



# YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

September 2016



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## September: sit back, reflect and plan

by Wendy Maslin

With September upon us, preparations for winter should be well underway as the end of the active beekeeping season approaches. Of course there are tasks to be done during the winter months but it is largely a time to draw breath, reflect on the season just gone and start thinking about next year.

One of the things I have found most useful to my beekeeping is actually having a plan, or agenda or schedule - call it what you will, but some structure to how I want to manage the bees. Rather than just have a few ideas floating around in my head, I will allot some time to writing these ideas down and place this list in the front of the apiary record book. It is not an extensive work - nothing complicated, but an achievable list of probably 4 or 6 points which are pertinent to the management of the colonies.

An example of such a plan would be:

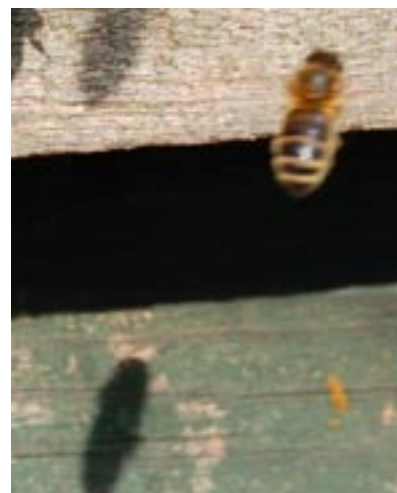
- Manage the colonies for honey production
- Mark and clip queens
- Choose your swarm management technique (Demaree, Pagden, nuc)
- Re queen all but selected colonies before winter
- Raise queens only from selected stocks.
- Overwinter some nucleus colonies

Within that plan I can then look at how I am going to go about making it happen. My first point, to manage colonies for honey production, means I will do all I can to keep the colonies queen right, strong, well populated, well fed and healthy. Conversely it means that if it starts to show evidence of swarm preparations and several queen cells are being drawn (generally speaking between May and the end of July) the plan doesn't change and I don't think that they look like lovely queen cells; and it is suddenly split into several nucleus colonies - I know already what method of swarm management I will use and consequently exactly what equipment will be required. So instead of being taken by surprise and totally unprepared (and yes we have all been there) the equipment will be to hand and ready to go.

The plan can be broken down into as much or as little detail as suits you but it does allow for a much more controlled and less frenetic beekeeper. Things don't always go according to plan and there are events outside our control but the more we can put in place and manage the easier it will be.

Over the winter months I will take time to look back at the records and assess how well the colonies have performed and make note of any other relevant traits. I will check all the kit, nothing will be put away before being cleaned or repaired and time will be spent making new frames. The written plan may also include personal beekeeping goals. I find writing it down concentrates the mind.

My final point is invariably a reminder that this for me is a hobby albeit one that carries responsibility for livestock management. Enjoy your beekeeping.







## YBKA: Annual Schools' Day

*by Phil Gee, YBKA Vice Chairman*

Our annual Schools Day event was held at the Great Yorkshire show ground on 14 & 15 June. Schools from all over Yorkshire were invited to take part.

Countryside Days is the largest education event organised by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society.

It is aimed at Keystage 2 children (7-11 years) throughout Yorkshire and Humberside. 6000 children attend over the two days and the event comprises of 100 practical and interactive workshops covering every aspect of farming, the environment and the countryside.

YBKA runs a workshop over the two days and this year hosted around 200 children.

The children saw live bees and tried to find the queen, tried their hand at microscopy, discovered pollination, candle making and generally had a good time.

A poster competition was set with the theme:  
**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP HONEY BEES TO SURVIVE?**

YBKA is delighted to announce four winning entrants:  
Appleton Roebuck Primary School, Headfield C of E and Dewsbury were each awarded £50. Pocklington Preparatory School received £25.

I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered to make this day the romping success it was.



# So you think you'd like to keep bees

by Catherine Scott

If you're considering bee keeping as a hobby I would seriously advise you to think again. And then again. My advice after 6 years is the following:

Ignore anyone who tells you it's easy – it isn't. It's complicated.

Ignore anyone who tells you it's a cheap – it isn't. It costs a bomb.

Ignore anyone who says it isn't time consuming - it is - they are lying.

