labels

28th Sept Next CBKA Executive Meeting

Two representatives from each Branch are invited to attend as well as elected members of the Executive.

26th Oct Cockermouth Convention The Speakers and the hall at Embleton are booked already. More details later.

16th Nov CBKA Honey Show and Conference

Newbiggin Village Hall Near Penrith. Your chance to show your honey produce and hear experts talk about Bee related topics and answer your questions.

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Another use for your Smart phone

If you own a smart phone you can now download a free app about keeping healthy bees. The app comes from Vita (Europe) Ltd giving easy mobile access to information and photographs relating to honey bee disease identification and treatment. Vita are already well known for their on-line library of excellent bee related photographs, useful for illustrating talks. The app can be downloaded from :

www.healthybeeguide.com

Plants for Bees

published by IBRA 2012

In 1945 Dr F. N. Howes, a Professional Botanist, published "Plants and Beekeeping". "Plants for Bees" is a recently published successor to that book, now expanded by Dr William.D.J.Kirk. The book contains beautiful colour pictures throughout. There are chapters not only on honey bees but also solitary and bumble bees and a catalogue of flowering plants both cultivated and wild with which the Gardener will attract and benefit bee species. There is a wealth of information on each plant; its cultivation, season, types of bee attracted to it and for most species a colour picture of the flower and for some its pollen grain. At £25.00 it is not cheap, but as a reference book it is unbeatable and worthy of a place in every Branch library



Chelsea flower show 2013

Seen in one of the main show gardens at RHS Chelsea Flower Show - called "Sowing the Seeds of Change" designed by Adam Frost for Alzheimer's Society, sponsored by Homebase. The show garden leaflet says this is a "beautifully hand-crafted oak beehive" in a modern family garden and has been designed with a small family in mind, providing them with a space to enjoy an everyday connection with their food and with nature.

A.Robson W&DBK

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Seasonal Bee Inspector Stewart Beattie teaching Swarm control techniques



<http://www.facebook.com/groups/355614271196318/>

Have you been to the Facebook link yet?

Winter losses

The winter losses of colonies in 2012—2013 were unprecedented across most of the country according to the BBKA Winter Survival Survey. Losses were double those of 2011/12. On average 33.8 % of colonies were lost countrywide with the Northern region being hardest hit with 46.4% losses. These were calculated from a survey of BBKA members measuring the numbers of colonies going into winter at October 1st 2012 compared with the number of colonies alive at 31st March 2013.

As the cold wet weather continued for at least another 6 weeks one can assume that losses were even higher in our area. Poor summer weather in 2012 with little forage and poor Queen mating led to dwindling Autumn colonies and Drone layers throughout the Spring. The late show of flowers exacerbated the situation and it is only in the last six weeks that most local beekeepers have been seeing strong hives with more normal brood patterns and nectar storage.

Contacts for Branches

Carlisle

Fiona Roebuck
Old Town House
High Hesket
CA4 0JE
07779329255
froebuck@btinternet.com

Whitehaven

Val Sullivan
Brackenwray Farm
Kinniside
Cleator
CA23 3AG
01946 862604
brackenwray@aol.com

Cockermouth

Bill Mackereth
6 Whiteside Avenue
Cockermouth
CA13 9AR
01900 825188
linda_fitzgerald@btinternet.com

Other Associations

Kendal and South Westmorland

Peter Llewellyn
1 Greenside House,
Hincaster,
Milnthorpe,
LA7 7NA
01539 562369
pdwllewellyn@yahoo.co.uk

Keswick

Sandra Wallace
Spooney Green
Keswick
CA12 4PJ
017687 72601
spooneygreen@gmail.com

Furness

David Walmsley
36 Oxenholme Road
Kendal
djwalmsley@hotmail.co.uk

Penrith

penrithbka@gmail.com

Richard & Anne Kenyon

Burnsmead Farm

Little Urswick, Ulverston

Tel 01229 869363

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Images for talks

Have you discovered the BBKA on-line photo gallery yet? This is an excellent resource for pictures of all aspects of beekeeping with no concerns about copyright when reproducing the pictures for presentations and to share with other beekeepers. The Gallery is easy to use and has the facility to make your own albums of bee related photos. To access the photos you need your BBKA number and password. The site address is:

www.bbka.org.uk/gallery.

Have a look and add some of your own images of this seasons beekeeping for us to enjoy.

Reminder!

Final entry date for the Gosforth Honey Show is 1st August. Catalogues and entry forms can be obtained from Mrs A. McKenzie 019477 25700 or download from www.gosforthshow.co.uk.

Entry fee is 25p/ exhibit. There are 2 new classes for children in the Honey Section.