

Liverpool and Merseyside Beekeepers

Newsletter July 2018

Summer hols for the bees

Last week we took our little nuc for a day out to the Maritime Museum for their 'Be Nice to Bees' event. It was our first foray into showing an observation hive and I was bothered that the nuc still had an invisible queen. Well, at 8am and bleary eyed, we got the frames into the obs hive, checking each with rapidly fading hope; still no queen. Went to close up the nuc and there she was, the little minx! On the OUTSIDE of the box!! We got her marked in the nick of time and though she hid for most of the day, she was no match for the steady stream of beady eyed kids on the Colonades. It seemed like the younger they were the quicker they spotted the flash of red and when they did they were just mesmerised! One little seven year old could not get enough of the bees and was just thrilled when we told him he could join Liverpool Beekeepers when he is 12. See below. It was great fun but a long tiring day for all involved. We were all glad to get home. So it was Childwall's best takeaway curry for us and a nice evening flight for the girls.

Cheshire beekeepers excelled themselves at the Tatton Park Flower Show this month. They not only had their usual stand with observation hive, show garden and all manner of beekeeping accoutrements and info, but also two

flying colonies outside in a huge portable mesh enclosure, complete with microphone and p.a. system for demos. We were quite jealous.

Meetings

Our next meeting will be in Evelyn's lovely garden in Fulwood Park, L17 on Saturday 11th August. It seems rather ahead of time but we'll be discussing how to prepare the bees for winter. Don't forget to bring a chair.

Upcoming meetings in the wider area:

Thursday 9th August, 7:30pm – Southport, Asian Hornet, The Fleetwood Hesketh Social Club, Fylde Road PR9 9XH.

- Sunday 12th August, 2pm – Ormskirk, Winter Preparation and evaluating your hives for the year, Out Apiary, Fir Tree Farm, Pimbo Lane, King's Moss, St Helens WA11 8RG
- Friday 17th August, 7.30pm - Preston, The Asian Hornet, Graham Royle, The Intact Centre, 49 Whitby Avenue, Ingol, PR2 3YP
- Sunday 19th August, 2pm – East Lancs, Preparing for Show, Off-Shoots Permaculture Project, Towneley Park, Burnley
- Sunday 26th August, 2-4pm, Preston, Hive Opening, Great Nelson Farm, Ulness Walton PR26 8LT. To Confirm Attendance Call Bill helm 01772 733928

Microscopy Days

John Charlton will once again be running his series of Microscopy Days on Saturdays at Manchester Grammar School starting in September. The course will cover the BBKA microscopy exam requirements and the microscopy sections of the advanced Bee Husbandry exam.

Dates (to be confirmed) are:

2018:

22 Sept (this clashes with our meeting)

13 Oct (this clashes with our meeting)

17 Nov

08 Dec

2019

12 Jan

02 Feb

09 Mar

27 Apr

Places on the course are limited but if you might be interested contact

John who will send you full details:

Email (preferred method): johncharlton151@gmail.com

Tel: 0161 973 8961 or 0161 962 2284

Junior Membership

BBKA has a junior category of membership and we are now happy to register young people in Liverpool Beekeepers. Membership will be at the lower rate of £10.50 as many of the adult benefits do not apply, eg the youngsters will not get BDI insurance. Membership is open to youngsters aged 12-18 if they have a parent or grandparent who is a current full member and they must be accompanied by their member parent or guardian at meetings.

Contact Geoff Todd, our Membership Secretary, for an application form or more information.

Visitors

We would like to remind everyone that our meetings are specifically for the benefit of our members and members of other BBKA branches. They are not open to the general public. However, if you know someone who has a genuine interest in taking up beekeeping we would be happy to welcome them to one event, strictly by **prior** arrangement. Just contact us in advance and we will let you know which meeting would be suitable.

Payment of subs

As you all know, subs are due on 1st November for the following year. Unfortunately we get very many late payers and our Committee has had to deal with renewals from November right through to March, and then has had to re-instate numerous lapsed members right up to this month. This is not straightforward and causes your Committee completely unnecessary work for nearly half of the year, all of course carried out voluntarily.

I am sure in many cases this delay is unintentional, but it does cause a lot of unnecessary stress and time commitment. In future years anyone who has not paid up by 31st January will be taken off our contact lists and will not be entitled to attend any events until they have paid. We will send a notice about payment due date and methods of payment in October, but please make a note in your diaries now that payment is due the first week in November and the easiest way to pay will be at the AGM on 3rd November.

Are you looking for a nuc?

The branch apiary has a nuc for sale at £80, with the box to be returned. This is an extremely low price set to help our members, beginners in particular. Please contact us if you are interested.

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

www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk