



## Newsletter

June 2019

### Healthy Bee Day

A group of us had a great time at Norton Priory last month for the Healthy Bee Day. The Bee Inspectors were out in force running the four sessions that participants rotated around. The talk on exotic pests was scary - if you think Varroa is bad wait till we get *Tropilaelaps*. And Small Hive Beetle! Neither are in the UK yet, but they are getting closer and it was a very pertinent reminder of one reason we should avoid importing bees. John Zamorski's session on spotting disease on combs was the most useful training I have done in a long time. It is the first time I have seen, and smelled (!) the foul broods first hand. Foul indeed. The procedure for safe entry and exit to the specially sealed room was rigorous, with plastic aprons, overshoes and gloves obligatory before passing the demarked area into the main part of the room. I was allowed to get this photo only by removing my gloves to handle the camera just before leaving.



A full disease inspection on one of the Norton Priory colonies was very useful, particularly for the newer beekeepers.

Of a total of only 47 participants, 11 were from the Liverpool Branch. So we were very well represented and all agreed it was a day very well spent.

## Meetings

Our next gathering will be the **Summer BBQ** at 1.00pm, at Woolton Apiary, this Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> June.



Bring some food to cook and a chair.

For our August meeting in Evelyn's garden I can confirm that former Bee Inspector, Graham Royle, will give a talk, probably on the subject of pests and diseases and will carry out a disease inspection on Evelyn's hives.

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

- Wednesday 13th June – Southport, Sue Hornby, Making Cosmetics/balms from Bee Products, 7:30pm, Oakbridge Building at the branch apiary, Hesketh Park.
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Ormskirk Beekeepers, Branch Meeting: General Husbandry and Making up Nucs, Out apiary, Fir Tree Farm, Pimbo Lane, King's Moss, St Helens WA11 8RG
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June – Preston, Make Your Own Asian Hornet Trap, Kath Cordingley and Andrew Fowler, 7.30pm, The Intact Centre, 49 Whitby Ave, Ingol, Preston PR2 3YP.
- Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June – East Lancs, “Catching the one that got away...”, Karl Francis will be passing on his experiences on catching swarms, the tricks and gadgets he uses and how to set-up and use bait hives, 2pm – 4pm, Offshoots Permaculture Project, Towneley Park, Burnley, BB11 3RQ
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm – Wirral, Bob Spencer at Backford Road apiary, Irby.
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July – Ormskirk Beekeepers, Branch Meeting: Honey Show Preparation; Out apiary, Fir Tree Farm, Pimbo Lane, King's Moss, St Helens WA11 8RG

## **We Need You on the Committee!**

We would like to inject some new blood into the Committee this year. Several members have committed almost a lifetime of dedicated service to keeping the Branch going and need to hand over responsibilities now. In particular, John McCann will step down as Treasurer at the end of this year. I would also like to step back from the role of Secretary. As well as the Officer roles we also have a number of ordinary members. The Committee holds meetings about four times a year, always on a Monday evening at St Helens Bowling Club, plus the AGM in early November. So have a think about any particular role you could take on. You can be nominated at the AGM but come and ask us if you want more information about any particular role. Being on the Committee is a great way to get to know other members and understand more of how the organisation works.

## **And finally...**

Big Congratulations to Hannah Sealey, who had the best reason not to attend our last meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May - she got married!

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