

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)
New Issue No: 5 Date: September 2019

I started the last issue of the Bee Times talking about the weather and I find myself at it again! There have been very hot days and extremely wet ones. To be a beekeeper I have always thought that you need to be optimistic and the thought "It can only get better" is often at the forefront of my mind. Carlisle Beekeepers must have thought this at the end of the Dalston Show on Saturday 10th August, when they braved the most appalling weather conditions with 2 inches of rain during the day, flooded roads, ankle deep mud and hardly anybody attending the show. See cover photo. However, they stuck it out until the end of the day enthusiastically informing the public (the few that attended) about bees with a very nice display of honey tasting, candle making and an observation hive.

The following Saturday, the 17th August, Whitehaven Beekeepers had their Annual Honey Show at the Gosforth Agricultural Show. The difference in weather was amazing! The day before there had been about 3 inches of rain but on the Saturday there was plenty of sunshine and a drying wind that prevented the mud of

positive and informative way. The honey show was very well supported with a good number of entries in all classes.

Wasps, although they are a gardeners friend during spring and early summer catching aphids and caterpillars to feed to their brood, by the end of July they can become a major pest, especially to beekeepers. This year they seem to have been more abundant than ever in some apiaries and by the time this issue of the Bee Times has been circulated it may be too late for preventative action against them. However, it is useful to be prepared for next season and the following article, supplied by John Harris, is an extract from the Thorne Beekeepers News, written by John Stevens of Cirencester Beekeepers, the inventor of Wasp Out.

Wasp Out was developed over two seasons and has proved invaluable on our apiaries around Cirencester. Whilst seeming to frustrate the wasps at first it is important to place a jam pot with a jam and water mix on each hive. I drill a 7mm hole in the centre of the lid with a number of 3mm holes around the edge. Use the cheapest jam you can find, I use Aldi at 28p and mix with three parts water. I found an old Ambrosia jerry can useful. Our traps are filling up within 5 days at the moment. We also have Thornes Asian Hornet traps on each site. Fortunately no Asian Hornets but a few European ones, moths, flies and wasps have been caught. If you have a large colony going into winter you may find the bees not able to remove the dead bees easily. This was pointed out by a local beekeeper who experienced the issue, although it may have nothing to do with the Wasp Out. Next season we hope to offer a Wasp Out for Nucs, with different openings to accommodate a variety of makes.



WHITEHAVEN HONEY SHOW

previous years. Their display of bee produce and skep making, encouraged a lot of interest from visitors to the show and promoted beekeeping in a

BBKA Examinations and Assessments.

Stewart Beattie has recently taken over as the County Examination secretary from Peter Matthews. If you are considering taking the BBKA Basic Examination next year or studying the BBKA Modules, the details are available on the BBKA Web Site. To arrange an assessment contact Stewart at cbkaexamsec@gmail.com. Please send your application forms to:- Stewart Beattie, Helensdale, Stainton, Barrow in Furness, LA13 0NH.

Before arranging assessment with Stewart you may wish to consider going on a course to be run by Penrith Beekeepers.

[Taking a Closer Look at the Opportunities to Learn More about Beekeeping through the British Beekeeping Association \(BBKA\) Assessments.](#)

Saturday 19th October 2019

One of the BBKA's charitable aims is to raise the standards of beekeeping practices through a series of courses and exams. Taking the practical and written assessments will help you understand more about Beekeeping and become a more confident practitioner.

The day will aim to provide more information about the assessment opportunities which BBKA offers on the topics that individual beekeepers would like to learn more about. Each training session will be led by Margaret Murdin.

Sessions will focus on the following topics: Basic Assessment; General Husbandry Certificate; Honey Bee Health Certificate; Pest Diseases & Poisoning; Honey Bee Biology. You are invited to sign up for one or more of the sessions as required.

For further information contact Margaret Riches mr4cnr@gmail.com.
Closing date for reservations : 14th October.

Please note the following changes from when this was previously advertised:

Cost: Due to a subsidy from Cumbria Beekeepers Association, the fee for the course is **£10** for the whole day i.e. you can attend more than one session at no additional charge. £5 students .

Venue: Great Salkeld Village Hall, CA11 9LW

Other Dates for Your Diary.

Cumbria Beekeepers – Cockermouth Branch Autumn Convention – 7 Sep 2019

Admission £10

Embleton Village Hall, Nr. Cockermouth

(Includes free tea, coffee and biscuits)

For Booking Contact:- Peter Weatherill
peterweatherill@btinternet.com

- 9.00 am Welcome/Coffee
- 9.30 am Beekeeping and the Law – Dr Fred Ayres
- 11.15 am What the books don't tell you – Tony Jefferson
- 2.00 pm An Alternative Approach to Beekeeping – Dr Fred Ayres
- 3.30 pm Never Waste a Queen Cell – Tony Jefferson

For the full day programme please visit the Cumbria Beekeepers Facebook Page

Buzzing off to Slovenia?

Penrith Beekeepers Association invites you to join them on an excursion to Ljubljana, the '*beekeeping capital of Europe*' 31st August - 5th September 2020

Reservations closing date: 31 DECEMBER 2019

For further information E mail: mr4cnr@gmail.com

Cumbria Autumn Conference and Honey Show.

Sunday 3rd November 2019, 9.30am to 5.00pm at the Braithwaite Institute, Keswick.

Cumbria Beekeepers AGM

Saturday 7th March 2020, 2.00pm to 4.00pm at the Braithwaite Institute, Keswick.

Next Issue of the Bee Times

Deadline for submitting articles for inclusion in the next issue of the Bee Times is November 2019.

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