



THE LANCASHIRE AND NORTH WEST
BEE-KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Liverpool and
Merseyside
Branch

1942-2017

Newsletter

June 2017

Are you coming to the party ??

Celebration 75th Anniversary Barbecue

Woolton branch apiary
Saturday 1st July
1pm till about 3pm



FREE for members.

£5 for guests, payable on the day.

Grub and soft drinks will be provided.

Please bring your own wine or beer if you like and a folding chair

Please let us know if you're coming, if you're bringing a guest and if you have any special dietary requirements.

Disease Alert!

Before you get too upbeat... John McCann brought depressing news recently of American Foul Brood (AFB) having been found in Wrexham and the horrendous threat that Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus (CBPV) seems to represent. AFB is of course a notifiable disease, which if confirmed, requires destruction of the colony and a 3 mile quarantine cordon around the affected apiary. CBPV is not a notifiable disease. But John explained the latest observations and facts, and it is very worrying. There is no definitive test to confirm presence of the disease but symptoms include dark shiny bees, shivering bees, dead and dying bees in front of the hive. It is thought the disease attacks the bees' neural pathways and that this leads to the workers killing the queen. A replacement queen will duly be killed in turn. Most worryingly, there is no effective treatment. The only solution is to destroy the colony and hope it has not spread already to other hives.

Honestly. When will there be good news??!

Back in the day...

6th June 1942

Windle Grange, Rainford Road, St Helens

7pm Lectures and Demonstrations by Mr. W. Shuker on "The Modified System of Demaree" and "Production of Surplus Honey by use of Double Brood Chamber, etc"

Additional attractions:

Show of Named Varieties of Rhododendrons. Collection of exceptional Iris. Demonstration of Apple Orchard and Lucerne Crop. Small Herd of British Saanen Goats.

5th June 1943

At a meeting of the Committee at Yew Tree House Farm, Halewood, Prizes for the Honey Show was discussed..

The Secretary pointed out that he had received a letter... asking... not to bother about Medals this year as there were none on hand... It is a pleasure to record however, Mr R Cooper now resident in Shrewsbury wish to give a 15/- War Savings Certificate as a prize, and Mr Cockeram wishes to give a Duck.

Meetings and Events

We had a great meeting at Rice Lane recently where Eric Graham very ably demonstrated his method of doing a Bailey comb change and also discussed his poly hives and black plastic foundation. Despite the amazingly tropical weather we had a reasonable turnout and a very pleasant afternoon. Just a reminder that all meetings at Rice Lane start at 1.30pm now as the farm needs to close early.

Our next meeting will be at Sandy Lane Nurseries, Melling on 13th July, **2.30pm**. John McCann and Arthur Gillett will be trending Mr Shuker when they discuss single brood versus double brood and we have the pleasure of seeing Arthur's delightfully calm bees.

The following events are taking place in the wider area over the coming weeks:

Sat 8th July **Preston – Bee Health Day**, Myerscough College. Various Bee Inspectors. To book a place send your application and payment to Mr Paul Noblett using the address on the application. Places cost £10 to be paid prior to the event. Tea & Coffee provided but attendees are to bring their own lunches. Get an application form from <http://www.prestonbka.org.uk/diary.html>

Sat 15th Jul, **Wirral** - Apiary Hygiene, Mark McLoughlin, Station Road, Thurstaston

Sun 16th July **Preston** - Hive Opening and demonstration talk at Ulness Walton 2-4pm. Speakers Bill Helm and Dorothy Todd. **PLEASE RING 01772 601264 TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE**

Sat 30th July, **Ormskirk** - Practical Beekeeping, 2pm, Out Apiary, Fir Tree Farm, Pimbo Lane, King's Moss, St Helens WA11 8RG

Spotlight on ...

Evelyn Hall

Evelyn has a special place in my beekeeping life as she opened her gate to welcome me and Cliff, as well as our friend Jane, into her garden to site our first hives there, five years ago. In her lovely secluded garden, with chickens clucking in the coup and plenty of forage nearby along the river it was idyllic for us and our bees and, I hope, mutually beneficial as we helped to manage her bees while she was out of action following surgery.

Evelyn grew up on the Wirral, brought up by her dad after her mum died very young, and moved to Liverpool after getting married. She became a teacher and taught music at Birkenhead High School. And that's where it all began, 36 years ago. One of the other teachers kept bees in her garden, which was in the school grounds, and she occasionally took groups of the children to see the bees. Evelyn expressed an interest too and tagged along on one visit. Shortly afterwards, the teacher handed an armful of wood to Evelyn pronouncing "You've got boys haven't you. Get them to make this into a beehive for you!" Evelyn's husband, reknowned architect George Hall, and future architect, son Adam, relished the task and set about converting the firewood into a more or less respectable WBC hive. The next day, with the hive 90% complete, the teacher contacted Evelyn demanding "there's a swarm in the garden, come and get it right away". Evelyn, knowing nothing about beekeeping, found a jar of local honey in the cupboard and contacted the beekeeper named on the label. He was interested in selling honey but not in giving advice. But he did put her in touch with Doug Jones, who lived not far away in Mossley Hill at the time. Doug furnished her with advice and frames. In the meantime she had questioned all of the kids in school to find out if anyone's parents kept bees. One of the dads did and he was conscripted to help with the swarm. And so, with Evelyn and 12 year old son, Ollie, kitted out in cricket hats with netting and painters' overalls the adventure began and they returned through the Tunnel with a box full of bees on board. Evelyn subsequently signed up for Arthur's beekeeping course in the Technical College near Croxteth Park and has kept bees on and off ever since.



Now long retired, Evelyn is a busy lady, with her garden, volunteering in her old school and singing in a madrigal choir. Sadly she lost George last year and those of us who knew him understand what a blow that must be. He was quite a character and they were a great twosome. But her days are even more full, with

a small but lively curly white bundle of dog in the shape of Teddy the Bichon Frise, her sons, their wives and four grandchildren. Not to mention the bees.

We have in recent years held some of our best meetings in Evelyn's garden in Fulwood Park, where she always seems to arrange sunshine for the day, as well as very good home bakes.

Local Nucleus Colonies Available Now

John and Christine Hebron, of Wirral Beekeepers, have some nucs available, meeting BBKA specifications. They also have a lot of super foundation. Contact them on 0151 648 3744 if you are interested.

Any unwanted swarms?

Various members have lost colonies recently and are keen to replace them. If you hear of any swarms that you do not want to keep yourself, please contact us via webmail, contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk, or phone Eric Graham on 07795 414583.

See you on 1st July!

*Tracey Seddon, Secretary, contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk
www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk*