



CBKA Newsletter

December 2012

Volume 27/4. Download our Newsletters from www.teesbees.co.uk

In the Apiary

Last month I suggested making an occasional check to make sure your bees and hives were doing well. I hope that you've been doing that, especially with those hives you might have tucked away in out of the way places. The flooding in late November hit our area badly, as one of our members discovered when Tanton Beck burst its banks for the first time in many years. He got a call from the owner of the land where he keeps some hives to say that the field was under water, and after wading through the



shallow lake he discovered some of his hives partly under water. Some hives were on double brood boxes so hopefully the bees climbed higher into the



top box to escape drowning, but time will tell if the single brood box hives have survived. As

if we didn't have enough problems with the weather, we must now also take extra care in considering if a site is liable to get flooded. Even if the hives don't get drowned or washed away the stands can give way if the ground gets too soft.

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Membership Fees

If you haven't renewed your membership yet please note that fees are £30 if your payment reaches the membership secretary after the 1st of January 2013, or £25 before that date.

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Meeting Place

Our winter meetings are on the 3rd Monday of the month at Middlesbrough Bowling Club, Cornfield Rd, Middlesbrough TS5 5QL (Near the Little Theatre)

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Posting and emailing of Newsletters

You should have received a Newsletter in the post last month unless I had registered that you had picked one up at the indoor meeting. A copy was sent electronically to everyone whose email address I have, and quite a few people have already said that they want to receive future Newsletters via email. Please reply to the last Newsletter email if you wish to register for an email copy only. This saves a lot of money on stamps and saves on printing costs and paper.

Someone asked why we had to fill a renewal form this year. The reasons are:

1. People sometimes move house and change email addresses during the year and we need to supply up to date addresses to BBKA as part of our affiliation. Please inform us of changes throughout the year.
2. We have been asked to supply Beebase/fera with details of our members and their hives so they can provide timely information in case of disease breakout in our area.

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Newsletter Archive

When you have some time visit the Association website www.teesbees.co.uk and spend some time trawling through the old Newsletters. Did you know that they go back to January 2002 online? Reading some of those early editions it appears that our weather is even less settled now, though we have a better understanding of Varroa and how to deal with it. You will find plenty of good advice still relevant today, so feel free to browse and explore.

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Visit to the National Bee Unit, Sand Hutton, York

A visit to the National Bee Unit at the Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton on Wednesday evening the 15th May 2013 has been arranged for members of Cleveland Beekeepers Association.

Numbers are limited to 15.

There has been a slight change in the booking arrangements for the visit. The details will remain as advertised in our last newsletter but I will keep the list of members wishing to attend rather than our secretary, and if members would contact me with a cheque made out to CBKA for £15.00 as a deposit I will add your name to the list. Tel 01642 781639. *Rob Andrews, Chairman*

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The Basic Exam

Congratulations to our members who passed the Basic Exam this year. As an Association we encourage all our members who have been keeping bees for at least a year to sit the Basic exam - we



will even pay half your fee (first time only). It gives the beekeeper some confidence that they have a grasp of the principles of beekeeping and encourages a little study to pass the exam. The Basic is a practical exam, there is no written part,

and covers (as it's name suggests) the basics every beekeeper should know. It's a recognised qualification; some Allotment groups will only allow beekeepers who have passed the Basic Exam to keep bees in their grounds. If there is sufficient demand we will hold a couple of study sessions in May or June to assist anyone interested in doing the exam. Also, Tom Rettig, our Exam officer, is happy to do mock exams with prospective candidates. The photos show John Baines (top photo) and Steve Jacklin (lower photo) receiving their certificates from Tom Rettig

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For Sale

An unused hive assembled from a flat pack including a stand, roof, floor, crown board, two supers and a number of unmade frames with foundation. Also a smoker, hive tool, bee brush, feeder, a small pair of leather gloves and a medium jacket with veil. For more information please ring Linda Turner, tel 07791901423

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Build your own Beehive

Middlesbrough Council are running a course on how to build your own beehive. The course will take place in the Cleveland College of Art and Design. The course is for two hours a week for 10 weeks and costs £47. Materials to build the beehive will be provided at an additional cost of £40. To find out more contact Barbara McQueeney 01642 304227. Email barbara.mcqueeney@mcls.ac.uk

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Date Change for the March 2013 Meeting

We have an interesting talk planned in March from Dr David Aston on Integrated Bee Health Management. Unfortunately Dr Aston is now unable to attend on our usual meeting date, so we will move our meeting date to the previous Monday, the 11th of March.

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Happy Christmas and a better beekeeping year for next year!

Secretary: Derek Herring, 8 Wardale Avenue, Acklam, Middlesbrough. Tel 01642 282030

Winter meetings (September to April) are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:15pm in the:

Middlesbrough Bowling Club, Cornfield Rd, Middlesbrough TS5 5QL (Near the Little Theatre). Visitors and new members welcome.

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

Allan, Tony & Richard Jefferson

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

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