

BEEMASTER

**Nottinghamshire
Beekeepers' Association**
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<http://www.nottsbees.org.uk>

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The Editor would like to thank the following members for their contributions:

Stuart Ching Griff Dixon Linda Jordan Alison Knox Anne & Rob Mason

Other BKAs through the Bee Editors Exchange scheme

Newsletter Archive jsching37@yahoo.co.uk

DIARY DATES

Monday 1 April **Nottingham Region**, Arnold Hill Community Centre, **Arnold NG5 6NZ** 7.30pm

Bailey Comb Exchange & Creaming Honey: Alec Thomson

Saturday 6 April **NBKA Auction**, County Showground, Winthorpe, Newark NG24 2NY 2pm

Friday 12, Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 April **BBKA Spring Convention** Harper Adams University,
Newport, Shropshire TF10 NB Tickets & info www.bbka.org.uk

Thursday 25 April Copy date for **May** newsletter

Monday 13 May **Nottingham Region**, Arnold Hill Community Centre, **Arnold NG65 6NZ**

7.30 pm **Queen Rearing: Keith Cosgrove**

Monday 20 May **Newark Region**, Ferry Inn, **North Muskham NG23 6HB** 8pm

www.nbkaeducation.weebly.com

From the editor

April is here and with it blossom and the promise of true spring and new life as the days grow longer and the sun grows warmer. The rape fields near my apiary are well in bloom and my bees are working them enthusiastically but there's no room for complacency, we are still at the mercy of capricious weather fronts bringing cold winds and early morning frost. After two consecutive poor springs I hardly dare to hope we may get a good one this year but I am an optimist at heart. I made it to Bee Tradex this year and the first person I met was Bob Logan coming out with a trolley laden with hive parts and frames- small world. This event has become a sort of family reunion as year on year beekeepers from all over the region assemble at Stoneleigh rather than at Harper Adams in search of bargains and innovation. There was plenty to see and buy from all of the regular exhibitors and some new ones this year from India and China hoping to break into the UK beekeeping scene. Mindful of recent publicity about adulteration of wax foundation by Stearin and paraffin wax I resisted the temptation of large quantities at bargain prices but did treat myself to a new smoker, a Rauchboy from Germany, which has so far amply lived up to the claims of its quaintly translated publicity material. After considering a rather neat device for vapourising oxalic acid that could be fitted to a blowlamp I decided instead to try Oxuvar, a relatively new treatment that can be sprayed onto the comb. As in recent years there were some interesting lectures and I was pleased to see that BBKA had finally decided to set up a stand. A good day was nicely rounded off with some serious mead-tasting. Here's to next year!

I joined members of Council and old friends of Barrie Ellis at the memorial service held on 15 March at Upton, near Southwell. The church was filled to capacity with family, friends old and new, former pupils and colleagues- all come to pay tribute to a man who had inspired and encouraged so many throughout his long life. Eulogies from Barrie's oldest friend and former pupil, from the vicar and from one of his grandsons told of an admired and respected teacher and headmaster; a practical man who in later life had worked tirelessly for his community; a family man who made things fun; a man of wide interests- keen yachtsman, caravanner, bell ringer, amateur builder and banjolele player. The congregation was invited to sing 'She'll be coming round the mountain' accompanied by the ukulele band Barrie had latterly joined and we did so with great gusto, a rousing send-off for a remarkable man.

