



## **Newsletter**

### **February 2017**

All quiet in the apiary this past month but we have been busy with the Beginners Course which seemed to have been enjoyed by all concerned. I am pleased to report that we have successfully infected the following eager folks with the beekeeping bug:

Angela Todd	Stephen Hughes
Katie Dallas	Zsofia Holluby
Paul Worsley	Megan Williams
Jennifer Roberts	James Higham
Paul Kinehan	George Wolff
Chris Brand	Jane Cunningham
Patricia Brand	

Well done and welcome to the Branch. You've done it now!

Meantime, inspired by the newcomers, I have taken the plunge and signed up for Module 1. That'll keep me out of mischief until we can get into the hives again.

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

I've been trawling the archives to bring you seasonal snippets from branch meetings of yesteryear. Some entries raise more questions than answers.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> February 1943**

A Committee Meeting was held at the Unity Café, 14 Williamson Street, Liverpool, followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM. (*The Committee included Mr Shuker, after whom our 'Shuker Cup' is named*). The Treasurer, Mr Hunter, gave the financial position for the year and regretted to say that there was a deficit on balance in the neighbourhood of £4.

An appeal was made to members to meet the deficit by a subscription. The Treasurer also appealed for donations towards the Red Cross Agricultural Fund. Mr Hunter announced also that the sugar allowance for spring feeding was now available.

It was decided that demonstrations should be held during the period May to September and the Chairman asked that it should

be made a condition, that refreshments should not in any way be provided. (**Wartime rationing**)

The question of beekeepers in the Forces was raised and it was suggested that expert beekeepers who were willing to assist in this direction should hand their names to the Secretary.

For the March meeting it was decided that Mr Prince should give a lecture and demonstration on his Automatic Swarm Recorder and Hive Weighing Device.

### **21<sup>st</sup> February 1952**

The Secretary began the Committee meeting by reviewing the list of members and allotting members to advisers as usual. Advisers' reports were read and showed a state of bad beekeeping in the Branch. Mr Palmer thought there was now a certain loss of interest. Mr Shuker said all Associations were losing members. Mr Sims said that many members didn't get any honey.

### **7<sup>th</sup> February 1957**

Mr Nichols and Mr Baldwin were to be proposed for the permanent Foul Brood Officers for the Branch area. The Secretary proposed that in view of the late Mr Shuker's long services to beekeeping and to the Lancashire Association that a memorial to him should be established. It was agreed that a fitting tribute would be a silver cup to be presented to the Association to be awarded for the best exhibit of Sections.

### **18<sup>th</sup> February 1960**

Mr Arthur Gillett is now on the Committee (since 1958).

### **2<sup>nd</sup> February 1961**

The Chairman said that we would be welcome to hold a summer meeting at Grant Road School now that they had a hive of bees established there. Mr MacAuley made a suggestion that we could hold our Honey Show in a room at the Officers' Club at Walton Prison and he said that the facilities of the Club would be available to members.

**At least we don't go to prison any more just for keeping bees!**

Now back to the future -

## **Meetings and Events**

**Remember our dinner on the 24<sup>th</sup> at Blackburn House. Contact us by Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Feb at the latest to get your name down and give your menu choices.**

The following meetings are taking place in the North West over the next month:

17<sup>th</sup> Feb **Wirral** - Bees in Your Garden, Arthur Gillett, 7.30pm, Thornton Hough Village Hall

17<sup>th</sup> Feb **Preston** - End of Winter Management & Planning for Spring, Mrs Janet Murray, 7.30pm, Church of the Latter Day Saints, Longsands Lane Fulwood PR2 9PS.

19<sup>th</sup> Feb **East Lancs** - Planting for Bees, Peter Foley, 2pm Acres Block, Hanson Cement, Ribblesdale Works/West Bradford Rd, Clitheroe BB7 4QF

20<sup>th</sup> Feb **Ormskirk** - Wax, followed by show tips, John Goodwin, 7.30pm Church House, as above.

## **Lancashire and North West BKA Spring Convention, Saturday 11th March 2017**

9.00am - 4.45pm

Archbishop Temple School, St Vincents Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8RA

Speaking at this important regional event will be Margaret Ginman of the Bee Farmers Association, who will talk about that organisation and apprenticeships in commercial beekeeping. Also, Siman Cavill will lecture on keeping bees in polystyrene hives.