Ignore anyone who tells you it doesn't interfere in your everyday life – it does and they're lying

Finally, ignore anyone who tells you that your own bees won't sting. It's a myth – I know it's a myth because I just made it up.

If you decide to keep bees you can wave goodbye to those summer holidays because they'll misbehave the minute you turn your back. This usually involves swarming just as friends arrive for lunch or you're about to pop out to the shops.

On the other hand it is hugely rewarding to collect those nectar points from your neighbours as they gaze admiringly through their closed patio doors and breathe audible sighs of relief as you expertly drop the swarm into a box.

I'm telling you this because nobody told us. Frankly, if they had I probably wouldn't have believed them. It's a bit like having children – you always think your own will be different. That belief keeps the human race producing and bee keepers continuously struggling, tearing their hair out and questioning their practise.

Beekeepers do the job for three main reasons:

1. It is a fascinating hobby

2. They are helping the environment and

3. They hang on to the hope that they will eventually reap the financial rewards by selling wonderful products at top notch prices.

The first two reasons are both real and honest but I feel it's important to be clear on that last point. It's not going to happen. This is not a money making hobby. Definitely not. We've decided after 6 years of learning, paying out and riding an emotional roller coaster to accept this is nothing more than a very interesting but very expensive pass time. To date our costs top £2000 and we've produced 53 jars of honey. You do the maths. We're hopeful of producing more this year. One day, maybe 10 years or so from now, we might just about break even but we're not banking on it. But there, I've said it, we're hopeful. We need to be.

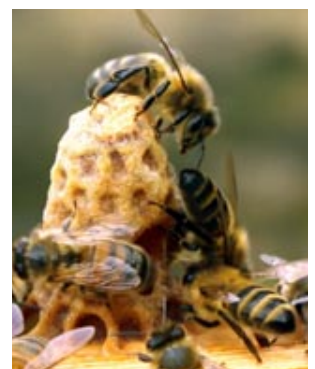
As for selling the stuff? For the most part you can forget it. Friends and relatives expect you to give it away. After all, I give my jam and marmalade away so why would honey be any different? Neighbours need to be wooed with it; you literally need to keep them sweet. They may not take kindly to bees swarming into their garden when they're about to take advantage of a sunny afternoon and are planning a barbeque in the evening. (We are lucky with our neighbours, they're brilliant)

'Well, what about your local deli?' I hear you ask. 'Surely they'd be glad to take some local honey and sell it for you?' Yes, indeed they probably would when you've found your way around the legalities of it. Labelling and such like. Those obstacles are surmountable if you're determined enough and have the time and inclination to go about it. But it's a minefield. I tell you it's a minefield

These are the facts. I'm telling you the truth. Before you make your final decision on whether or not to go ahead try talking to a few people who blithely say, 'oh yes, I used to keep bees' Don't leave it there. Dig deeper. Be persistent. Ask them why they stopped? And, believe them.

On the upside you do make friends. Very good friends. Which is unsurprising really because they all think you'll give them a jar of your honey that up to now has cost you approximately £50 a jar to produce.

I thoroughly recommend bee keeping as a wonderful hobby to all the people I know and love. I also recommend it to the people I can't stand.





# War and Peace. And bees?

by John Whitaker

An acclaimed television program of 2016 was the BBC's adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, chronicling the lives of the Russian nobility during the Napoleonic wars and Napoleon's unsuccessful attempt to conquer the Russian Empire. At the core of the story is the build up to the battle of Borodino in August 1812 and its aftermath. During the battle both sides inflicted grievous losses on each other, and both claimed victory. Initially the Russians retreated from the battlefield and the French were able to advance as far as Moscow and occupy the city, but the losses they had sustained and the inability to persuade the Russian people to cooperate eventually forced Napoleon into the disastrous retreat back towards western Europe during which the majority of his army perished. At the heart of the novel is Pierre, unpretentious, unworldly, liked by all, but struggling to find a meaning to his life. At the start of the story he inherited great wealth and married unwisely with a backdrop of momentous historical events.

But this great novel is so much more than the story of Pierre or a history of struggle between two nations. For Tolstoy it was an exploration of his theory about the forces that guide the destiny of mankind, the movements that create history. In classical and medieval times it was believed that mankind's destiny was shaped by the actions and decisions of the leaders of nations who were thought to act with a right granted by God. In *War and Peace* Tolstoy maintained that the leaders of France and Russia, Napoleon and Czar Alexander were subject to forces of history beyond their control, forces generated by the combined wills of millions of people throughout society. The elite, he maintained, were equally as subject to these forces of history as those in the lower echelons. Tolstoy believed that the decisions and actions that emanate from those apparently holding the reins of power are actions and decisions that they cannot avoid, actions that were inevitable.

It will be of interest to readers to learn that Tolstoy was a beekeeper. In one well known passage in '*War and Peace*' honey bees are used to illustrate the picture that Tolstoy wished to paint. He described the situation in Moscow after the battle of Borodino as Napoleon's army approached Moscow and the Russians accepted that the city could not be defended. The nobility and middle classes fled into the country leaving the city without any direction or control. Tolstoy compared Moscow to a colony of bees without a queen.

Tolstoy was not just a nobleman who owned a few hives, content to allow them to be managed by his serfs. He was heavily involved with managing his bees. His wife is quoted as saying that her husband was obsessed with bees. To a beekeeper reading the chapters in '*War and Peace*' which relate to bees, there can be no doubt they were written by a man who had studied and spent many hours observing bees. The revolutionary ideas that Tolstoy put forward on the forces that influence the historical narrative of a nation, forces that originate from the wills of the population as a whole and not from the leaders have a striking similarity to the method of decision making within a colony of honeybees. In a colony of honeybees there are no individuals that direct the complex society and behaviour of the honey bees, but rather the colony is governed by each individual bee reacting to their environment and to the behaviour of their fellow bees and this reaction itself influences the behaviour, in possibly just a small way, of the bees that they contact. The governance of the hive is a result of a complex network of action and reaction between the members of the colony. Tolstoy, in his great novel, was suggesting, what at the time, was the revolutionary idea that human history is governed in a similar way.

Is it too presumptive to suggest that the underlying theme and inspiration of one of the greatest novels ever written could have come from honeybees? When you read chapter XI of book XI, '*Moscow a queenless hive*', it must be recognised that it was written by a man knowledgeable about bees, knowledge gained by his own observation, not just gained by study. I am not referring to a single sentence. The passage is almost a thousand words long.

*War and Peace* was first published in Russian in 1868 and 1869, only a few years after the seminal works on beekeeping produced by Langstroth and Dzieron.

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# Beverley: Bee day

by Bron White and Chris Coulson



Beverley Beekeepers organised a Bee Day to which they kindly invited Sheffield and Rotherham Beekeepers. This was held in Woodmansey Village Hall which provided a spacious display area as well as a small lecture theatre. They use this hall for their beekeeping classes and their yearly auction in April.

Dave Shannon, well known to us all, gave two excellent talks, the first on "Preparing and Managing Bees for the Oil Seed Rape" and the second "From Hive to Honey Pot". Both clearly presented and useful for beginners and more experienced beekeepers alike. In the main hall there were various stalls demonstrating useful/innovative items as well as a bee related quiz with generous prizes. There was also a sealed bid auction of two items given to the Beverley Association - a small four frame tangential extractor and a refractometer.

One stand showed how to control wasps in the late season with examples of purchased bottle traps and also a home made artificial wasps nests. Another stall cleverly bypassed the need to buy ready made hive parts using offcuts from timber merchants. Next to this was a display of many types of hives including a Flow Hive which drew forth many comments. The art of making and wiring your own foundation was demonstrated which generated a lot of interest and several people had a go. The National Gardens Scheme had plants for sale and free gardening advice.

Lunch was provided by the Beverley beekeeping ladies and was varied and delicious. It allowed members and visitors more time for discussing bees. However, I suspect everyone's waistline expanded.

Fortified by food we visited the association's apiary which incidentally stands in Beverley Parks, an ancient deer hunting area and where one apiary wall is late 17th century. Here we had a demonstration of the oxalic acid vaporiser by which a specific amount of oxalic acid is electrically vaporised in the hive during broodless periods for varroa control. This was followed by the inspections of some hives, first by the tutors and then by beginners. It was a good opportunity for new beekeepers to practice their skills.

Happily the weather was very kind to us. Altogether a most enjoyable day. A chance to learn and to meet and socialise with other like-minded people.

Beverley Beekeepers had obviously put in a lot of hard work to prepare for this event for which they are to be congratulated.

*It's on soon!  
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# Richmond & Districts: Unthwarted

by Chris Hardy



Some of us don't have much luck. Clint Eastwood once said 'if I didn't have bad luck I'd have no luck at all', and the fabulous beekeepers I met at their Second Apiary Grand Opening, just on the outskirts of Catterick where garrison meets farmland with rollicking great views of the Cleveland hills, were stoical and determined folk definitely not preparing to throw in the hive tool and abandon their plans.

It's a good sized BKA with around 100 members, many of whom are prepared to stick two fingers up at adversity's unpleasant face to get on and rebuild. Which is what they've just gone and done. The First Grand Apiary Opening last year was a short lived affair because the site was vandalised by malcontents and pretty much destroyed. There's no magic money paying for this type of project, it is, as many of you will already appreciate, a project only made possible by donations of heart, time and materials. It is a labour of love.

So on June 12<sup>th</sup>, the chatty and gregarious Peter Scholick, RDBKA's President, proudly cracked a hypothetical bottle of vintage champagne against the side of this particular good ship. The new RDBKA apiary mark II, is finished and open for teaching business. With new bees, fences and equipment and hopefully safe from those who will do it (and potentially themselves) great harm, there was an air of indomitable high spirit that warm day.

Chatting on a summer's day with tea, rather good scones and a cluster of beekeepers who are looking forward to a great season -there's nothing finer is there? Chin! Chin!

## Well done

Tony Lane of Sheffield BKA was awarded the judges merit award at the Sheffield Fair Honey Show on the 28th of Aug giving him free entry to our honey show at Countryside Live plus he won the blue ribbon for best exhibit in show.

Philip Khorassandjian won best light honey. A great turn out and credit to Sheffield BKA - a blue ribbon event again with just over 100 entries. Congratulations to all entrants and committee for its organisation. Great show.

Dave Shannon

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# BdBKA Bee Health Day

by David Lamont, Chairman BdBKA

The day started with registration and coffee in the University of Bradford's Bright building - a chance to catch up with fellow beekeepers. It was nice to see representatives from the surrounding associations and even a few from Manchester and Oldham.

In the morning after a quick welcome from myself and housekeeping and safety from Ben Jennings BdBKA member and University representative we got to business.

Exotic Pest Update: *Ivor Flatman Regional Bee Inspector*

Ivor brought us up to date on the small hive beetle and its spread throughout Europe, the use of sentinel apiaries to act as early warning of an outbreak of this exotic pest. Up to date information can be found on the NBU website. Ivor also talked of the current threat from the Asian Hornet, made more relevant with the spate of articles in the press. He also assured us that there is a contingency plan in place.

Topical antimicrobial effect of honey and beeswax: *Dr Mohammad Isreb, Lecturer in Clinical Pharmaceutics*

In short, tests for antimicrobial properties of honey were carried out between a rather expensive Manuka honey and locally produced honey from the university (UoB) bees; the results were very interesting. This is a short excerpt from an article written for the BdBKA newsletter: 'The UoB honey fared just as well as the Manuka honey at preventing microbial growth. In a few cases, it was even slightly more potent as an antimicrobial agent. Both honeys were considerably better than antibiotics in both doses at inhibiting growth.' For the full article click [here](#))

Honey Bee viruses: *Dr Giles Budge*

Sorry Giles! I have to hold my hands up here and admit that I did not see this presentation, as I had other duties to perform. I am told that the presentation was useful to new and old BKs alike.

A quiz and an excellent lunch and I have say thank you to YBKA for the £100 contribution, which added to the ticket sales, allowed us to provide a quality buffet lunch.

Attendees were split into three groups for the afternoon workshops.

1. Disease Recognition and Quiz Answers
2. Disease Control
3. Diseased Comb Workshop

Feedback from beekeepers confirmed that the content and timing of the workshops was just right and allowed for lots of questions. Dhonn Atkinson gave the answers to the lunchtime quiz and gave a presentation on disease recognition with excellent slides.