On 25 March I attended the first meeting of the Midlands Asian Hornet Action Teams in Burton-upon-Trent hosted by the Burton and District BKA. Delegates from 7 counties attended and we were given a comprehensive briefing on every aspect of the Asian Hornet problem by the NBU regional director for Western England, Colin Pavey, who also gave detailed accounts of how each confirmed incursion into Jersey and the UK mainland was dealt with and the lessons learned. It is clear that the current force of 60 Bee Inspectors for the whole country cannot deal with the increasing numbers of reported sightings from members of the public- 2,782 reports in 2016, 4,500 in 2017, 8,000 in 2018- each of which has to followed up. This is where BKAs across the country can help by forming AHAT teams to act as first responders, communicating and cooperating with neighbouring Associations and community groups. There was a great deal of debate and discussion and there was a clear consensus among the delegates that BBKA needs to be more proactive, ideally by setting up a system via their website along the lines of that used for swarm reporting and collecting. Whether or not that happens, beekeepers can play a major role in correctly identifying and reporting Asian Hornets, enabling the NBU to deploy their teams more effectively. To that end we must set up AHATs; educate and inform our members and the public; promote the Asian Hornet Watch app for smartphones and tablets; set up and monitor AH traps in our apiaries; encourage every beekeeper to register on Beebase; be vigilant. During March I gave four talks on bees and pollinators: two to community groups- a gardening club and a WI – and two in primary schools. Giving talks is fun, a great service to the community

and a very effective and enjoyable way of getting the message out about bees and the essential role they play in nature- and also promotes your honey sales. I end each talk to adult groups with a short presentation on the Asian Hornet and give them laminated copies of the identification sheet to put up on notice boards at their club or allotments. In schools I give copies to the teacher in charge of the school garden or wildlife area if they have one.

In this issue: stained glass and a trip up north for Bees Abroad; Show Secretary Alison asks some questions and gives some explanations; a teatime treat from Linda; a sweet short story for children from Margaret Edge; a trip down memory lane from our Archivist, Stuart Ching; NBKA AHAT news; news from Jersey. Beecraft has the Snelgrove Board; how to create a pollinator paradise in the city; stings and anaphylaxis; the value of a frame of honey. Kettle on?

Hon. Sec. Report & Notes from Norwell April 2019

Griff Dixon

At least there was no snow at Bee Tradex this year, which was very well attended in a new larger hall with all the usual culprits in attendance. I picked up a load of sale stuff from the Thornes Lorry and have much assembly work to do over the new season as I look to double up my apiary. This is now looking like a more difficult task than I first envisaged, and another pair of hands would be very useful.

All my hives (except one) are in the same location waiting for the OSR to get going – which does not look too far off. I noted on Twitter that Bee Farmers are concerned it may be flowering too early in March which is ahead of the bees spring expansion although another commented that polyhives were about 4 weeks ahead of wooden nationals in terms of brood production. So we will see how the nectar flows are going with the different hive styles when things start happening as I have a mixture of both.

I have yet to do any inspections other than checking they are still alive although my single garden based WBC was reported to be acting a bit strangely that I popped in to take a look and did have a quick peek in the top of the brood and a half. Loads of brood so could not see any issues. Bees were flying in with plenty of pollen. Will do another check-up next week.

The Newark Beginners course has expanded to 26 so hopefully we will have many new members joining from this and the Nottingham Beginners Course which had significantly more.

The spring capitation invoice has arrived based on 180 members which seems to be a drop from over 200 that I thought we had last year. Considering the number of new beginners this year I wondered if in fact we are starting to shrink as an Association. Undertaking a bit of a membership analysis and its financial impact still needs to be started.

The new BBKA eR2 system is now in place nationally which means that membership details are kept on line as well as swarm collectors' information with scope to add in local association information, so we have the records in a secure location with transparency to those authorised to have access. NBKA is still playing catch up with this as our Capitation assessment has been based on the "old method" rather than data entry to the new system. Further decisions on what we would like to incorporate into this new database still needs to be undertaken by Council.

The NBKA Constitution is being revisited again to bring it in line with the new BBKA Constitution. I am looking for any members ideas to improve the website which could include members reminders about meetings (Google Calendar etc) any links to videos that members have done showing beekeeping techniques, just a few ideas.

Lots of things happening in April with the Lincoln Auction Saturday 30th March 2019 and the Newark Auction on the 6th April 2019. The BBKA Spring Convention 12th – 14th April 2019. Spring Capitation Payment Due 31st April 2019.

The next Council Meeting is on Thursday 20th June 2019 at 7:30pm Brackenhurst Pippin Cottage (Subject to Security Letting us in!)

PS Don't Forget your Hornet Traps!

This month in your apiary: April

Penny Forsyth

April generally marks the beginning of the active season with warmer weather bringing better forage for our bees. Unseasonably warm spells of weather in February and March have brought on some early flowering despite the sudden cold spells- my flowering currant has been out for a while but I still haven't opened a hive. There's plenty of blackthorn and some of the rape fields are blossoming well but we cannot be complacent- a prolonged spell of cold and wet weather now could set everything back. Spring can be a dangerous time for our bees: the queens increase their laying rate as the days lengthen and, as stores in the hive dwindle, our bees need to go out foraging at every opportunity. No forage, no food and if poor weather prevents foraging there is the risk that our winter bees will perish before the colony has new foragers to take on the task. Bees can starve in an astonishingly short time: beekeepers need to maintain their vigilance where stores are concerned and feed where necessary with syrup in a contact feeder once bees are flying freely.

The arrival of spring means it's time for regular inspections and the completion of any winter tasks we didn't quite get round to because soon we will have to turn our full attention to swarm prevention and control. Don't panic, there's plenty of help and information out there- just ask. If you need extra equipment and missed Bee Tradex and the Lincoln BKA auction there is still an opportunity to buy it (and maybe get a bargain) at our own auction next Saturday at the Newark Showground. The BBKA Spring Convention brings further opportunities to spend your hard-earned cash and the chance to increase your beekeeping knowledge by attending lectures and workshops. There's a busy and exciting time ahead!

Tasks for April

- ~ continue to check stores by hefting or weighing, checking floor inserts or a quick look in

- ~ carry out your first detailed inspection if you haven't already done so
Be clear what you are looking for: queen present & laying? brood at all stages? good brood pattern with biscuit-coloured cappings? bees looking normal & healthy? acting normally? any sign of disease or varroa mites (be sure to check floor inserts)? are there enough stores to last the bees to your next inspection? has the colony got enough room?

- ~ check the queen's mark and renew if indistinct

- ~ add a queen excluder and super when the brood box is full of bees, not stores

- ~ replace any dirty, mouldy or damaged comb with frames of sterilised comb or new foundation or move these frames to the outside of the brood nest to replace later

- ~ set up monitoring traps for the Asian Hornet and register the fact on Beebase

- ~ read up on your chosen method of swarm control and assemble equipment

- ~ assemble the equipment you will need for swarm collection and read up on how to do it. If experienced, why not join the Swarm Collectors list?

- ~ keep on reading and asking questions but most of all, watch your bees and learn

Presentation on Asian Hornet by Dhonn Atkinson, Regional Bee Inspector (based in West Yorkshire)

Dhonn was impressed by the turn out to the meeting, he said that many he goes to are not well attended.

Dhonn covered many areas related to the Asian Hornet, including:

- the lifecycle from hibernation, where queen has a mini nest and then workers build a second nest closer to food source, and how they seem to prefer urban habitats;
- how they have migrated since first arriving in France, spread at 100KM per year;
- the actions taken to find and eradicate the nests when Asian Hornet has been discovered, and how difficult it can be to locate;

Dhonn also covered the number of nests found:

2016. 1

2017. 1

2018. 4

and how they are short of resources if multiple nests were found at the same time.

View of DEFRA is 'so be it' if not able to eradicate them as found

Report suspected sightings, taking photo and sample (freeze) so can be analysed; use the Asian Hornet App to photo, and get GPS location. Alternative is to report via email to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk or using the recording form on the Non Native Species Secretariat website - <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>

Use the ID guide and poster available from Beebase to educate and inform as many people as possible. Distribute to garden centres, allotments, garden clubs etc

Use monitoring traps - bait should be sweet early in the year -such as cloudy apple juice (with some vinegar to deter bees) and then use protein such as fish/prawns later.

Suggested that action groups are a good idea, but cannot endorse this.

Newark Region

Penny Forsyth

A baker's dozen of us convened at our regular watering hole, the Ferry Inn at North Muskham, on Monday, 18 March. Those of us who had known Barrie Ellis shared memories and reflections on him and his funeral the week before, where we had all sung 'She'll be coming round the Mountain' to a ukulele band, and raised a glass to his memory. We discussed Bee Tradex and our purchases and Pete Bull showed us his prototype anti-Asian Hornet floors, which are considerably cheaper and doubtless equally as effective as the various commercial solutions we had seen. Maurice told us a tale of how he had seen, some years before in Greece, hornets trapped in a layer of honey that had been deliberately smeared onto boards for that purpose, little thinking that the insects he had seen would soon be coming to British shores to menace our own bees. Someone asked about the Flow Hive, which led to a discussion as to its practicalities in our climate, particularly in OSR growing areas, and to the conclusion that it was an interesting curiosity rather than a serious aid to beekeeping and honey production. Preparations for the annual auction were said to be well in hand: we have been relocated back to our original site within the showground but have been promised extra signage to help people find us. We had a five minute rant about Brexit before turning to saner topics such as queen rearing, Asian Hornet monitoring and beekeeping without using queen excluders.

Bees Abroad News

Anne and Rob Mason



Bees Abroad at the 2019 BBKA Spring Convention

The annual BBKA Spring Convention will be held once again at Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB on 12th, 13th and 14th April, providing a range of workshops, courses and lectures spread over the three days with a large trade show on the Saturday. This year **Bees Abroad** is running a seminar **African Beekeeping- How it works** on the Saturday 13.30-15.30 led by Richard and Jane Ridler, who have been involved in beekeeping in Uganda since 2012. The seminar will compare beekeeping practices in the UK and Africa and highlight the cultural and sustainability issues which explain why beekeeping is so successful in helping people help themselves out of poverty. Inspiring and heartwarming. Admittance for non BBKA members for the full Convention is £26 (booked in advance) or £30 on the day. Entry to the trade show on the Saturday is £5. The full programme can be downloaded from: www.bbka.org.uk/news_and_events/spring_convention.php

Karen Simons, her stained glassware and Bees Abroad!

I first met Karen at The Lincolnshire Agricultural Show last June. Amongst several other creative activities, Karen is herself a beekeeper and she expressed an interest in making some bee themed pieces for Bees Abroad. Since then she has been very busy and quite a few NBKA members now own some of her 'bee' work. This little interview below tells you a bit more about how she works and Karen herself!



How long have you worked with stained glass and what got you into doing it?

I have been working with stained glass for almost exactly 2 years now starting with a lesson some years ago before that. The vibrant colours of the glass first attracted me, exaggerated colours that couldn't be achieved on paper or with pottery.

How do you come up with your designs?

The glass gives me ideas for designs or triggers connections to things I have seen, wildlife mostly – birds, feathers, the way that water moves, iridescent shells that change colour in the light and so on plus I like the curvy sinuous lines that you see in the landscape. Most of my work is on these kinds of themes varying in both shape and size from a 15cm circular sun catcher to a 1.5m long leaded window panel! I also enjoy being stretched by creating something different for a commission I may get. Sometimes I buy glass especially for a design I have drawn but mostly I buy beautiful glass that stimulates new and exciting ideas and draw from that . . . my family says I have a lot of glass!

Why do you make and donate items for Bees Abroad?

I feel very privileged to be able to choose to keep bees for pleasure and understand how keeping bees can enhance somebody's life and livelihood in many ways. The passing on of skills, the generation of hive products and trading these enables people to support themselves and their communities is like creating something from nothing – the yield comes from the effort put in. Unfortunately I can't rush off and share beekeeping directly as part of a Bees Abroad project but I can offer a day's work making glass items which can be sold (for more money than I could afford to donate) to support this goal. Using the principle of 'something from nothing'

wherever possible, I use offcuts and those of others when they might get thrown away otherwise. It 's quite a challenge sticking to a bee theme and trying to make small affordable items, but nothing like the challenges facing the communities supported by Bees Abroad.

To see more of Karen's stained glass, visit The Canalside Heritage Centre, Beeston Lock, Notts NG9 1LZ.



Northern Beekeepers' Convention, Saturday 23rd March 2019

Anne Mason

This is the second year Rob and I have joined this annual event at Newcastle College. Entitled 'Thrifty Beekeeping' this year's Convention had an interesting range of speakers ranging from 16 year old Robyn Franklin, part of the English Young Beekeepers team talking about 'Thrifty Beginnings' to how Alison and Peter Fisher, members of the Wylam Community Orchard project, have been involved with firstly the planting of fruit trees and then the creation of a biodiverse wildflower meadow attracting amongst others 'The Big Seven' – 7 species of magnificent bumble bees!

Rinke Vinkenoog and Matt Pound both based at Northumbria University spoke about the often complex interaction between flowering plants and their pollinators, pollen analysis 'melissopalynology' (i.e. studying pollen in honey) and the role of Oilseed Rape in supporting honey production in North East England.

Tony Jefferson encouraged us all to adopt simpler methods of beekeeping and a talk called 'Never waste a Queen Cell' illustrated his approach to how beekeepers can manage expansion of their colonies each year without the use of complex, mind boggling methods!

'The Healing power of Honey' was John Chamber's title to his talk and how as both a beekeeper and Consultant in palliative medicine he has treated skin wounds with some astonishing results. Manuka honey does not rule!

There was a gadgets and gizmos talk to thrifty beekeeping by Graham Royle 'A Heath Robinson Approach' and the finale was Valerie Hawley's 'Thrifty Learnings'.

There were stalls, including our Bees Abroad one, The National Bee Unit, the Broomley Bee Project, colourfully illustrating its outreach work from Northumbria University (see photo) and 'Buzzcasts' (short informal presentations on screen) at breaktimes, plus all the speakers joined in a 'Beekeepers' Question Time': to treat or not to treat varroa, how to encourage younger people into beekeeping, were only some of many thought provoking topics that were raised. At this time of year attending a Beekeepers' Convention like this one really does get the 'beekeeping' juices flowing for the new season – well worth the trip!



WHY DO WE HAVE TWO HONEY SHOWS SO CLOSE TOGETHER? Alison Knox, Show Secretary
 This is a commonly asked question.

In order for us to provide NBKA Members with the opportunity to gain “points” to win the various Trophies and Cups, we need 2 Shows. Exhibits are judged by two different and independent judges, usually to a high standard of critique. Points awarded are then added up and those with most points over each Class get to take home the silverware.

If award winners wished to enter any National shows, they would be able to do so.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ~ NBKA has historically held what is now known as “**The Annual Honey Show**” and was originally known as “**The Moorgreen Show**” over the August Bank holiday and in more recent times the **1st Saturday in September**. This first show is timed to allow beekeepers to have extracted their seasons honey and freshly prepared their exhibits. In more recent years, the venue for our “Annual Honey Show” has been at various locations, as made available to us, including the NCC “Grow your Own” at Woodthorpe Grange Park, Floralands Garden Centre, and Stonebridge City Farm.

OCTOBER ~ The second event known as the “**Autumn Honey Show**” has always been at **Lowdham Village Hall** and always the **1st Saturday in October**. At this event there is always a Speaker booked to keep everyone entertained while judging is in process.

I am advised by our previous Show Secretary Mr Andrew Barber that we had two other competitions in the distant past, namely the Southwell Show and the Sutton on Trent Steam Festival. The first is now defunct and the second was not really supported as it was too far away. In simple terms, our times are historic, BUT they work in terms of seasonality.

Keeping the two shows relatively close together means we keep the “competitive momentum” going, and it allows Members to review and refine their exhibits if necessary. For example, a wax block that didn’t quite make it in the 1st event can be melted down and represented in the second show, hopefully with a better finish. Cakes, which are always popular with the judges, tend to get eaten so need remaking. A photo may not qualify in terms of size or subject, the beekeeper may choose another image to include next time.

It is certainly not a perfect science, but overall the timings have worked for most people most of the time. For those with exhibits to show, who have been on holiday, or for other reasons not able to make the event, then I have always been willing to register for them.

If anyone has any suggestions as to what might work better for us, then I am very happy to hear them, and take them to Council for consideration. Thank you.

BEEKEEPERS~ WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN AND WHO INTERESTS YOU? Alison Knox

Good Speakers are like hens' teeth to find and to pin down, and so as Show Secretary I would like to take a long run at it to ensure that I rustle up the kind of people that YOU are interested in and would like to hear from. A "good" Speaker needs to be more than just an expert, knowledgeable at their specialism, they need to have a real passion for it, and be able to communicate that passion and knowledge to an audience. No small undertaking I assure you.

Over the last few years, my choice of Speakers has been based on people I have met personally while "out and about" and whose work and presentation style have caught my interest for one reason or another. Let me refresh your memory.

- **David Coop** of Elsom seeds who spoke about bee friendly plants and how such seeds are developed commercially.
- **Wolfgang Buttress**, a local "International artist and designer" who spoke to us about his HIVE project, originally designed for the Milan Expo and later installed at Kew Gardens. NBKA Members later took a trip down to experience the instillation. His BEOne concert at St Marys Church also attracted some of our members.
- **Hattie Ellis** the food writer and author of "Spoonsful of Honey" and "Sweetness and Light" which explored the world of honey and how it is used in cooking across the globe.
- **Ryad al Sous** a renowned beekeeper and professor at The University of Damascus in Syria, forced to flee his home to spare his own life, now living as a refugee in Huddersfield where he has set up the Buzz Project to help other displaced persons begin to rebuild their lives through the noble art of beekeeping.
- **Laney Birkhead** an artist who has created SWARM, an installation of 50,000 bee prints created by community collaboration, taking the story of the honeybee and other pollinators out into public domain and making it possible for people to make a contribution even if they do not keep bees.

So, I put it to you, who else would YOU like to hear from on the subject of bees?

Don't worry if you have no contact details or think they might be a bit too famous or wouldn't be interested in little old us. Contacting them and asking them is my problem!

Please send your suggestions to me directly by email to alisonnbka@btinternet.com. I will publish all suggestions made (*the good, the bad and the ugly*) and see who floats your boat.

Thank you, get your thinking caps on and let me know in time for the May Beemaster!
Alison ~ Show Secretary 19/3/19

Honey Tea Bread

8oz (200g) Self Raising Flour	½ tsp (2ml) Mixed Spice
4oz (100g) Margarine	2oz (50g) Soft Brown Sugar
3oz (75g) Honey	6oz (150g) Mixed Dried Fruit
2 Eggs	Honey to Glaze

Grease and line a loaf tin 9" x 3" (23cm x 13cm). Sieve the flour and spice together in a bowl, rub in the margarine. Stir in the sugar, fruit, eggs (beaten) and honey. Mix well.

Bake in tin, 1-1¼ hours at 180 c (350 F, gas 4), cover the top with cooking foil halfway through cooking if it is getting too brown. Cook until firm. Cool slightly on rack and brush with honey. Serve sliced and buttered for tea.

SPECIAL FAIRIES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GARDEN

A short story by Margaret Edge

Emily is visiting her grandparents one sunny, summer Sunday afternoon. While playing in the garden she wanders round the flower borders and is transfixed by the bees buzzing around the flowers. She thinks for a minute then, excitedly, she runs up to the house.

(Emily) "Grandad!, Grandad!, Come and look at what I've seen"

(Grandad) "What's the matter? Emily, What have you seen?"

"I've seen some fairies!"

"What!, Fairies? Where?"

"In the garden, Grandad. Come and see."

"All right, but wait until I've put my shoes on"

"Come on before they all go away"

"Where did you see them ?"

"In the garden. On the flowers"

"Oh! Did you talk to them?"

"Yes, but they didn't say anything. I don't think they know English. Grandad, Can you talk to fairies?"

"I don't know, I've never tried"

"Here they are, Grandad, there's lots, look"

"Oh yes! So there are. But do you know these aren't ordinary fairies. These are special fairies called honey bees. They work very hard all day doing magic."

"Magic?"

"Yes, they collect pollen and nectar from the flowers, take it all back home and turn the nectar into honey."

"Wow, Where do they live? Do you know? Show me, show me, please, grandad."

