



CBKA Newsletter

April 2011

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Next Meeting

Sunday 15th May at 2.00pm.

CBKA Apiary. Newham Grange Leisure Farm,
Wykeham Way, Coulby Newham

Preparing for the new season, hosted by Billy Ellerington, a chance for all of you new bee keepers to work in a live apiary following all of your hard theory work!

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<http://www.modernbeekeeping.co.uk/>

Modern beekeeping now have stock of National hives in polystyrene, priced from £60.05 these hives are an addition to their range of Langstroth polystyrene hives which are used extensively on the continent.

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Annie Swarbrick at Greystoke Cycle Cafe near Penrith is hosting a series of Natural Beekeeping workshops in April as part of her Quirky Workshops programme. She is bringing several key national experts to Cumbria to show beginners and experienced beekeepers alike an alternative approach to beekeeping.

"There is a real upsurge of interest in Natural Beekeeping," says Annie, "as the approach puts the needs of bees before all else by working with their natural behaviour. Many of us recognise the huge importance of bees for our environment, food and future, and yet bee colonies around the world are succumbing to disease and collapse."

"Heidi Herrmann from the Natural Beekeeping Trust is a renowned expert and enthusiast for this approach which uses techniques from 100 years ago," says Annie "and there is growing evidence that working with natural rhythms and seasons can make a tangible difference to the health of the hive."

Heidi will deliver a one-day 'Introduction to honey bees and their care from a biodynamic perspective' on Sunday April 17. This is ideal both for those considering keeping bees for the first time and for existing beekeepers interested in a more hands-off and organic approach. Thursday 21 April is a one-day Beginners' beekeeping course run by Dr David Heaf (author of The Bee Friendly Beekeeper) and this will equip people to start keeping bees from scratch. "Natural Beekeeping offers many benefits" says David. "It is less time consuming, involves lower costs, is sustainable, chemical-free and has a lower impact. It is perfect for those who lead busy lives but would like to keep bees, doing their bit for the environment, with honey as a bonus."

For a full list of courses on over throughout the year go to <http://www.greystokecyclecafe.co.uk>

New Bee Keepers

If the idea of helping the environment appeals to you but honey bee keeping is to involved the following may be the answer.



The Beepol Bumblebee Lodge provides an attractive, long lasting, safe and secure home for the hardworking bumblebee, an asset to every garden and a pollinator par excellence!

Based on traditional bee hive designs, the Beepol Lodge has been hand crafted in the UK from durable FSC timber and houses the Beepol hive consisting of a UK native queen bee and 40 to 50 workers - along with eggs - all primed and ready to pollinate and therefore increase the yields of your garden and greenhouse fruit, vegetables and flowers for the summer! Although bumblebee colonies do not continue through the winter in the same way as honeybees do, the queen included in the Beepol hive - which is also suitable for placing directly in the

garden - will produce new queens before she dies. Available from Harrod Horticulture at approx £125.00 complete with bees.



Bee Bay

A place for you to buy and sell beekeeping and all related equipment

For sale, hive of bees, including bees, queen, stores and brood of all ages. Sold on Commercial frames in a Commercial Brood body. Floor, crown board and roof negotiable. Prefer collection, but would deliver locally if required.

Please ring Ada Newman (Honey Secretary) on 01642 326624 for more details.

Beginners Beekeeping “Course in a Case” (Course Co-ordinator Unal Metti)

For the first time this year, CBKA has set up a more formal training course in beekeeping for the beginners. The ten-week course follows strictly the guidelines as laid out by the BBKA in their so called “*Course in a Case*” (white case) and is intended for the complete beginners. This is a classroom based teaching, utilises a *virtual hive* and also includes some basic practical training such as learning the correct way to assemble frames and fit foundations.

The overwhelming popularity of the course has meant that we had to split the students into two groups of 18. The weekly classes have been running on Friday nights and Saturday mornings since the middle of February and will finish by the 3rd week in April. It is anticipated that some apiary-based training will then follow.

Our own experienced members are undertaking the course and have kindly given up their time to ensure that the course is a success. Feedback from both tutors and students has so far been very positive and everyone is well satisfied with the experience.

There is already a growing waiting list for the many that could not get on to the course this time round. Our heart felt thanks go to Catherine Boyle, Growing Together Project Officer for Middlesbrough Environment City who has also facilitated the “classroom” and facilities.

Billy Ellerington with Saturday students, explaining the importance of winter preparation of the bees



Reminder

Throughout the summer CBKA holds apiary meetings at various venues, please contact venue host in advance for times directions etc, this also allows the host to arrange parking and catering.

Secretary: Derek Herring, 8 Wardale Avenue, Acklam

Tel 01642 282030

Meetings are held in the Southlands Leisure Centre, Ormesby Road, Middlesbrough,

TS3 0HG on the third Monday of the month from September to April at 7:15pm. Visitors and new members welcome.

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

Allan, Tony & Richard Jefferson

Stonlea Apiaries, 1 Dalehouse Bank, Staithes, Cleveland, TS13 5AN

Tel 07749 73 1945 or Tel/Fax 01947 893811

tony@stoneleabees.wanadoo.co.uk

Suppliers of all beekeeping equipment

Honey bought and sold

LONGNEWTON GRANGE BEEKEEPERS SUPPLIES

John R. Allen

The Grange, Back Lane, Longnewton, Stockton-on-Tees TS21 1BN

Tel 01642 585896 or Tel Home 01642 898073

beekeepingsupplies@longnewton.fsworld.co.uk

Suppliers of beekeeping equipment.