I think the diseased comb workshop was hit. Being able to examine comb and see what the different diseases look and smell like for real rather than just referring to photographs was extremely helpful.

What a great start to what is going to be an annual event for BdBKA, the day was well attended with 88 tickets sold at a very reasonable price of £5.

We would like to thank the the Animal & Plant Health Agency, Bradford University, the BdBKA committee members and the Yorkshire Beekeepers Association.







# The Great Yorkshire Show 2016

by Dave Shannon

This year, for the first time in 40 years, the Great Yorkshire Show's Honey Show had a new face at the helm. Michael Badger MBE retired earlier this year as Chief Steward due to ill health. Over those many years Michael took the honey show from strength to strength and did a splendid job of promoting our fantastic honey show.

Our new Chief Steward Peter Lewis, a Cornish man by birth but now residing in Holmfirth, got to work immediately and sent out additional invitations through the Yorkshire Agricultural Society (YAS) and managed on his first year to get record entries into the show. Well done that man! We had a record 661 entries in this year's Honey Show. The whole show team worked tirelessly along with the judges to produce a top class show once again. A credit to the YAS and the general public loved it.

The YBKA pavilion and Bee Garden stewarded by Tony Jefferson and I was also a resounding success again. It's very warming that our efforts create such a powerful attraction year after year. People love watching the bees being handled and Mr Jefferson bravely soldiered on without tears after being stung by one of his own! The honey for sale is always popular and the public flocked through the doors enjoying our displays, tasting sessions and demonstrations. YBKA members can sell their own honey at this show - all you have to do is label it up correctly and drop it off and we do the rest for you minus a small percentage.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to the many YBKA association volunteers who gave up their days to put on this fantastic annual event. The YBKA focuses on the promotion of beekeeping in our county by putting on great educational displays to connect with the public, giving them a chance to see the intriguing and amazing world of beekeeping close up. It is vitally important work, talking about our bees and pollinators, delivered by knowledgeable and enthusiastic beekeepers. And it's therapy for those of us who need to talk more about bees to anyone willing to listen!

The show had record attendances once again this year with just over 135,000 coming through the gates over the three days of the show despite the weather. The brand new capacious Great Hall built by the YAS at a cost of £11.5 million is a fantastic achievement. This structure replaces the old flower hall and was built on time between the close of last year's show and the opening of this year's.

## Volunteering at the YBKA

Unpaid but rewarding opportunities if you've a mind to be on the YBKA team.

Working with our treasurer Nobby, we need someone to fill the shoes of the most wunderbar Edna (as she intends to retire this year). Are you organised and in need of some clerical refreshment?

PR Officer - shout it loud for the beekeepers of Yorkshire. Can you do that?

Equipment Officer - like to plan, schedule and work alongside others to make sure equipment is where it needed for YBKA members?

Newsletter Editor position from Jan 2017.

Please email the YBKA secretary for info.

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# Beekeepers' Question Time

Dave Shannon has kindly offered to answer this question for us.

**My bees have overwintered in a brood box with a super on top, full of stores. The QX was removed prior to going into winter.**

**I don't want the Q to start laying in the super but because they have access to it there's a chance that will happen. It's far too early to take the super off and reorganise.**

**What do I do when I go into the nest at the end of March for the first time and find the Q is laying in there?**

As you have the super at the top and with this year being quite mild, the queen will have already begun laying. So I would suggest one of two options.

1. Do nothing for now at all as it's too cold and your Q will now have already started to lay, maybe in the brood box as she should, or possibly in the super, with no QX in place there's nothing you can do for now.
2. Wait till the temperature is high enough 12C+. Then quickly as you can find your queen, ensure you put her in the brood box and QX back on under the super. You may find at this time of year however a small amount of brood in your super already. This is not a problem the nurse bees will move up and look after this brood. But your queen is now in the right place.

I myself use this method for overwintering, but with one major difference that I discovered to be very advantageous to avoid this very situation. This year when you set your hives up for going into winter, remove your QX as usual, however reverse your brood box and super placements. Put the super on the hive floor and the brood box on top of that. This way bees naturally don't like food beneath them so they will move it up into the brood box as space comes available, slowly emptying your super.