(Walking down to the bottom of the vegetable garden)

"All right, but we mustn't go too near as they might get upset."

"Why will they get upset?"

"Because they are very busy and don't like people getting in the way. We can look here from a safe distance. Can you see them coming in and out of their house?"

"Yes, wow, there's millions of them."

"All making honey for tea." Said grandad.

"All making honey for me. Hee hee."

"Grandad."

"Yes"

"How do you get the honey out?"

"Well, I have to put on a special suit"

"For special fairies?"

"Yes, then I take the house apart and take out the frames where they've made the honey, then put them into a machine to spin the honey out. Then I have to put it through a strainer then put it in nice clean jars."

"Don't the fairies mind?"

"Well they do sometimes, but they soon forget and make some more."

"Grandad, can I look inside the fairies' house?"

"Well, not this year but when you are a bit bigger we'll get you a special suit and I'll show you inside the bees' house. We might even see the queen."

"A queen! Wow. I can't wait."

"Come on now, it'll soon be tea time."

"What's for tea, Grandad?"

"Bread and honey, of course."

"Yummy!" Said Emily excitedly.

Do you believe in special fairies? Emily does, and so does her grandad.



BeeLines: notices, news and views

BBKA General Husbandry Preparation - Sheffield, Yorkshire

BBKA trainers are coming to South Yorkshire for the second year running. A programme of 20 hours will cover both practical and theoretical aspects of the General Husbandry assessment, aiming to give the participants an understanding of what the assessment entails and what they need to do to be successful. The trainees are required to hold the BBKA Basic Certificate and to be eligible to take the GH assessment in 2019 or 2020. Course fee is £90

Location: Sheffield, Yorkshire

27th and 28th April 2019 – Theory

9th June 2019 – Apiary

Maximum number of trainees is 14 for each venue: there are still places available

[Click here for a link to the BBKA registration page](#)

World Bee Day. 20th May 2019

The purpose of this international day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem. World Bee Day is celebrated on the baptism day of Anton Janša, who was born in 1734 in what is now Slovenia. In beekeeping he is noted for not only writing a number of impressive books on beekeeping but for advocating changing the size and shape of hives to a form where they can be stacked together like blocks. As a painter he also decorated the fronts of hives with paintings. Janša rejected the belief that the male bees are water carriers and assumed that the queen is fertilised mid-air. He advocated moving hives to pastures.

From the archives

Stuart Ching, NBKA Archivist

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION: LANE CUP COMPETITION 1974

- Written Examination. The written examination will consist of a paper containing 20 questions of the short answer type. 1 hour will be allowed for this and 100 marks will be allotted to this part of the examination.

The syllabus on which the questions will be based is as follows:

- Definitions or meanings of terms commonly used in bee-keeping.
- The modern bee-hive and its parts; single and double walled hives; siting of hives.
- The natural history of the honey-bee. Life history of Queen, Worker and Drone.
- The occupants of hive in (a) Winter, (b) Summer, and their functions.
- Nectar and pollen; how collected and used. Recognition of pollen loads on bees in the hive. Relation between nectar and honey. Storage of honey in hive.
- Extraction and bottling of surplus honey, and the processing of wax.
- Formation of beeswax.
- Starvation and feeding.
- Water; how carried and used.
- Swarm prevention and control.
- Disease of brood and of adult bee, and their dangers.
- Signs of disease, chilled brood, queenlessness, laying workers and of a drone breeding queen.
- Value of bees to the fruit grower and farmer.

- Practical Examination. 200 marks will be allotted for this part of the examination. Candidates will carry out the practical examination as a team and will be assessed on the following points:

- Correct manipulation when examining
- Identification of cells and their contents
- Judging the condition of the stock and identification of any abnormalities
- Oral questions on any subjects from the written exam syllabus

The written and practical examinations are normally held towards the end of the school year in July. The examiners are aware that Teachers have many other commitments at this time of the year and would welcome any comments regarding holding the written exam earlier in the year in future e.g. in February or March.

