



CBKA Newsletter

January 2011

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Next Meeting

Monday 21st February 50 years in beekeeping
Phil Cunningham

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Correction

The following corrections need to be made to last months programme:- the October meeting is on the 17th, not the 16th. The November meeting is the 21st, not the 19th.

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Membership fees

Membership fees were due at the end of October, if you have not paid yet please do so as soon as possible, a lot of expense is incurred in both postage and phone calls every year by our secretary chasing up late payers, if you are unable to bring your fees along to one of our meetings you can send them by post, the secretaries address appears at the bottom of the newsletter.

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In the Apiary

February can be critical as bees are starting to stir, it is essential that there is adequate food available. On milder days bees will be seen flying and the queen should be coming back in to lay. The colony needs to build up fast in order to take full advantage of the spring flowering trees, and the beginning of the rape crop.

Bee Bay

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

FOR SALE

5' x 4' box trailer, suitable for beehives - garden rubbish etc. recent new tyres £65.00 o.n.o.

Rob Andrews 01642 781639.

robandrews574@gmail.com

Christmas Social

After an excellent talk from Simon Cross on urban horticulture, we had a first class meal from the staff of Casseys bistro. During the evening a raffle was held in aid of Simons charity, Northdale day centre, we raised £50.00. First prize was a fresh chicken donated by Petch butchers of Great Ayton which was won by Bill Wilkinson, second was a hive stand donated and won by Chris and Ada Newman, and I won third prize, a fresh turkey once again donated by Petch's, which I donated to Northdale. The evening ended with a quiz organised by Rob Andrews, ably attempted by all and won by Bill Wilkinsons team, allow Chris and Billy are still working on their answers!

Derek.Passmore

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Bring Out Your Dead

Have I found out a way to make a fortune from dead Bees !

Two recipes from the 'ancients' went further than we do today. For as well as extensive use of honey they also used dead bees. For example, to help with eye disorders Marcellus Empiricus recommended "The honey pure and neat where in the bees are dead, let that drop into the eyes, or honey mixed with the ashes of the heads of bees makes the eyes very clear"

What about a similar prescription given by Claudius Galen for curing baldness. (This one should make us some money!)

"Take bees dead in combs, and when they are thoroughly dried, make them into powder, mingle them with the honey in which they died and anoint the parts of the head that are bald and thin haired, and you should see them grow again".

Volunteers needed for money spinning medical trials.

From *Ada Newman*

Scientists launch fight back against mite that is wiping out our bees... by making it self-destruct

By DAVID DERBYSHIRE

For 20 years it has ruthlessly attacked Britain's hives - wiping out millions of bees and bringing misery to honey producers. But now scientists have launched the fight back against the invasive, blood sucking varroa mite parasite - the world's biggest killer of bees.

The bug drills a hole in the honey bee's back and drinks its blood while injecting viruses to suppress the bee's immune system leaving it vulnerable to disease. Attempts tried to wipe it out but they failed as it becomes increasingly resistant to chemicals.



A honeybee with a Varroa mite (circled) attached to it.

Now researchers have developed a new technique that turns off genes in the pest's DNA, forcing the bugs to self-destruct.

Although the treatment is still experimental, it could eventually kill the mites without harming bees within years.

Conservation groups are welcoming a breakthrough in the battle against the deadly mite responsible for decimating the honeybee population

The breakthrough won't come soon enough for Britain's beleaguered honey bees - in England alone the population has shrunk by 54 per cent since the 1980s as a result of the varroa mite, pesticides, industrial farming and disease.

Farmers say the decline could be disastrous for agriculture because bees are vital for pollinating crops and are worth an estimated £200 million to farming each year.

Dr Alan Bowman of the University of Aberdeen, who led the study, said the technique fooled the immune system of the parasite into attacking itself.

'This can target the mite in the hive,' he said. 'It would be completely selective – it wouldn't target the bees and wouldn't affect any other pollinating insects, such as ladybirds.'

Martin Smith, president of the British Beekeepers' Association, said: 'While this research is at the early stage, we are pleased that work is being undertaken to try to control the varroa mite which remains the largest threat to beekeeping in this country. 'We look forward to seeing further work in this area.'

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

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