However in the early months, from Feb. onwards when the Q starts to lay she will do so in the brood box as this will be the warmest of the two boxes, furthest away from your mesh floor and entrance. Then on your first inspection at Easter or afterwards just reverse them and add the QX as normal.

Always check the super just in case the Q is wandering around in it prior to adding the QX.

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*If you have a BK question please pose it and I'll try to get it answered for you. Ed.*

## How do honey bees breathe?

A honey bee does not breathe through its mouth. They have little holes along the sides of their body or exoskeleton. Actually they have 10 pairs of holes or spiracles - 3 pairs in their thorax and 7 pairs in their abdomen.

When the bee isn't very active, air is driven through these spiracles into its body passively, by outside air pressure, and is delivered to every single cell through an inner super highway of tubes (trachea) which get smaller and smaller until they are a minuscule 1 cell thick. These same tubes also act as vehicles to expel unwanted gasses such as carbon dioxide. When the bee is very active, say when it has just returned from a foraging trip, it looks like it is panting. Its abdomen is expanding and contracting and it is indeed driving unwanted materials out through its respiratory system and it is taking fresh air in.

This system allows oxygen to be delivered very quickly, much quicker than in mammals, enabling them to oxidize food and convert this into energy straight to the place it's needed.

All but one of these spiracles have valves which close off the trachea - this helps the bee to retain moisture as these tubes, like our lungs only work when moist. The valves also help to manage body temperature and keep water out - if they get caught in a puddle or rain drop they would drown by being overwhelmed with water through their spiracles.



# The Phyrronist: Neonicotinoid News

A recent study based on 18 years of wild bee population data has found a three-fold decline in wild bees which feed on neonicotinoid-treated oilseed rape compared with non-oilseed rape foragers, concluding that sub-lethal effects of neonicotinoids can cause bee biodiversity loss, and “restrictions on neonicotinoid use may reduce population declines.” Another new study documents dramatic long-term butterfly population decline with sub-lethal neonicotinoid doses.

The UK segment of the pan-European honeybee field trial is still pending but Bayer has reported of the German segment that though colonies “developed completely normally”, and honey production was “on a par with the average”. This study was abandoned because hives were “so badly infested with varroa”.

Finally, prominent scientists who previously accepted the need for neonicotinoids have conceded both that some studies show no benefits, and that “efficacy studies are largely conducted by industry [which] benefits most from the data...are not ... peer reviewed ...and some are kept confidential.” They also reported on recent studies (2014-2015) showing more damage to pollinators at sub-lethal levels than previously thought.

The evidence against neonicotinoids, especially their sub-lethal and long-term effects, seems to be mounting. We'll keep you posted.

## And brace yourselves....

John Griffin (Communications team) for the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology tells us:

*‘Experimental measurements and analysis have recently concluded. CEH is now currently writing a paper and will submit all findings of the study (regardless of outcome) for peer-reviewed publication in a scientific journal. The data of publication will determined by the journal but we anticipate the paper will be published in the late autumn of 2016.*

*Data relating to the trial will be made publicly available at the same time.’*

The future of beekeeping...

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**24th Sept 2016 at the Honey Pavilion, Harrogate led by Dave Shannon, Master of Mead and Merrymet. Cost £30 includes lunch and starter brewing kit .**

**Contact Yvonne Kilvington 07876 618071  
[kilvington@btopenworld.com](mailto:kilvington@btopenworld.com)**



# Frame Thissen! Old blue eyes is back

by Asmall B. Wrangler

I get the feeling that some bees can play footsie with you. This year's history of the blue queen of "Chez Nous" may well be an example.

In early May I decided to use the Horsley board I bought last season, to avert a swarm. The board design differed from the norm but, against my better judgement, I used the manufacturer's web site instructions and had myself a swarm within 3 days! Bugger! As they obligingly settled on an elderberry bush on the perimeter of my apiary, I was able to re-capture my blue queen and her court with least annoyance caused to neighbours.

Site space at a premium, I re-homed the wanderers in a new brood box of foundation, with queen excluders below and above and the old brood box of eggs, nurse bees and brood above the supers, on a further queen excluder. Five days later, herself was laying in a super but found in the top brood box. I caught her in a clip, for safe keeping, but she flew off as I tried to relocate her and was recaptured later with a mini court in attendance, perched on top of some low wooden palings at the side of the hive.

