



THE LANCASHIRE AND NORTH WEST
BEE-KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

**Liverpool and
Merseyside
Branch**

August 2020 Newsletter

Although the COVID 19 pandemic continues to disrupt our year in terms of Branch meetings, it has not disrupted our bees and their insatiable desire to pollinate and collect nectar!

Branch Meetings

Due to the continuing restrictions relating to COVID-19, regrettably, we have had to cancel the proposed Branch meetings for both August and September.

This is the time of year that we would usually spend preparing for the various end of season shows such as the Southport Flower Show, the Lancashire Show, etc - but not this year, I'm afraid. For the first time since 1954, there will be no shows. Unlike 1954 (which was a disastrous year in terms of honey production - beekeepers literally didn't have enough to show!) we will never forget why 2020 was disrupted. I suppose it at least means that those lucky enough to win a trophy in 2019 can hold on to it for another year (that reminds me I'll have to get some more brasso!)

Please note that the Woolton Apiary is open for very controlled consultations with Dave.

Book in to discuss your concerns with Dave and others:

***It is very important you get in contact prior to turning up*.**

GENERAL BEEKEEPING ADVICE
For Late August/Early September

from 'Dr. Dave Harrison' our resident Apiary Manager

"He's forgotten more than most of us know about beekeeping" so listen up for his latest pearls of wisdom....



"Hello everybody, greetings from the apiary.

I hope you have all enjoyed a good harvest of honey.

The bees at Woolton have not produced much honey, it's been a strange year with COVID-19.

It is now time to start preparing for winter. Starting with feeding sugar. As follows, SYRUP at 50-50 mix. Bees do not die of cold generally in the winter it's starvation. They need 20 to 30 lbs of sugar to get through a winter. I have some sugar available now and hopefully expecting some more soon. Ring me if you require some.

You should use a Miller Feeder or a Contact Feeder. A Contact Feeder can be made with 1lb Jam jar with small holes punched in the lid.

Good luck and contact me if you have any questions.

Pleasant Beekeeping,

Dave

In other News....

A message from Leigh Sidaway General Manager of BBKA regarding Asian Hornet Week

We wanted to let you know that we have planned a press and social media campaign for Asian Hornet Week 7th-13th September 2020. One of our aims is to engage the public to download the 'Asian Hornet Watch' app onto their phones so that they have the information ready to hand to identify to report sightings of Asian Hornets - and particularly, nests - as we move into autumn.

Our PR Officer, Diane Roberts, has written the attached press release and we would be grateful if you could send it on to local press, radio and TV stations. We have found it is best to give news outlets adequate notice so that they can prepare and ask for comments/interviews, etc.

There is a page on the BBKA website on the link below that has more information:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/Event/asian-hornet-week-2020>

Follow us on social media and share our posts during Asian Hornet week to help reach more people:

<https://twitter.com/britishbee>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBritishBeekeepersAssociation/>

<https://www.instagram.com/britishbeekeepers/>

We heard a great idea from Tavistock BKA whose members are taking a stall at a local market to advertise and promote Asian Hornet Week. If you want to do the same and need to show a Public Liability insurance certificate to the organisers, it can be downloaded from the following link on the website:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/public-liability-insurance>

We have had a few inquiries recently from members asking for help to access the online BBKA News magazine archive or asking for copies of old magazines.

Did you know BBKA has a digital version of the magazine?

Diane Drinkwater, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Communications Committee has put together a useful page on the website to help members make more use of this resource:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/reading-bbka-news-online>

FREE WEBINARS FROM BIBBA

I sent you all an email recently with a link to some free Webinars produced by BIBBA recommended by Karl Colyer. I hope you all tuned into the first - titled "Dead bees don't Buzz - Surviving the Winter" hosted Roger Patterson. If you missed it, don't worry - you can still register and watch it and the others retrospectively.

This is what they have lined up over the next few weeks:

- Tuesday 25th August 7:30pm - Lynfa Davies - "The Mystery of Mating"
- Tuesday 1st September 7:30pm - Roger Patterson - "Challenge what you are told..."
- Tuesday 8th September 7:30pm - Peter Jenkins - "The KISS Approach"

As we haven't had any Branch meetings over the last few months, these are a great way to broaden your knowledge. I highly recommend them! To watch, follow the link below:

<https://bibba.com/>

PLUS...

**A sustainable future for our
beekeepers, our honey bees
and our environment.**

**A National Bee Improvement Programme
(NatBIP) is being launched.**

BIBBA aims to support associations, groups and beekeepers of all levels to sustainably select and produce hardy, docile and productive bees that are best suited to their local environment.



The National Bee Improvement Programme (NatBIP)

BIBBA is launching NatBIP to encourage all beekeepers to produce hardy, docile and productive bees suited to their local environment.

For over 100 years there have been significant importations of honey bees and queens into the U.K. The reasons for this practice are varied: from the "Isle of Wight Disease", to hard winters (such as 1962/63), to management reasons to suit beekeepers. However, there is increasing concern from beekeepers, both new and experienced, with regard to continued importations; and this is backed by scientific evidence. Concerns include but are not limited to:-

- Bee health. Possible introduction of pests, diseases and pathogens.
- Unsuitability to the locality. Possibly contributing to increased colony losses.
- Drones interbreeding with existing queens. Weakening the quality of local stock.

A series of webinars have been planned in a logical progression to explain NatBIP, experience of importations, scientific evidence, teaching beekeepers and how beekeeping associations can help improve our population of bees for the benefit of everyone. The provisional programme of webinars for NatBIP, all Tuesdays at 7.30pm is:-

1. 22nd Sept *"The National Bee Improvement Programme - Outline"*
Jo Widdicombe
2. 29th Sept *"More details of the National Bee Improvement Programme and Participation"*
Jo Widdicombe
3. 6th Oct *"Global pandemics, bee imports and native bees"*
Norman Carreck
4. 13th Oct *"My 50 years experiences of imported bees affecting local stock"*
Peter Jenkins
5. 20th Oct *"Resilient Honeybees"*
Grace McCormack
6. 27th Oct *"Where we are, how we got here and how we can move on....."*
Roger Patterson

7. 3rd Nov "Some Fresh Ideas for Teaching and Learning"
Roger Patterson
8. 10th Nov "Bees and queens for everyone"
Roger Patterson
9. 17th Nov "Answering Your Questions"
All Speakers

NatBIP provides us with the first ever chance to choose to be self-sufficient with our beekeeping, reducing the need for increasing importations that many beekeepers feel are harming our own honey bees. It is hoped that as many beekeepers, groups and associations as possible will attend these webinars.

Liverpool Beekeeping Association Committee

It's that time of year again when the opportunity arises for you to think about getting involved with your Association and playing a more active role in determining how we operate.

The Committee is made up of the following:

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Education officer, Librarian, Web Master, Apiary managers, Honey Show Officer, plus others.

If you are interested in joining the committee please get in touch directly. If you have any skills - web design, we need you!

Happy Beekeeping.

*John Mooney, Branch Secretary, contact@liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk
www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk*