



## Newsletter

### March 2017

Peter, Cliff and I headed up to Salmesbury early (too early) last Saturday for the Module 1 exam. We all filled the 1½ hours with pages of notes, finished all questions and emerged at the end feeling better than when we went in. Phew! We will find out in May how we did. Now I just want to mix it up with my bees.

Finally gardens are beginning to offer serious sustenance for our winged wonders. All of the flowering cherries have suddenly exploded into pink froth, including, at last, my columnar cherry, which I got three years ago and has never flowered before. It lives!

We went along to the Bishop's Lodge earlier this month with Jen, one of our new members, who has the chance to site some hives there. The garden is delightful and you might be interested to know that it is open to the public every Thursday from 10.30am until 4pm, with self-serve tea and coffee available. It is at Woolton Park L25 6DT. Well worth a little mooch.

While you're mooching keep an eye out for the Asian hornet and before you go for your stroll get a hornet trap organised for your apiary, if you haven't already. Attached to this Newsletter is a copy of the BBKA leaflet on how to make a cheap, simple but effective one. Do it now!

### **Back in the day..**

This month's seasonal snippets from branch meetings of yesteryear.

#### **28<sup>th</sup> March 1966**

*In 1966 our second longest-standing member, David Thornton, is now on the Committee as Honorary Secretary and Arthur Gillett is still a committee member.*

It was agreed that the rate of exchange for foundation against good old combs would be 1/- (*shilling*) for brood and 8d (*pence*) for shallow.

In connection with the Hearthrug donated to Mr and Mrs MacAuley, it was noted that it would only be necessary to call upon branch funds to the extent of 18/-. (??? I have no idea!)

## Meetings and Events

Our next branch meeting will be on 29<sup>th</sup> April at Rice Lane City Farm, where Graham Royle will talk about bee diseases. Graham is the Defra Bee Inspector for Cheshire and is a very engaging and knowledgeable speaker. Please note the new start time for this meeting of **1.30pm** (to be confirmed), as Rice Lane City Farm now closes at 3.30pm. We also have a change to our October meeting. This will now feature Mike Saunders, a queen breeder from Ludlow, talking about his passion, the black bee. A revised calendar of events is attached with this Newsletter.

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

8-9 April BBKA Spring Convention, Harper Adams University, Shropshire.

22nd Apr **Preston** - Discussion and Demonstration on Asian Hornets and Traps followed by Practical Swarm Control, Viki Cuthbertson, 2.30pm at Apiary, Myerscough College.

23<sup>rd</sup> Apr **Ormskirk** - Healthy Bees Day, 9:30am , Out Apiary, Fir Tree Farm, Pimbo Lane, King's Moss, Saint Helens WA11 8RG

Also, there will be a National Bee Unit **Bee Health Day** on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July at Myerscough College, Preston. The fee is £10 (to be confirmed) which includes tea and coffee. You can find an application form at [www.prestonbka.org.uk/diary.html](http://www.prestonbka.org.uk/diary.html)

## Lancashire Seeks new Secretary

Martin Smith, the Secretary of L&NWBKA is moving South for a new job at the BBKA and as a result there is a vacancy for the role of Honorary Secretary to Lancashire Beekeepers Association. The vacancy notice is attached with this Newsletter. Martin would be happy to discuss the role with anyone interested, via email or tel: 07831 695732.

## Help needed building new hives

We are in the process of acquiring two new WBC hives for the Rice Lane Apiary. These have been sponsored by MacLoughlin and Harvey, a construction company who are building a new branch of Sainsburys in Everton. The hives will be flat-pack and it would be great if we could have a bit of help building them to save Eric having to spend an entire weekend on the job. Please let Eric know via [contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk) if you can give up an hour or two of your time to help out some time soon.

## Well done Pat!

Pat Neill joined our association just a few months ago. He has recently moved back to Liverpool from Bury after being there for twenty years. He has kept bees for only three years yet his experience includes having collected about half a dozen swarms, doing a Queen rearing course with Roger Patterson last year and subsequently successfully raising a few queens. He did the Basic Assessment with the East Lancashire branch and at Convention this month Pat was awarded the Ken Gaiger Shield and the Leonard Ross Memorial Trophy for having achieved the highest marks in the North West for the Basic Assessment. How about that!



Pat's trophies

## Cut Price Beesuits

At the Bee Tradex show at Stoneleigh recently Doug Jones came across an exhibitor selling beesuits made in India. They are based on the excellent ones by well known brands which retail at around £90, but these cost only £20-25. They are available in all sizes and come in red blue, yellow or white. Contact Doug via [contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk) if you would like to order one or see a sample.

See you soon!  
Tracey

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