



Newsletter

February 2018

Have you booked yet??

Our dinner at Blackburne House Bistro is only a couple of weeks away on 23rd February. If you want to come along please let me have your booking by 16th February. Here's a reminder of the menu:

Starters:	Winter Vegetable Soup Smoked Mackerel Pate with Farm House Bread
Mains:	Nut Roast Topped with Goats Cheese Salmon Fillet in a Fresh Garden Herb Cream Sauce Chicken Breast Provençale
Desserts:	Crème Brulée Lemon Tart Cheese board

Lancashire & NW BKA Spring Convention

Saturday 10th March, Preston

Our Association spring convention is just a few weeks away now and full details are available. Only one of our members managed to attend last year, so it would be good if we can get more representation this year. It's good value if you book in advance. Details and an application form are attached with this Newsletter.

Meetings and Venues

Our next meeting will be at St Helens Bowling Club on 17th March, 2.30 - 4.30pm, where Elaine Reevell-Jones will give us the benefit of her long experience in preparing wax, candles, cosmetics and other hive products.

There are a few amendments to the previously circulated Events calendar -

- 7th April - Microscopy, Moor Lane Methodist Church, Crosby. This will be run by our own Committee members. Collect a sample of your own bees, keep them in

the freezer and bring them on the day. You will be shown how to check for nosema spores.

- We have scheduled a BBQ for 30th June in the Woolton apiary.
- 14th July - Taking the Honey Off at Woolton apiary with Dave Harrison.
- 13th October - Restoring the British Honeybee, Frank Hilton - this meeting will now be in St Michael's Church, Blundellsands.

One of our members, Tony Gordon, has also kindly invited us to hold a meeting at his apiary in June, details to follow. So we have three new venues this year, all in the Crosby/Blundellsands area. You will be given the full addresses with a revised Calendar shortly but in the meantime you find details of the church halls online.

In fairness to all of our members we would like to find some venues nearer the city, so if you know of anywhere reasonably inexpensive do let us know.

Upcoming meetings in the wider area:

- Monday 12th February, Ormskirk Branch Meeting with Maureen Little - Keep your Garden Buzzing, 7:30pm - Church House, Church Street, Ormskirk L39 3RD.
- Friday 16th February, Simple methods of making increase, Wally Shaw, 7.30pm, Thornton Hough Village Hall, Manor Road, Wirral CH63 1JB
- Monday 12th March - Ormskirk Branch Meeting, Janet Murray – Spring Management for Productive and Healthy Bees, 7:30pm - Church House, Church Street, Ormskirk L39 3RD.

New BBKA Website login

The BBKA has now gone live with its revised website. The new site requires your details the first time you log in. If you have any problems you are asked to contact Claire.hartry@bbka.org.uk or call the office on 02476 698 620.

Asian Hornet lecture available on You Tube

Late last season Martyn Hocking gave a talk to 150 people from across Southern England on his experience of finding Asian Hornets in his apiary near Woolacombe, North Devon. A film of his talk is now available on You Tube, here - https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Martyn+Hocking

A second film from the Asian Hornet Open Meeting, featuring Colin Lodge's short presentation of the Asian Hornet Action Teams, is now also on You Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdSvkii6dXA>

Do you have any beeswax to sell?

A lady in Tarleton would like to buy a couple of kilos of beeswax for candle-making. If you can help let me know by email via our webmail address: contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk and I will put you in touch with her.

Painted WBC Hives

We have heard from the Secretary of Lancashire BKA about these pretty WBC hives supplied by Chris Simporis in Clitheroe. The hives are custom-painted using Dulux Trade 3 Step Weathershield System (Guaranteed for 8 Years) with highlights in any colour you wish. They arrive fully assembled and complete, including:

- Brood Box x 1
- Super Box x 2
- 3 Lifts (one with Porch)
- Metal runners
- Crown board with cut outs for 2 x porter bee escapes
- Gabled roof with metal cover
- 2pcs plastic bee escapers for ventilation holes
- Bamboo Queen Excluder
- Base with Varroa Floor including mesh with slide out inspection tray
- Entrance block with summer and winter holes



They cost £310 and can be delivered free within Central and East Lancashire, with courier costs outside that area around £40. Chris can also supply WBC parts. Interested? Contact Chris Simporis, 07532 719 987, simporis@hotmail.co.uk

Special discount on beesuits!

BBWear normally offers BBKA members 20% discount off their suits (news to me!). They are currently increasing this to 25% off until 28th February. They will require emailed confirmation from me (Branch Secretary), Geoff Todd (Membership Secretary) or Peter Wass (Chairman) confirming that you are a paid up association member in order to benefit from the discount.

Do you have an Apidea from Woolton apiary?

Several members were given an apidea (like a tiny polystyrene nucleus box) with queen cells during our July meeting last year. If you have one could you please let us know and bring it to the next meeting or else make other arrangements to get it back to Dave Harrison at the Woolton apiary. If we get the equipment back we can have another go this year at raising queen cells.

2017-2018 Subscriptions

Disappointingly, nearly half of last year's members have still not renewed their membership. This means extra work for several committee members in having to constantly send out reminders, explain payment methods, deal with cheques and send details in separate batches to various other organisations. We hope you will stay with us, but if you have not renewed by 1st March your membership will lapse with Liverpool Beekeepers and the BBKA, you will be removed from our email circulation lists, and your bee disease and third party insurances will lapse.

Please contact Geoff Todd now at beememb112@gmail.com if you need a reminder of how to pay.

***Important** - If you pay by bank transfer please send an e-mail confirmation to Geoff so that we know the money appearing in the account is from you.

Sad news

We have just heard the very sad news that one of our members, John Small, passed away last Saturday night in the Marie Curie Hospice, where he had been receiving palliative care for several weeks. We are thinking of his wife and family at this difficult time and will send condolences on behalf of the branch.

