



Newsletter

December 2016

Christmas Bees



A lovely seasonal image by Joan Heath

Let's hope all the bees are snug and safe for winter. Don't forget to check weights of hives for food stores and give some fondant (not liquid feed) if necessary, without going into the brood chamber. You can get fondant from PA Foods, Unit 9, Hermes Road, Gilmoor Lane, L11 0ED, 0151 549 1897. I understand it is around £14 for 12.5kg, but do check. Just be sure that the fondant contains only sugar and absolutely no additives. Alternatively look for Ambrosia online. This is partially inverted sugar which the bees can process quicker. Place blocks of food over the feed hole on the crown board.

You should also think about applying a Varroa treatment on a mild day around Christmas time, and at this time oxalic acid is typically applied. ApiBioxal is the only approved formula of this treatment. Mind you, the article in this month's BBKA News by Welsh beekeepers (pp429-431) has thrown me into utter confusion (doesn't take much). To treat or not to treat...?! What do you think?

Meetings and Events

The calendar will be sent out with this Newsletter and we have some interesting events scheduled for 2017.

Our **Annual Dinner** will take place at **Blackburn House** again, on 24th February. The menu is attached. To get your name on the list email me at contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk.

Don't forget that you are entitled to attend meetings of other Branches on production of your BBKA membership card. These are meetings taking place in our area over the next month:

Southport – Tue 13th Dec, 7.30pm, general discussions, The Richmond

Wirral – Fri 13th Jan, Wirral Beekeepers AGM, Thornton Hough Village Hall

Liverpool – Sat 14th Jan, 2.30pm, Will your bees survive this winter? John McCann, Arthur Gillett, Peter Wass; St Anne's Millenium Centre Rainhill

East Lancs – Sun 15th Jan, 2pm, Choosing your first microscope + Coming out of Winter, John Zamorski, Blackburn Fire Station

Ormskirk – Mon 16th Jan, 7.30pm, Asian Hornet, Graham Royle, + Q+A, Church House, Church St.

And this is the schedule of all 2017 meetings of **Wirral Beekeepers**:

17th Feb, 7.30pm, Bees in Your Garden, Arthur Gillett, Thornton Hough Village Hall (THVH)

17th Mar, 7.30pm, Asian Hornet, Graham Royle. THVH

27th May, Different Methods of Swarm Control, John Turner, Dale Farm, Heswall

10th Jun, Bailey Comb Change, John Zamorski, Seabank Road, Lower Heswall

15th Jul, Apiary Hygiene, Mark McLoughlin, Station Road, Thurstaston

9th Sep, Heather Meeting on Heather Moors, Llandegla

15th Sep, 7.30pm, Different Varroa Treatments. Peter Sutcliffe, THVH

20th Oct, 7.30pm, Soil and Plant Science, Paul Sweeney, THVH

17th Nov, 7.30pm, Forage, Collection and its uses, Stuart Hatton, THVH

For times and more details of Wirral meetings please contact Doug Jones by emailing contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk

Coach trip to BBKA Spring Convention, 8th April 2017

We hope to arrange group travel to Harper Adams University in Shropshire to attend Spring Convention on Saturday 8th April. The cost for travel will be £15 per person. Members of Liverpool Beekeepers will get priority booking for a seat on the coach with any remaining places offered to members of other branches from 1st February. There will be two or three pick up points, starting around 9am and returning to Liverpool at about 6.30pm. Please let me know if you are interested in coming along. A deposit of £5 will be required by the end of January to secure your place.

Convention includes lectures, workshops and courses, a trade fair and a partner programme for non-beekeepers. You can save money by ordering your beekeeping equipment at special show prices and pick it up there at the trade stands. Full details, including registration fee, have yet to be posted on the BBKA website. Keep an eye on this for full details:
http://www.bbka.org.uk/members/spring_convention_2017.

And...

**2017 is the
75th Anniversary of Liverpool Beekeepers**

We would like to set up a Sub-Committee to plan celebrations. Would you like to be involved? Contact us for more information or to get in on the act.

Central Council News

We are part of Lancashire and North West Beekeepers Association and Sheila Myron kindly attends Central Council Meetings as our delegate. See Minutes attached from the meeting last week.

Do think about attending Lancashire Convention, which is scheduled for 11th March in Preston. Details are given in the notes, 2nd page, or on the LNWBKA website, as well as on our Calendar of Events.

Thank you Sheila and Rob for keeping us informed of the activities of our parent association.

Facebook

Leah Abbott has done a great job setting up our Facebook page and we currently have 26 people signed up to it. It is a closed group though we welcome members from Wirral Beekeepers as well as any other local branches and bee inspectors. The site is fairly active with photos, videos, bee related books, questions, suggestions, and topical bee-related news stories from far and wide. Do take a look if you haven't already. Just cut and paste this address into your search engine:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1133800859991166/>

Correction!

I reported in the last Newsletter that Rob and Sheila Myron took all the trophies at our Honey Show. They did get several, but true to form, John McCann walked away with just as many. Both John and the Myrons are hard acts to beat and I have been delighted to have entries judged second or even third to such high competition.

Let's hope Santa brings us all healthy bees for next spring...

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