Desperate measures called for! Decided to go belt and braces and place her in a frame cage, to give time for her to settle down and effect a bio-tech varroa treatment all at the same time. Dashed cunning eh?

18 days later, at the second frame cage change over, the metal cage was so thick with bees that it was a challenge to open it and liberate the frame. Struggled to find the queen, but thought I saw her in the middle of a scrum of bees. Was this queen-balling? Decided to let things settle and find her later. By a further swarm, she beat me to it!

Ever obliging, she located nearby again and I caught and re-housed the swarm as before...or so I thought. Five days later I found her, under the open mesh floor, with a much larger court protecting her. Feeling very smug as I caught her in the queen clip and took her away from the hive to get her into an introduction cage. Less smug, as she climbed free of the cage whilst I was struggling to get the fondant in position and I saw a flash of blue take to the air.

Went back to the hive in a philosophical frame of mind, only to notice another little huddle of bees on the wooden palings, and there she was again! Now it was getting personal, reputations at stake etc. Whipped her into the clip and placed her and some attendants in a plastic box overnight, with the introduction cage, some drops of water and fondant, whilst I thought things through. Read an article recommending that getting a queen into an introduction cage best done by a window, for maximum light. Next day, took her into the greenhouse and completed the process with ease.

I had already decided to give her a new, smaller court to "big it up over" and fixed the cage onto a frame in a poly nuc. She seemed to like it and resumed laying to good effect in due course. 14 days later, I united the nuc with the colony hived in Holmleigh where she has happily stayed and thrived. I do wonder if she just wanted a change of scenery, as Holmleigh is at the opposite end of the apiary site from Chez Nous? Just don't get me started on the tale of Dunroamin!

## A Good Read: Heather Honey - A Comprehensive Guide

by Michael Badger MBE (ISBN 978-0-900147-28-9 hardback and ISBN 978-0-900147-29-6 paperback)

Available from 10th October in advance of the official launch at this year's National Honey Show. All profits go to the Bees Abroad and Wax Chandlers Bee Charities including royalties.

Due to the limited number to be published, hardback is only available from the author - 100 copies will be signed. £40 + P&P. The softback limited to 250 copies will be £30 + P&P.

email [buzz.buzz@ntlworld.com](mailto:buzz.buzz@ntlworld.com)





# Come along, you're invited

Leeds BKA Wed 28 Sept 7pm to 9pm Prof Stephen Martin - University of Salford - Exotic Travels of a Bee Researcher

Wed 30 Nov 7pm to 9pm Dr Mark Helbert - retired NHS Consultant Immunologist - Anaphylaxis and other reactions to bee stings [www.leedsbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.leedsbeekeepers.org.uk)

Scarborough BKA Honey Fair Wed 28 Nov 7pm [scarboroughbeekeepers.org](http://scarboroughbeekeepers.org)

## COURSES

Places still available for the BIBBA CONFERENCE 2016: 20th-22nd September  
Isle of Man, UK. See [www.bibba.org.uk](http://www.bibba.org.uk) for info.

### The Art of Mead Making

A workshop for those who fancy making a drop (or two).

A one day course on the art of making mead led by Dave Shannon on Saturday 24th September 2016 in the Honey Pavilion, Harrogate. Costs £30 which includes lunch and a starter brewing kit with all the equipment you need to begin your mead making journey.

Contact: Yvonne Kilvington. Tel: 07876 618071 [ykilvington@btopenworld.com](mailto:ykilvington@btopenworld.com)

## You need to be aware

**This year** the NBU has recorded nationally 42 cases of EFB and 13 cases of AFB with significant outbreaks of EFB in the Nottingham and Lincolnshire areas.

**Small hive beetle** in Italy: 2 areas affected in Calabria about 100km from seat of infestation. Believed to have occurred through human transportation of bees.

**Api Bioxal** is now the only legal oxalic acid treatment available.

Following the finding of **Asian hornets in Gloucestershire** Bee Inspectors have now visited over 100 sites. Asian hornets have been seen at just six locations within 500 meters of the original site. The NBU will keep you updated if you have signed up to Beebase.