Trophies and certificates for examinations taken in 2016 will also be presented at the Convention, so hopefully our members who passed the Basic Assessment will be able to attend and receive their badges.

The fee is £21 and includes a hot lunch, plus morning and afternoon refreshments. If payment is received by 7<sup>th</sup> March the fee will be £16.

Let us know if you would like to hook up with other members planning on going.

### **New Branch**

L&NWBKA has a new branch - Medlock Beekeepers. They are based around the river Medlock area of North Manchester / South East Lancashire.

They have about 30 members, some of whom have transferred from Oldham, Manchester or Lancashire branches, but most are new members.

### **Are you ready for spring?**

The LASI Queen Bee Team is based in the University of Sussex and breeds honey bees for disease resistance using hygienic behaviour based on scientific research. Hygienic behaviour is a natural form of disease resistance and helps beekeepers prevent disease. You can pre-order a hygienic bee from LASI, [www.lasiqueenbees.com](http://www.lasiqueenbees.com).

If you want to know more about hygienic behaviour, Professor Francis Ratnieks has written a fascinating blog post, which is on the website above.  
Other queen bee breeders are available!

### ***This month in Sheila's Garden...***

*Finally walked around the garden to find the viburnum bodnantense loaded with sweet scented flowers. The two winter flowering mahonias are just tailing off and flowers turning into edible berries for the birds (or us!). Both the cultivated hazel and the witch hazel are full of*



*catkins. The white winter flowering honeysuckle has only a few flowers as it was smothered by the hop this year. Will move one of them. Snowdrops in full flower, while yellow crocus and hellebores are in colour but not yet open. One of my white cyclamen has flowered through the winter, along with the hebes which are now down to one or two flowers. I've not seen bees on bergenia (elephant ears) but they are just coming into flower. Our garden being a bit windy, the daffs are not yet showing. Today is like spring, probably about 12C with the bees flying around 1.30 pm. The two smaller colonies were up and active under the glass quilt as I finally, belatedly, gave them candy. Haven't checked the two larger colonies yet.*

### **Spotlight on ...**

#### **Paul Hitchiner**

Paul, a retired Civil Engineer, developed "a crazy interest" in beekeeping just two years ago and acquired his first bees and equipment free through eBay! He got another couple of hives and bees from one of our other members and through careful management and judicious manipulations he already has seven colonies! Mind you, he can hardly fail with Barry Chang as his mentor and helper and Arthur Gillett as his inspiration. Unfortunately, while collecting the first colony, Barry, unusually, got stung, but the bees left Paul alone. He takes great



satisfaction from understanding the mind of bees and it obviously pays off but he finds it a worry too.

His bees are on the allotment site where he manages a plot and he says the crops from his fruit trees have increased exponentially since he got bees on site. The pollination service is a bonus that goes down well with his fellow allotmenters. Paul also spends time on church business and plays piano-accordion, self-taught and "one-handed", at services. He's working up to chords.

Paul is the quiet man of our Committee and keeps a low profile but he has a knack of being on hand when help is needed. And not just for us lot. He was a great help with the Beginners Course the other week and arrived straight from his regular stint helping his wife, a retired midwife, with the food bank that she established to help Persian refugee members of the church. I think the bees will do well with Paul.

### **Final reminder for payment of subs**

Anyone who has not paid their subs by the end of March will lose their membership, though you can be reinstated at a later date. But if you no longer wish to remain a member could you please let John Heath know. If you still need to pay, here's how:

- 1. In person at the annual branch dinner, 24th February.**
- 2. By cheque made out to LNWBKA, sent to:** John Heath, 77 Leyfield Road, West Derby, Liverpool. L12 9EY
- 3. By bank transfer to the following account** (please send e-mail confirmation to [jc.heath@outlook.com](mailto:jc.heath@outlook.com)):
  - Sort Code: 09 01 51
  - Account No: 90159405
  - Account Name: Lancashire and Northwest Beekeepers Association

See you soon!  
Tracey

*Tracey Seddon, Secretary, [contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk)  
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