Sent in by Stuart Ching, NBKA Archivist

NBKA Asian Hornet Action Team News

The NBKA Asian Hornet Action Team is now registered on the AHAT website and with the BBKA. I am currently registered as Coordinator with Pete Bull as North Notts contact and Alec Thomson the City and South Notts contact. We have a further **9** team members **and between us we cover several postcodes but the aim is to provide** a county-wide contact network ready to react to reports of possible Asian Hornet incursions into our region and to coordinate with the National Bee Unit, the Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) and other BKA's **so we need more!** There is no limit to the number of members an AHAT may have so if you would like to be involved please contact me at pennyforsyth16@mail.com for information or if you wish to join the contacts register. There is excellent information and a set of guidelines on the AHAT website <https://ahat.org.uk>

Asian Hornet queens may be coming out of hibernation **right now-** time to take action!

Download the identification pdfs, laminate them and put them up in your apiary
<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>

Get the Asian Hornet Watch app for smart phone and tablet

Read up about traps and baits and be ready to deploy them- visit <https://ahat.org.uk>

If you have not already registered your apiary on Beebase then please do so now. If there is an Asian Hornet incursion in your area it is vital that every beekeeper can be located and contacted. When you register and record your apiary information you can also report whether or not you have AH traps in place. Follow the link below:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/login.cfm>



From the Jersey Evening Post: Rare species of bee to be introduced to Jersey

A RARE species of bee, the *Apis somnambulis*, also known as the cannabee, is to be introduced to Jersey later this year to help pollinate the Island's first crop of medicinal cannabis.



A cannabee in 'post-pollination recovery position'. Dr Buddy Ballantine (24254716)

It is hoped that the introduction of cannabee colonies will also assist local experts in tackling Jersey's Asian hornet problem.

Californian apiarist, farmer and horticulturalist Dr Buddy Ballantine, who will be advising industry and States representatives on establishing and maintaining the cannabee hives, said that the insects would have a calming effect on Asian hornets.

'Asian hornets are way too uptight – they're all about capitalist aggression and hostile takeovers,' he said. 'But the interesting thing is that, when they eat cannabees, particularly ones that are fresh from a pollination run, it calms them right down.'

'I once witnessed a hornet consume an entire cannabee and then spend the rest of the afternoon just relaxing in the petals of a big flower and enjoying the sunshine.'

However, not everyone in the Island's farming and beekeeping communities is convinced that cannabees are right for Jersey.

One prominent local farmer, who wished to remain anonymous, said that there was a dark side to the cannabee life cycle that was being 'wilfully ignored' by ministers who, he says, are 'hell-bent on turning Jersey's rural economy into an offshore dope factory'.

'It is just so typical of the States,' he said. 'They are presenting this whole cannabee business as a win-win for farmers and beekeepers, but either they haven't done their research on these

creatures or else the issue of PHS [paranoid hive syndrome] is being wilfully ignored.'

PHS is a widely documented potential side-effect of the overexploitation of cannabee colonies but, according to a States spokesman, it would present no risk to Jersey.

'The possibility of a PHS dynamic evolving in-hive during the pollination sequence that we envisage for the initial cannabee cohort is remote,' he said.

'Typically, a PHS reaction, colloquially known as "fear swarming", only tends to occur with cannabees that pollinate more potent strains of the genus, such as Bubblegum Kush or Green Gelato.'

But local beekeeper Louis St Laurent strongly disagreed, saying that PHS could occur with even the mildest crops.

'My cousin lives in Amsterdam and he keeps a little roof garden of generic home-use plants,' he said.

'A few cannabees from a nearby hive started hanging about up there, and before he knew it they had turned on him. It got very ugly, very quickly.'

And finally.....

'tis the season



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EXTRACTORS

Members may borrow the NBKA extractors - 4-frame, hand driven kept at Brackenhurst and hired from Maurice Jordan. An electric one (with settling tank) is held by Glenis Swift 0115 9538617. The EasyBee extractor which is useful for extracting frames that hold honey that has granulated is held by Frank Chambers in Calverton (0115 965 2128).

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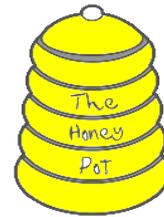
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