



# CBKA Newsletter

## September 2013

Year 28/ 1. Download our Newsletters from [www.teesbees.co.uk](http://www.teesbees.co.uk)

### End of Season

What a difference a year makes. This time last year we had just suffered the wettest summer for a 100 years, with the weather showing no sign of improvement. A lot of us had had to feed our bees through the summer and the honey crop was severely reduced compared to a normal year. Contrast that with this year when after a very long cold winter and a very late spring the summer arrived with a bang and we have had a wonderful few months, and I have heard of some impressive honey yields. You have to feel sympathy for those new beekeepers who started keeping bees last year, it wasn't easy for them. By contrast the 2013 new starters should have found things a lot easier.

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### In the Apiary

You should be well on with the winter feeding and varroa treatment by now unless you still have your hives on the heather. With the sudden cold spell it is now time to bring your bees back from the moors and feed (if they need it) and treat for varroa. Feeding and treating for varroa should be done as soon as possible as both are better done while the temperature is still warmish - it is easy to forget how quickly the bad weather will settle in. As a reminder, winter feed is thick syrup and Fera recommends a ratio of 1kg of sugar dissolved in 630ml of hot water. Allow to cool before feeding to the bees! Feed until the bees don't take any more, by which time the hive will contain approx 20kg of feed, some of which will be honey the bees collected and some will be the sugar solution they have stored away.

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### Jars, Honey and Association Equipment

As was mentioned in the last newsletter before the summer break, the association bulk purchased 20 gross of 1lb jars (2880 jars for those of us who can't remember such things as shillings, old pennies and never used a fountain pen) and also 220 ½lb jars. We think we got a good deal, and you are unlikely to find them cheaper than the 30p each (with lids) that we are selling them for - both sizes cost the same. The association makes a penny or so on the sale of each jar, which goes straight into the association bank account for the benefit of all members. The association honey extractor has been so well

used this year that we plan to buy a second one for the exclusive use of members. I say this as some enterprising visitors to our website have rung to ask to borrow equipment even though they are non-members!

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### Bee Exams and othe Training

Six members of CBKA sat the basic exam this year, congratulations to all those that passed. If you have passed your Basic Exam and have at least three years experience of keeping bees the following may interest you:

#### General Husbandry Assessment Training.

As you may have seen in the beekeeping press, I have been asked to arrange a course for beekeepers wishing to receive training for the General Husbandry Assessment. The BBKA feel that some candidates may be put off, thinking this assessment is too daunting. Plus the pass rate is not good. The idea of the course is to coach potential candidates for the Bee Husbandry Assessment and to give them advice and confidence to go on and succeed in this assessment. If you have been awarded the Basic Assessment certificate and have managed bees for at least three years then you meet the Conditions of Entry for the Bee Husbandry Assessment. Anyone interested please contact me as soon as possible. as I intend to hold an open day on October 12th at Finchale Training College, 11:00 start, to sort out the venue and details of the course. This course is open to all beekeepers in the North East.

Contact me by email at [beeseames@btinternet.com](mailto:beeseames@btinternet.com) or telephone 07970926250.

*By George Eames, Durham Beekeepers Association*

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### Summer Shows

#### Cleveland Show, Stewart Park, Saturday 27th July

What a day! The weather could not have been better, resulting in 15,000 plus people flocking to the park to enjoy the numerous attractions, and also resulting in £42,000 gate money, which will go some way to off-setting the losses of the past two years for the organisers.

After a slow start the honey entries into the show were slightly up on 2011 (2012 was cancelled due to the bad weather), helped by the efforts of some

in the Novice Class. Thank you to every one who entered and so helped to put on a lovely display, which gave the judge plenty of work to do! Our stand as usual attracted a great deal of interest. The Observation hive had a constant flow of fascinated observers, especially children who also enjoyed candle rolling, tasting honey and getting a parent to photograph them with their heads through a cut out of a large Bee, our latest addition to the stand. We were very pleased to have show entries from our Junior members and to have them come along to the show. Many thanks to the organisers from Addvance into Nature who made it possible and looked after the Juniors, especially as they all travelled all the way from Hartlepool.



Everyone on the stand was kept busy doing their bit in different ways to inform and educate the public, as it seems that there are still a lot of people oblivious to the importance of the Honey Bee. We were very pleased to be congratulated on the quality of the stand by the show organizers. To be verbally appreciated made our efforts so much more worth while.

I would like to add my thanks and appreciation to everyone who was on the show ground at 7am to do their bit, and who kept a cheerful disposition throughout a long busy day. Now we have to look forward to doing it all over again at the Stokesley show on 21st September. *By Ada Newman*

### CBeebies, Stewart Park, Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th of July

A phone call out of the blue from the BBC led us to taking our usual stands to a special event at Stewart Park. Mr Bloom and Friends' Big Day Out attracted 16,000 visitors over two scorching days, and coincidentally we had our own Mr Barrie Bloom with an observation hive to interest young and old.

### Raby Castle Food Festival, Sunday 21st of July

We were invited to attend at the Raby Castle Food Festival and this proved that once again the public are fascinated by bees and honey and are always keen to hear enthusiastic members talk all about bees and their role in the environment.

### Newham Grange Country Farm

The staff at Coulby Newham, site of our home apiary, often ask us to attend their special event days, and as usual volunteers turned out to talk to parents and children about bees and honey.

Cleveland Beekeepers Association get invited to many events during the summer, and while we try to attend as many as we can, we would like to invite more members willing to give up an occasional day or two to man the stands. If we could spread the load we would be able fulfill more of these requests. If you wish to volunteer you will be guaranteed an enjoyable but hard day talking to people about bees and beekeeping, and the reward is to feel the enthusiasm that the public feels towards bees and the environment.

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### Beekeeping Taster Course

We recently held a one day taster course for people wanting to find out more about bees and beekeeping. Fourteen people attended, and we hope that their interest will lead them to attend the full course which we hold again starting spring next year. Details to follow later this year of early 2014.

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### Happy beekeeping!

**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

Tel 07749 73 1945 or Tel/Fax 01947 893811

tony@stoneleabees.wanadoo.co.uk

Suppliers of all beekeeping equipment.

Honey bought and sold.

#### **Hillybees**

A Hill and Sons, Station Nurseries, Station Rd, Stokesley, TS9 7AB

Tel 07931527117 Fax 01642 711797

Web: www.hillybees.co.uk Email: enquiries@hillybees.co.uk

Supply of all beekeeping equipment, queens, nucs

Honey Spinner and Filter Tank Hire

See website for more details