



Newsletter

August 2019

Summer Events

We've had some great meetings this summer, in some cases against the odds. We had no speaker lined up for the July meeting at Tony Gordon's place but Doug Jones gamely stepped up to the plate at the last minute, resulting in an apparently lively debate about what to do about drone-laying queens - very topical as it turns out this year. I wasn't able to make that meeting but by all accounts it was a great afternoon, with everyone made very welcome and well-fed by Tony and his wife Kath. The event at Evelyn Hall's this month was looking good, with Graham Royle coming to speak and copious quantities of cake produced by Evelyn and friends. Sadly the weather turned against us and the afternoon threatened to be a complete washout. But Evelyn welcomed us indoors and we had a cosy afternoon in her lounge with Teddy the cute bishon frise bestowing stroking rights on each of us in turn. Graham had us riveted with tales of interesting swarm collection techniques and ingenious inventions as well as challenging what we thought we knew about diseases with a set of brood frame photos to pass judgement on. So if anyone is up for having 20 or 30 people in their living room next year do let us know and we'll put you on the calendar.

Cliff and I went to Southport Flower Show last Friday - torrential all day, but a lovely show. Sloshing along the muddy walkway who should we come across but Liverpool Beekeeper member Jennifer Roberts, who keeps bees at the Bishop's house in Woolton. She's set up a thriving business selling candles, cosmetics and all manner of bee-related craft items from her beautifully presented stall.

At the bee tent, the venue for the Southport Honey Show, we caught up with Geoff, our Membership Secretary and his wife and fellow-member Angie who were doing duty as stewards. The tent was, as always, chocker block with masses of well-presented entries plus a honey-tasting table, three observation hives, and a skep-making demonstration. I've pestered the craftsman, Barry Milne, before now to do a workshop on skeps for one of our meetings and tried again, but with no luck. Apart from other practical reasons he is too busy. But this is a dying art so it was good to see someone still able to do it beautifully.



Bishop's beekeeper Jen at her stall



Barry Milne, Southport beekeeper and ex-thatcher, demonstrating skep-making.

Meetings

Our next meeting will be at Allerton United Reformed Church, Minor Hall on Saturday 14th September at 2.30pm. The topic and speaker are to be confirmed.

Upcoming meetings and events in the Lancashire and North West Region:

- Saturday 7th September – Ormskirk Honey Show, Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane, Aughton L39 5DH
- Friday 20th September – Preston, Immunology and Feedback from Apimondia, Rome, Kath Cordingley, 7.30pm, The Intact Centre, 49 Whitby Ave, Ingol, Preston PR2 3YP.
- Saturday 21st September – Preston, PBKA Honey Show, speaker Dave Heaton, How to Increase Your Honey Crop, 9am – 4pm. See link on Preston Beekeepers website for Programme, Rules, Schedule and Entry Form

BBKA 60th Annual Delegates Meeting, Saturday 11th January 2020 in Warwick,

Please see attached notice.

Committee

We really need new members to join the Committee and be prepared to play an active part in making sure our Association continues as a lively and engaging group. Our AGM is on 9th November but don't wait until then before talking to us about being nominated for a position.

Modules

If you are interested in taking any of the Modules get in touch with Cliff through webmail - contact@liverpoolbeekeeping.co.uk. The closing date for entries in the next round is 20th September.

Lost hives

A Wirral beekeeper is trying to trace three of their hives that were removed from a property in Floral Wood, Otterspool, around the second week in August. If you know anything relating to these hives, please drop us an email and we can pass any information on to them.