



Newsletter

September 2016

An Inspector Called...



We had a visit by our local Bee Inspector, Mark McLoughlin, last month. The bees were given a more or less clean bill of health, though there were signs of high varroa levels. Mark showed us how to spot cells which had been uncapped by the bees which had detected dead or damaged larvae or pupae. He also brought samples of exotic pests to look out for, including Asian hornet and small hive beetle. Our branch apiary at Woolton also had an inspection this summer and the bees there were also pronounced in good condition. Beekeepers registered on BeeBase at the National Bee Unit are likely to have their bees inspected for notifiable diseases and exotic pests. I always find it really informative and re-assuring and it's great that it costs us nothing! If you're not registered you should really consider signing up as it provides the best way to safeguard all of our bees should there be an outbreak of something nasty.

All our colonies are now mid-way through an Apiguard treatment and those colonies that need it are getting a supplementary feed of thick syrup before we have to reluctantly close up for winter.

Meetings

Our next meeting is Saturday, 24th September, at the Millenium Centre, View Rd, Rainhill L35 0LE from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Dr Jennifer Rowntree will be discussing plant diversity and honey bees. This will be followed by her colleague, Dr William Fletcher, who will give us a very different angle on the subject, with "Lakes, bogs, mud and honey - exploring the diverse applications of pollen analysis". This is scheduled to be a joint meeting with Wirral Beekeepers so hopefully we will see some of our fellow beekeepers from across the water.

Don't forget that you can attend meetings of other branches (take your BBKA membership card), and these are the remaining meetings of the Wirral Branch for this year:

Friday 21st October, 19.30, Ian Molyneux on Beekeeping from a Distance.

Friday 18th November, 19.30, Beekeepers Question time.

Both take place at Thornton Hough Village Hall.

Cheshire Autumn Convention and Honey Show

Saturday 8th October 2016, 9.30am until 5pm

Forest Hills Hotel, Overton Hill, Frodsham WA6 6HH

Speakers: Clive de Bruyn, Phil McAnespie, Peter Schollick

Plus trade stands, a book stall and Grand Raffle

Tickets: £25 in advance, £28 on the day,

Refreshments and a hot & cold buffet lunch included in price

Contact Barbra Bryan 01513275977

Liverpool and Merseyside Beekeepers Honey Show and AGM

5th November 2016

St Anne's Millenium Centre, Rainhill

*This is **your** show. There are loads of categories so start thinking about what you're going to enter now. You should have received the schedule last week. Contact Rob Myron if you have any queries.*



Education

BBKA Basic Assessment Success!

Big congratulations to Ed Carson, Andreas Koungelis and Jacqueline Prescott, who all achieved a Credit on passing their British Beekeepers' Association Basic Assessment in August.



BBKA Examinations

The **Basic Assessment** can be taken by anyone who has kept bees for 12 months. Our branch offers a free correspondence course and general support with taking this qualification.

The next set of **Module** examinations take place on Saturday 12th November and entries must reach the Lancashire Education Secretary by **Friday 23rd of September** (not 24th as indicated in my earlier email!) along with the fee of £25 per Module.

There are seven module examinations offered by the BBKA, as follows:

- 1 - Honey Bee Management
- 2 - Honey Bee Products
- 3 - Honey Bee Pests, Diseases and Poisoning
- 5 - Honey Bee Biology
- 6 - Honey Bee Behaviour
- 7 - Selection and Breeding of Honey Bees
- 8 - Honey Bee Management, Health and History

(The eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed the lack of a Module 4 - this has been discontinued)

If you complete Modules 1, 2, 3 and one other from 5, 6 or 7 you will be awarded the **Intermediate Theory Certificate**.

If you pass all Modules you will be awarded the **Advanced Theory Certificate**.

General and Advanced Husbandry Certificates are aimed at those who want to concentrate on practical beekeeping. The syllabus is quite extensive and covers aspects such as hive management, record keeping, bee health, queen rearing, nucleus production, honey extraction and wax production. Applicants must have passed their Basic assessment and have several years additional experience.

Anyone who is awarded the Advanced Theory and the Advanced Husbandry Certificates becomes a **Master Beekeeper**.

Specialist microscopy and show judge certificates are also available.

The BBKA offers correspondence courses. For further details contact Bob Gilbert, BBKAccourse@aol.com. Past papers are available at www.bbka.org.uk/learn/module_past_papers

More details can be found at:

http://www.bbka.org.uk/learn/examinations__assessments/modules

If you are interested in taking any of these qualifications please contact Cliff Porter, Branch Education Secretary, on contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk.

The Show Must Go On!



We have had a request from the Liverpool Network Theatre Group who have just begun rehearsing for their November production, "Humble Boy" by Charlotte Jones. They need the loan of an old, used beehive. Production Manager James Gray says "One of the play's key motifs is that of the bee colony. The lead character's deceased father was an apiarist and his beehive in the play's setting of the family garden is a constant presence. As such, the beehive is a crucial prop. ...If we could borrow one we would be very grateful, and of course we would include thanks in our programme, as well as a complimentary couple of tickets!

If you can help out please contact James Gray, jmsoffaddy@googlemail.com.

<http://www.liverpoolnetworktheatre.org.uk/>

Ok, see you on Saturday, 24th September in Rainhill.

Tracey Seddon, Branch Secretary
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www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk