



# CBKA NEWSLETTER

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[www.teesbees.co.uk](http://www.teesbees.co.uk)

Year 30/8  
April 2016

## CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLE

Hopefully by the time you read this we will all have done our first inspections of the year. The rape is getting close to flowering and I hope that the weather is going to warm up soon, so that the bees can get out to forage.

Studying for the module exams you will find you need a lot of books. One that is a requirement is *Guide to Bees and Honey* by Hooper. Now looking on Amazon I didn't want to spend that sort of money (tight beekeeper...), but I found a copy on eBay for next to nothing and it came in a box full of old beekeeping books; I placed a bid and won. The box duly arrived and I found within, as well as the books, some old copies of *BeeCraft* from the '70s. At the time I thought nothing of it and put them on one side. Anyhow one rainy afternoon I started reading them. Four hours later I was hooked. I found it fascinating how things had or had not changed over the years. So I started keeping an eye on eBay and if I saw anymore coming up I'd place a bid. Sometimes I won, sometimes I didn't. I now have quite a pile, something like 20% of all the *BeeCrafts* ever issued.

You start looking through them and see how things never change. They are full of people complaining about the BBKA and lots of *Thornes* adverts. Somethings do change though. The price of equipment for starters. In 1982 *Maisemore Apiaries* were selling a *National Hive with Bees* for £50, if you look on their website today they are charging £355 with a £55 deposit.

Who would believe in 1980 we had a local supplier? Unal still remembers the shop which was run by a Mr Kirby until his death. He was also a long time member of our Association.

The most interesting ones I've found are a stack that span from 1936 to 1944 which cover the Second World War. The first thing to strike me was that in 1936 the circulation was something like 3000 copies by the end of the war that had risen to 9000, which is actually more than the current circulation. The reason for the rise was that during the war if you were a beekeeper you could get additional sugar above the normal amount allowed through rationing. In February 1944 you were allowed 15lb per colony for winter feeding and a further 5lb for spring feeding. The enterprising British public realising this placed a box at the bottom of the garden called it a hive and became beekeepers. The government of the day soon realised this and employed a group of men to go and check on the hives. We still have them today they are called the Seasonal Bee Inspectors.

One poignant thing I noticed were advertisements from suppliers saying please don't order anything as we can't fill demand due to shortages of raw materials caused by the war. I will leave you with timely advice I found in one of my old Bee Crafts. *Steve Jacklin*

*A stupid beekeeper named Fred  
Left some supers exposed in his shed  
When he came to extract them  
The bees had unpacked them  
And I cannot repeat what he said.*



## DISPLAY CASE

Derek Rylander has kindly given me a beautiful mahogany display case for a National Super honey frame. I am happy to lend it to anyone in CBKA who hasn't previously entered a frame of honey at either Cleveland, Stokesley, Yorkshire or Countryside Live Shows. Please contact me if you get a nice frame of honey so you can enter it into one of the shows. First come, first served. [Sal Mancina](#)

## BEE INFORMED

A new 'at a glance' quick links section on the front page; please let [me](#) know what you think.

**Outdoor Meetings** — These will be held on Sundays **15 May, 24 July, and 21 August**. The venue will be circulated by email a week or two before, but please put them in your diary now.

**Recipes**—Kate Brennan still needs some more recipes for our Recipe Book which will also feature articles about bees and pollination. Savoury dishes are particularly welcome. Please email yours to [brennan@yellowhammer.me.uk](mailto:brennan@yellowhammer.me.uk).

**Shows**—The Association's local shows are Cleveland on **23 July** and Stokesley on **17 September**. The Great Yorkshire and Countryside Live shows' County Classes are open to Cleveland Residents and are on **July 12, 13 & 14** and **October 22 & 23** respectively. Beware though as both require entries well in advance. *If it's good enough to sell its good enough to show.*

**Even Better Show Honey**—We are delighted that Peter Shollick, one of the most successful exhibitors at honey shows in the country has agreed to share some of his success at a special meeting on **June 21** at the Middlesbrough Bowling Club.

**Pollinator Strategy**—If you have contacted your local Council or Councillor please let the [committee](#) know how you got on. If you haven't done it yet why not reread the [January Newsletter \(page 4\)](#) and contact them.

### Cleveland Beekeepers Association

Secretary: Iain Makinson Tel 01287 634995

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.

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## JOIN US FOR THE SUMMER MEETINGS

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Last summer we had several apiary visits where some interesting tasks and bee manipulations were carried out. These occasions are a good social occasion as well, so bring your partners, they don't need bee-suits as they can choose to keep well away from the hives.

While we look at the bees they can share a cup of tea or coffee and often a cake or two. Some of the things we did last year were:

- ◆ What's in the back of the land rover
- ◆ A beekeepers toolbox
- ◆ Know your apiary and surrounding forage
- ◆ Tips on finding the queen in a colony
- ◆ Uniting two colonies
- ◆ Shaking a previously united colony into one brood box
- ◆ Marking a queen
- ◆ How to recognise a colony with laying workers, and how to deal with the colony

We aren't always able to plan what will be done during apiary visits... just like your own inspections we don't know what we'll find when we open a hive. However if you have any requests we might be able to carry out particular tasks. Check the programme on the website and come along and see what turns up. The apiary dates are always on the third Sunday of the month at 2:00pm: **15<sup>th</sup> May**, (Not June), **17<sup>th</sup> July**, **21<sup>st</sup> August**.

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## THANK YOU

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to Stuart Kirby for taking the time to package and label indigenous pollinator friendly wild flower seeds and bring them to the Association meeting in February. Stuart is passionate about wild flowers and pollinators. He has sown his own small meadow and diligently collects the variety of seed they produce at the end of season to spread these further and enhance any suitably identified area's biodiversity.

If you were lucky enough to get some, now is the time to sow them and spread some *apiness* amongst all pollinators throughout our region. *Well done, Stuart.*

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## SPRING CONVENTION

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I attended the BBKA Spring Convention at Harper Adams University last weekend. After a surprisingly easy journey to Shropshire I attended a workshop on *Insect Photography*. No live bees, just fishing flies on artificial flowers, but there were still plenty of ideas about how to get better photographs and a DVD to take away. Later I attended a workshop on *Beekeeping as a Profitable Side-line*. Saturday was taken up with a course on queen rearing, sadly it was too cold to do anything practical, but I learned the theory and intend, if the weather ever improves, to have a go this year. I attended two lectures on Sunday morning before setting off home *Botany for Beekeepers* and *Migratory Beekeeping*.

All the major traders have stands at the Trade Show full of tempting 'offers' for kit you haven't yet got round to buying. I did yield to some temptation, but not as much as I could have done. The variety of bee-suits and the range of colours never failed to amaze me as I went round the Trade Exhibition—they might make my white kit look rather staid, but I was certainly not tempted to buy another suit in some trendy colour!

Beside the formal sessions the opportunity to meet and discuss beekeeping as practised across the country is fascinating and informative. The student accommodation is a little basic, but adequate if you're on your own!

The 2017 Convention is planned for **7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> April**. Why not put the dates in your diary now and try to take the opportunity to learn more about our craft? *John Canning*

Of course, good beekeepers don't let their bees swarm, do they?

Well, bees don't care what our opinion is and irrespective of your beekeeping approach or belief, swarming is what they need to do in order to survive and proliferate as a species.

Swarm planning starts in the hive long before we as beekeepers see any physical or visual signs from the bees so all we can do as beekeepers is to try and suppress this inherent basic instinct with a variety of methods available to convince them to stay at home before they have decided to swarm.

Trawling the internet on a search will bring a vast array of swarm control methods, but a good source of information is given by the Welsh Beekeepers Association (WBKA) in a series of 5 short but informative lectures by seasoned beekeeper Wally Shaw that are well worth your time watching at <http://www.wbka.com/library/video-library/> now in preparation to the swarm season.

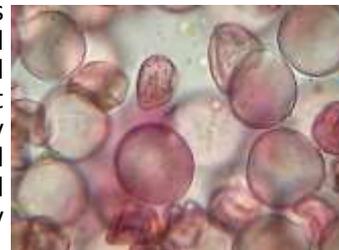
The website requires an access password (WBKApw2015) to view these videos which has kindly been supplied by Grant Williams, editor of the WBKA site. Happy viewing *Jim Turnbull*

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## EASTER POLLEN

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Good Friday was a warm sunny day (unlike most of the rest of this early Easter) and my bees were flying and bringing in a lot of bright orange pollen. So what could it be, well this time of year in town the snowdrops have finished, crocuses and daffodils are in bloom and the flowering cherry is just starting. So what were my bees bringing in—small (20µ), perfectly circular and almost featureless—Pussy Willow. *Graham Clarke*



*This is the last Newsletter until September  
Good Luck for the Season and Happy Beekeeping*