## Notice for 2016 YBKA AGM

The Yorkshire Beekeepers' Association Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday, 26th November 2016 when the following business will be on the Agenda:

1. Any proposals, propositions or matters of business which you would like the membership to consider at the meeting
2. Nominations for all positions on the General Purposes Committee. The following GPC vacancies presently exist : Equipment & Purchasing Officer, Publicity, Advertising & Promotions Officer; Membership Secretary and from Jan 2017 Newsletter Editor.
3. Nominations of any member you wish to be considered for the awards of Honorary Membership or Certificate of Merit. Life membership may be awarded to any member who has performed distinguished or meritorious service of an outstanding nature in the furtherance of the objectives of the YBKA and to the betterment of beekeeping and Certificates of Merit may be awarded to any person who has made a significant contribution to beekeeping in Yorkshire either at international, county or district level.

Any such proposals or nominations must be submitted by mid-October at the latest.

We also hope to finalise the amendments made to the constitution and we will be inviting districts to submit propositions they wish to be considered for the BBKA ADM in January. Again these need to be submitted by mid-October and should be fully costed. If you require any further detailed information please don't hesitate to contact me,

Roger Chappel  
YBKA Secretary

# YBKA GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 2016

Current from Sept 2016

Chairman	<b>TONY JEFFERSON</b>	<i>stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk</i>	07749731945	
Vice Chairman	<b>PHIL GEE</b>	<i>pjgphilgee@btinternet.com</i>	01422 886114	07769650059
Schools' Day Organiser				
General Secretary	<b>ROGER CHAPPEL</b>	<i>secretary@ybka.org.uk</i>	01325 315741	07905190701
Treasurer	<b>NORBERT COOPER</b>	<i>norbert.cooper@btinternet.com</i>	01937 834 809	07957404047
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# YBKA CALENDAR 2016

OCTOBER	7	YBKA GPC Meeting 6pm
	8	Autumn Delegates Meeting
	22–23	Countryside Live & YBKA Honey Show <a href="http://www.countrysidelive.co.uk">www.countrysidelive.co.uk</a>
	29–31	National Honey Show (St. Georges College, Weybridge)
NOVEMBER	11	GPC Meeting 6pm
	12	Module exams
	19–20	Microscopy Exams
	26	YBKA AGM 10am

Hope you've enjoyed the magnificent cover photo by David Wadsworth from Airedale. Further use of any images requires the owner's permission, so please always ask first.

I had to include this pic: School's Day pupils enchanted by the gentle magical skep maker Jeff Pearson. Your constructive criticism and contributions are, as always, welcome.

Cheers! Chris Hardy  
[oldsalmon@gmail.com](mailto:oldsalmon@gmail.com)



## FINAL WORD: Tony Jefferson YBKA Chair

I hope all of you are now getting a decent honey harvest. In the 'wild' north east we have seen an increase in honey surplus, which none of us had until mid-July; at last there is something to show for all of the effort. I now understand what is meant by the term *not-for-profit-organisation*.

With all of the bees sorted for the heather flow now out it's out in full bloom, it's time to take stock and catch up on other jobs. As I write this, final preparations are being made for our local honey show (that's lots of lists and ticked off items). All willing assistants are in place and know what their jobs entail, which makes the whole event a pleasurable experience.

With such a busy beekeeping time the on top of the normal things in life (like work!), often the question "why do we do it", is asked. Well, there is always a reward; mostly it is just the simple thanks from grateful people. At the moment I feel that work is seriously getting in the way of the hobbies!

Don't forget that the YBKA Annual Honey Show at Countryside Live is coming up soon, (details elsewhere in the newsletter) as well as it being our county honey show it's a great opportunity for a day out and a chance to discuss beekeeping with like-minded folk. The competition element is strong and last year's CSL the quality and quantity of exhibits is growing year on year. With the new exhibition space at Harrogate Show Ground we should be in a good prominent location this year which should help us promote the craft to the public.

Also, spare a thought for Yvonne the YBKA Education Officer, she has had a very busy time arranging basic assessments over the summer, I bet Yvonne will be very pleased the active beekeeping season is coming to an end.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, if you have anything to report, or photos please send them in to Chris Hardy, to help with the preparation of future editions.