

Cumbria Bee Times

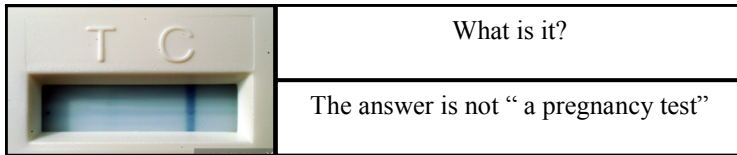
Editor: Val Sullivan, Brackenwray Farm, Kinniside, Cleator, Cumbria, CA23 3AG

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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Stoneleigh April 16th– 18th 2010

The BBKA conference at Stoneleigh was held in glorious weather this year with warm sunshine and the usual crowds of beekeepers from all over the country.

Bargains galore were on offer to the early birds on Saturday, with the Thorne and the Northern Bee books areas doing a roaring trade. Wax exchange (wax for foundation /no cash transfer) was available from both Thorne and Maisemore.

Volcanic activity in Iceland which had halted all air travel into and out of the UK meant that several speakers were unable to attend and a lot of rescheduling had to take place. There was an added complication because the calling of a General Election meant that a Speaker from Defra also had to withdraw apparently because any politically driven questioning would have been an embarrassment

The talks on Honeybee viruses and Nosema ceranae were cancelled. However one American Speaker Professor Jamie Ellis who had the foresight to arrive in the UK before the volcanic ash problems began, gave a fascinating talk on the Bee colony as a super-organism.

If you get the chance to hear this Academic speak in the future take it - he is one of the most entertaining of lecturers.

The Sunday Workshops were attended by several CBK members and reports of the day's activities were all favourable.

If you have never been to Stoneleigh for the BBKA Conference think about a trip next year!

Bankhead Bee Supplies

For all your Beekeeping Requirements
Bankhead Farm, Newby East, Carlisle,
CA4 8RA

Your local agent for Thorne and Sherriff

Tel:01228 573289

Food for bees in May and June

Oil seed rape Brassica napus: warmth and moisture in the soil/air help the honey flow..New varieties do not yield as well as the older ones.

Honey sets very rapidly– extraction difficult.

Hawthorn(May blossom) Crataegus monogyna:

Pale cream pollen loads. Does not yield every year. Temperature for nectar is 23 C.

Holly Ilex aquifolium: Yields for 2-3 weeks at most.Pollen and nectar from male trees, nectar only from female trees.

Horse chestnut. Aesculus hippocastanum: Brick red pollen. Useful source of nectar and distinctive pollen colour. Brood larvae can turn pink on a diet rich in conker pollen.

Raspberry. Rubus idaeus: Yields a high quality honey tasting of raspberries. Bees will work raspberries even in poor weather .

Field beans.:Not found in Cumbria but an important crop North of the Border.

Acacia Robinia pseudoacacia: Yields high quality honey but only in temperatures above 25C !

Lime tilia species: Yields in warm sultry weather. Usually yields “honeydew” which is the excreta of aphids!

There are currently 5 Branches of the Cumbria Beekeepers Association

Carlisle
Walter McPhee
Low Buildings
Castlesteads
Brampton
CA8 2AX
016977 41530

Cockermouth
Bill Mackereth
6 Whiteside Avenue
Cockermouth
CA13 9AR
01900 825188

Keswick
Sandra Wallace
Spooney Green
Keswick
CA12 4PJ
017687 72601

Penrith
Joy Rich
Holly House
Newbiggin
Penrith
CA11 0HT
017684 83910

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

Other Associations

Kendal and South Westmorland

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

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

All of us must own or have read a copy of Ted Hooper's "Guide to Bees and Honey"

Extract from the Obituary page in The Times

Ted Hooper was a former president of the British Beekeepers' Association and the influential author of Guide to Bees and Honey, which has sold more than 100,000 copies and been translated into more than 12 languages since publication in 1976. A fourth edition will appear shortly, updated by one of his pupils, and will include techniques to control varroosis — a condition unknown to Hooper before his official retirement in 1984. It is still one of the most highly recommended books for new beekeepers.

Past presidents of the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA), founded in 1874 to promote bees and beekeeping, include David Lloyd George, Sir John Lubbock (later Lord Avebury) and Baroness Burdett-Coutts, the "richest heiress in England", who served from 1878 to 1906. Ill health ended Hooper's tenure in 1991, after only a year of his two-year term.

William Edmund James Hooper, known to all as Ted, was born in Colyton, Devon, in 1918, the only child of Jim and May Hooper. His parents ran a local decorating and joinery business. He attended Colyton Grammar School, then joined the family firm before being conscripted into the Royal Artillery. He was evacuated from Dunkirk and later served in Italy, ending the war as a sergeant.

On demobilisation he rejoined the family business until his attention was caught by an evening course in the village hall on beekeeping, which he and his wife, Joy, then attended. As Joy later recalled, "it spiralled from there".

Hooper soon moved with Joy to Hampshire, to work for the commercial beekeeper David Rowse on the Rowse Honey Farms at Clapper Hill, where he was employed for five years. During this time Hooper perfected his knowledge of bees and beekeeping; he was responsible for inspecting more than 500 hives, checking them every ten days and ensuring that the bees did not swarm. He was appointed MBE for services to beekeeping in 1989.

Ted Hooper, MBE, beekeeper, was born on September 21, 1918. He died on March 19, 2010, aged 91

Pennine Bee Supplies

Agents for Thorne.

Honey jars at competitive prices
Reasonable price paid for surplus honey
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Lancaster, LA2 0OY**

Tel:01524 751347 Daytime 01524 791328 Evening

Richard & Anne Kenyon

Burnsmead Farm

Little Urswick, Ulverston

A hive for all your Apiary equipment

Agents for Thorne

Tel: 01229 869363

Forthcoming events in Cumbria

June 19th Diseases Day

Houghton Village Hall near Carlisle. Run by NBU with the emphasis on AFB and EFB recognition. The Bee Inspectors hope to bring samples of both infections and also live bees for examination. Further details including how to book and programme are available from your Branch Secretary.

July 10th Lakeland Rose Show.

Entries are needed for the honey show please. Contact Roger Blocksidge 01539 734436 for more information.

August 8th Pollen Recognition Day

Hosted by W&DBK at Lamplugh Village Hall. Cost £10.00 (£8.00 to W&D members) After an illustrated talk on pollen and techniques for staining samples there will be a practical session with microscopy of slides prepared on the day. There will also be stereo low power microscopy for those participants wanting to look at bees, varroa etc. Look on the CBKA website for details and application form. Numbers limited to first 30 to apply by high powered microscope availability

Nov 13th CBKA Autumn Conference

This will be held at Thelkeld Village Hall.

Dec 4th Wax Day A day exploring the uses to which you can put your surplus wax including Foundation making, creating Wax flowers, and Candle making. This will only be open to members of the CBKA. so please let your Branch Secretary or a member of the Exec know if you are interested.

A d o p t a B e e h i v e

There is intense public interest and support for the honey bee, and an enduring fascination with the art of beekeeping and the hidden world within the hive, so BBKA has come up with an exciting new idea to raise much needed funds to cope with this interest - an 'Adopt a Beehive' scheme, with the help and sponsorship of Saga. See the BBKA website for more information or go to www.adoptabeehive.co.uk

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