CBKA Newsletter April 2007

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The spring flowers are beginning to look wonderful, our local parks departments have done a superb job along our roadsides and traffic islands, and with beautiful displays in most town centres it's a pleasure to be out and about. The early blossoming trees in parks and gardens are glorious with the ever popular magnolias, with their large scented blooms, dominating the scene at the moment. Wildlife is clearly conscious of the change to warmer times with birds building nests, hedgehogs on the move and the rabbit population booming (the little perishers, we could manage without them). Our bees are clearly on the wing during the warmer times of the day and there's an abundance of pollen for them to gather now. This will be a considerable help to any colony with young brood for pollen is an essential requirement in brood rearing. But in spite of it all it is still too cold to open hives (3rd April) without the risk of serious damage to any young unsealed brood. The incessant cold east winds we are experiencing at the moment can do untold damage to a colony in a very short time and set a colony back several weeks just at this critical time of the year. The 'beekeeping summer' in this country is a short one, so any damage to brood, at any time, will simply delay its development and shorten the already short brood rearing period.

Limit your 'beekeeping' to preparing your supers, waxing up brood frames and ensuring that everything is ready for when the real tasks begin later when the weather is more kind. Have a good look at your queen excluders too, I have recently seen one or two of the perforated zinc type that were distorted in several places. Such distortion will allow the queen access to the supers thus allowing brood to be raised there. The problem is not generally discovered until brood is found in the super when it's too late to do much about it other than to first find the queen, make sure she's put into the brood box and then fit a better queen excluder. If you use zinc excluders, give some thought to fitting a 25mm by 6mm wooden edging all round it on one side only. In addition, as such excluders tend to sag, fit a small 6mm thick block in the centre on the underside to prevent it sagging. A zinc excluder that has such an edge is much easier to remove when inspecting your bees consequently helping to avoid damaging it.

So we have more government fostered garbage telling us that honey is junk food, at least according to the Office of Communications - Ofcom. Honey along with raisins, Marmite, cheese and others are classified as 'Junk' and cannot be advertised on children's television. How daft can these faceless, mysterious bureaucrats sitting behind desks in Whitehall be. Such folks may well be among the many who have never tried or used honey at any time in their sheltered little lives. It's time to mount another campaign by writing to the 'head of broadcasting regulator Ofcom' and a copy of my letter is attached. Please follow it up as the more people who shout about these things the greater the chance of reversing such nonsense. As I said once before, governments respond not so much to what is said but to the absolute volume of folks saying it.

Computers and the internet are obviously here to stay and one way or another we cannot help but be conscious of them. The March meeting was a clear manifestation of that fact. Sal not only confirmed the power of the (our new) computer as an educational tool, but also demonstrated how we can establish contacts, via the internet, to the wealth of beekeeping and allied organisations many of which can be a great help to all beekeepers. At the touch of a few buttons we can access information on all sorts beekeeping (and other) topics, many of which we did not even know existed until recently. I feel that it would be helpful to us all if Cleveland beekeepers were to scan the 'net' occasionally and report back any findings they thought interesting or newsworthy.

Thank you Sal for a very interesting evening. I look forward to others discovering the 'net' and regaling us with their various findings.

Not many folks from Cleveland turned up to the Northern Beekeeper's Convention at Grey College, Durham on the 24th of March. The folks who went were not disap-

pointed, for the day was exceptionally good and the attendance was brilliant. Both of the main speakers kept us on our toes for most of the time.

David Aston is known to some of us from a previous talk he gave at Stokesley a year or so ago. He is an excellent speaker and his talk on *"Acquiring those essential beekeeping skills"* produced an excellent response from the audience. His later talk on *"Plants & Honeybees - their relationship"* was also very interesting and clearly demonstrated the need for bees and of course beekeepers.

June Hughes, apart from being an excellent speaker is clearly a comedian too. Her talks on *"Beeswax recycling"* and *"Encaustic art"* were sights for sore eyes. She left many of us amazed at what a wonderful art form encaustic art is, so much so that several people said they would be 'giving it a go'.

The College also did us proud with an excellent lunch and tea and coffee breaks.

Many of the attendees were people who have never previously attended any convention or were new to beekeeping. They all said how interesting the day had been and were looking forward to next year. Put next years date in your diaries, it will be the 29th of March.

This will be last Newsletter of this session and with it the last chance to ask you all to support the summer meetings, starting with the official opening of the new Apiary at Newham Grange Leisure Farm on the 19th of May. (Sadly I won't be there as we have had a holiday booked for many months and we go away on that day.)

