



## Newsletter September 2017

They say pride comes before a fall.

We were confident that we had three strong, well-rationed colonies, clear of varroa after their autumn treatments. So we were stunned last week to find

what looked like the entire contents of hive 2 hanging outside the hive! On investigation we found hardly any stores, dead larvae and bees that never made it out of their cells with their probosci sticking out, having begged in vain for food. We got syrup on right away and scooped up as many bees as possible and got them back inside. A few hours later when we returned with more



syrup, they had poured out of the hive again. This time we locked them in for 48 hours, having spotted the queen inside. We've given them lots of strong syrup and will give them some fondant to make sure they can make it through winter. They look fine now but in future we will feed them before starting the autumn varroa treatment, not after!

### Meetings and Events

Our last meeting was well-attended with a great session by Cliff Porter on Honey and a bonus presentation by Paul Hitchiner on insulating hives for the winter. I think we were all able to get something out of it, with handy tips, a science bit, and plenty of comments, suggestions, pertinent questions and answers from the floor.

Further to Paul's talk he says:

*"I am going to buy two 6"x2"x24" pieces of wood for each hive - to put each side of the hive, to support the insulation over the entrance. The wood will last longer than the insulation and will mean that all my pieces of insulation will be the same size - four pieces of (15"x22"x2") per hive - easier to store and I can insulate three hives from one 8ft x 4ft sheet, (rather than two hives). If you do buy this insulation from B&Q remember that the insulation turns brown if left in the summer sun."*

Don't forget the **BBQ at the Woolton Branch Apiary** next **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2pm**. Bring your own food and Dave and co will cook it for you.

Our next meeting is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, St Anne's Millenium Centre, Rainhill, 2.30-4.30pm, with a guest speaker, Mike Saunders. Mike is passionate about the British Black Bee, formerly thought to have gone extinct and his lecture promises a comprehensive overview of it's demise, current spread, physical and behavioural characteristics. Mike is also very interested in urban beekeeping so please do try to come along if you keep bees in the city.

Remember our **Honey Show and AGM**  
on **4<sup>th</sup> November**

Get your best honey in jars, your wax polished, get out and about with your camera, and if you're baking - be warned - that cake recipe needs a few practice goes! You can get your entry forms to Rob Myron as soon as you like and bring along your entries on the Show day.

Also, please forward any nominations for the Committee as soon as possible.

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

**LANCASHIRE HONEY SHOW 2017**  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017, Brockholes Nature Reserve, Preston

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, **Preston** – Preston BKA Honey Show, 9am - 4pm at Longsands Lane PR2 9PS. Please see website <http://www.prestonbka.org.uk/diary.html> for Show Rules, Schedule and Entry Form.

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**Back in the day...**

What was our nascent branch up to in the 1940s...

**11<sup>th</sup> September 1943**

*"The Vicarage", Huyton*

*Mr Sims explained that he had been called up for service with the Royal Navy. He had, with the consent of the Chairman, handed over the work of Secretary to Mr. Hurlbut*

The Liverpool Exhibition sponsored by "The Committee of Associated Learned Societies of Liverpool", was to be held at The Hartley Laboratories of the University, Brownlow Hill.

### **9<sup>th</sup> September 1944**

No. 11 District Honey Show - Mr Prince proposed that honey from the gift class should be sent to H.M. Submarine Crews.

### **30<sup>th</sup> September 1944**

As per previous discussions and the circulation of designs it was decided to purchase a cup at £14/14/- for competition at the Honey Show. This necessitated raising £9/14/- from among the members. Each member of the Committee present contributed 10/- towards this sum except Mr Dutton who contributed £1/-. It was agreed...that the name of the cup was to be "Members' Challenge Cup"

## **Entries needed for our branch booklet**

Don't be shy about sending your thoughts, tips, memories, recipes, photos, even poems for our Branch booklet. Jane Score is co-ordinating and would be happy to have a chat with you and do the writing up if you like.

### ***A tip from Paul ...***

*When you put the honey super on the bottom of the brood box and treat the hive for Varroa - remember to take away the frames in the honey super - otherwise the Varroa will fall onto the top of the frames, rather than fall onto the Varroa mesh at the bottom of the hive.*

***See you on 14<sup>th</sup> October!***

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