



CBKA Newsletter

February 2011

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First Steps in Beekeeping Courses, 2011

The course will run from 11th February 2011 to 9th April 2011. There will be weekly theory sessions on either Friday night 7.00 - 9.00 pm Saturday morning 10.00 - 12.00 am

Towards the end of the course there will be practical sessions as weather allows.

The full cost of the course is £30.00 for CBKA members and £50.00 for non-members Places will be booked on a first come basis on receipt of £10.00 deposit

This month in the apiary

By the time you receive this news letter we will be at the start of another season with your queens starting to come in to full lay and workers beginning to forage. A good strong hive in the right place will bring in an excellent crop from the rape if the weather allows, but beware of early swarming. First inspections need to be carried out as soon as the weather allows, ideally the first day its warm enough to go out in short sleeved shirts! Varoa control is particularly important as any infestation will spread rapidly as drone cells are being produced.

Bee Bay

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

"For sale, all being well: a medium-sized colony of bees in a Smith Hive, available at the end of March -- to negotiate, ring (01642) 701832. Please do not apply unless you have completed the Basic Exam."

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For Sale: 5 frame nucs. local bees, last years queens. available after first April inspection. £125.00 each

Rob Andrews 01642 781639.
robandrews574@gmail.com

Petroleum Jelly

Hear is a tip I learned two years ago, after twenty three years beekeeping. Petroleum Jelly (Vaseline) smeared onto the top and bottom edges of brood boxes and supers and into the rebate where the frame lugs sit, stops the bees sticking them down so effectively. It can also be applied to the mating surfaces of crown boards and queen excluders. It is only necessary to apply a thin smear to hive parts to be effective. This makes it easier to remove the frames and gives gentler handling of the bees. This means quieter bees and fewer stings. I wish I had known this when I started beekeeping, but better late than never!

It is very easy to make your own petroleum jelly (Vaseline), just heat SLOWLY in a double saucepan or water bath, 30gm of clean beeswax and 100ml liquid paraffin (Food Grade Mineral Oil), until the wax is almost molten, and then stir thoroughly avoiding air bubbles. Pour into suitable containers. This petroleum jelly smells and tastes "nicer" than the bought stuff and can be used on your skin.

Billy (C.B.K.A. Apery Manager)

Honey bees in your garden

Whilst talking to members of the public and potential new bee keepers at various shows last season, the one question asked more than any other was 'can I keep bees', the simple answer is that anyone can probably keep bees. There are several methods available to new bee keepers, depending on the time they have and what they wish to achieve. For someone who simply wants to help the bees probably a top bar hive or one of its variants in the corner of the garden will suffice, another simple system is the ware hive, both of these systems allow the bees to live virtually undisturbed, neither will produce a lot of honey and both could lead to problems with swarming. If this is what appeals to you plans for both hives are available on the internet, if anyone has tried either system, please let us now how you got on!

Christine Chung

The following E mail was received from Christine Chung, are there any budding chefs among us? Perhaps you could wow the judges with your own favourite honey recipe, good luck!

I'm contacting you with regards to the 5th series of an ITV programme called Britain's Best Dish – a national cookery programme that has previously seen four very successful series. We are looking for talented cooks in the North to attend an audition in York on Sunday 23rd January and I was wondering if you could get some information out to friends, family and members of the Durham Beekeepers Association? Britain's Best Dish is a contest to find Britain's very own best starter, main course and dessert. We are looking for ordinary people (i.e. people who aren't head chefs with years of experience behind them) to cook their signature dishes and enter them into the mix. The overall winner receives the ultimate accolade of 'Britain's Best Dish' and a £10,000 cash prize.

The first part of the show involves auditions around the country in which the amateur cooks are interviewed by our producers and resident food expert as they pitch their dish hoping to get through to the next round which involves cooking in our studio for our panel of judges (Jilly Goolden, John Burton Race and Ed Baines). There is no cooking at the auditions but some people may bring a pre-made dish to show our team. For those interested, you can register or simply find out more by contacting us at bestdish@itv.com or give us a call on 0871 626 6222. For more immediate contact please feel free to pass on my personal email address. christina.chung@itv.com

Recipes

While were on the subject of food do you have a favourite honey recipe you would like to share with our members, if so E mail it to me and I will include it in a future newsletter.



New Zealand Bees

Removing honey from a hive in New Zealand, note the lack of protective clothing! If only our bees were so calm, as we have New Zealand queens here it can only be the weather that makes them so placid.

Statement from the BBKA on Neonicotinoid Pesticides

The BBKA shares the concerns expressed relating to reports of possible harm to honey bees that may be caused by the neonicotinoid group of pesticides. It calls for an urgent review of all the available data on the effects of these compounds. The BBKA has consistently urged for more research into this group of compounds as evidenced in its paper *Honey Bee Health Research Concepts* (Jan 2009) and earlier papers submitted to Government. The BBKA itself is funding research on pesticide residues in bee colonies at Keele University.

This urgent review, based not only on existing literature but also encompassing any new and as yet unpublished data, should involve a thorough re-evaluation and up to date risk assessment of these agents and their effects on honey bees by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate in the UK and competent European authorities, the outcome of which must lead to appropriate action.

Martin Smith
President
24th January 2011

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.