The beginners course will also be held at the apiary and that's scheduled for the week end of the 2nd & 3rd of June. See Rob Andrews for details.

Rob and his wife Beryl have kindly invited us to their home apiary in Forrest Lane, Kirklevington on Sunday the 24th of June. Please 'phone Rob (01642 781639) to let them know you intend to be there.

The Cleveland show is on the 21st of July and we are looking for a bumper entry this time. You have all seen recently how to prepare honey for the show and to see just how it is judged, so it will not be difficult for most of you to enter at least one of the classes.

We also need your help in the form of Stewards on the day of the show to explain to members of the public what beekeeping is all about. Do see Dorothy Mathews for copies of the Show Schedule and to arrange a time for when you can help on the day.

Our final meeting of the summer on Sunday, August the 26th is a joint get-together with Richmond BKA at Peter Schollick's apiary on the heather moors above Leyburn. It's a long way to travel and car sharing would be good. I will have room for at least two other people in my car. The site is on O/S map 99, grid ref. 086 923. Please 'phone Peter (01748 822848) to let them know you intend to be there.

A few weeks ago I asked you if you had any suggestions for extra classes to be included in the Honey section of the Stokesley Show. So far I have not received any comment and as I have to give the final schedule to the Show Secretary shortly I guess the show will be just as before.

Stokesley Show is on the Saturday the 22nd of September and I am looking to you all to enter for we need a lot more entries than we have had recently. See me for copies of the Show Schedule. We also need stewards on the day to man the CBKA Display Stand.

Our next indoor meeting will be in September when we will be holding our very own Honey Show. See Dorothy Mathews for details of the schedule.

We have now spent £2,565 of our Lottery grant but there is still some way to go to complete the deal. We have enquired for two colonies of bees for the apiary and they will be delivered in good time for the opening day.

This is the last Newsletter of this season, the next one will be in September. If any of you have any experience this summer you feel could be aired here please send me details.

May you all have more honey this summer than ever before.

Kindest regards to you all,

bryan@hateley.me.uk

The problem with being punctual is that there's never anyone there to greet you.

Secretary; Ian Brown, 48, Thames Avenue, Guisborough, TS14 8AF. Tel: 01287 632851

Meetings held, from September to April, in Lingfield Farm, Countryside Centre, Middlesbrough, on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.15pm
Newcomer's are welcome.

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES
Allan, Tony & Richard Jefferson;
Tel. 01947 840723 or Tel/Fax 01947 893811
Email:- tony@stoneleabees.wanadoo.co.uk
Stonelea Apiaries, 1, Dalehouse Bank, Staithes,
Cleveland. TS13 5AN.
Suppliers of all beekeeping equipment.
Honey bought and sold.

John R. Allen
LONGNEWTON GRANGE BEEKEEPERS SUPPLIES
THE GRANGE, Phone: 01642 585896
BACK LANE, Fax: 01642 585896
LONGNEWTON, Home: 01642582460
STOCKTON-ON-TEES. TS21 1BN Mobile: 07814 576785
EMAIL: beekeepingsupplies@longnewton.fsworld.co.uk

Alphabetical Beekeeping Copied from the Honey Association's WebSite

H is for.. Hangovers, the fructose in honey speeds up oxidation of alcohol by the liver

S is for.. Stir fries, add honey to stir fries to counteract the spiciness and give a rich flavour

Mr. Ed Richards,
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16th April 2007

Dear Ed Richards,

Nutrient Profiling Model
Honey

I beg you to look again at the role of honey as one of the healthiest and most natural foods and to re-consider its inclusion in the above model, for it is clearly not a 'junk food'.

I also request you as head of broadcasting regulator Ofcom to reconsider the basis on which food and drink brands qualify to advertise during children's television programming.

I believe the Nutrient Profiling Model developed by the Foods Standards Agency and used by Ofcom to determine its policies on advertising to children penalises many nutritious foods.

Common sense dictates that dietary variety should be the foundation of good nutrition.
But by judging the nutritional value of all foods based on a 100g portion, the Nutrient Profiling Model unfairly victimises many foods that legitimately form part of a healthy, balanced diet, especially those generally consumed in small quantities, infrequently or in combination with other foods.

It also fails to distinguish between natural and processed sugars, and makes no consideration for vitamins and minerals and non-nutrients such as antioxidants.

Yours sincerely,

Bryan Hateley,
Technical Officer
Cleveland Beekeeper's Association.
(www.teesbees.co.uk)