



Apiary Official Opening



After a year of hard work, clearing, strimming, planting and building, our new apiary was officially opened on 6th July 2014, by BBKA Chairman, Doug Brown.

Special thanks go to Lance Adkins and his team of helpers, made up of the committee and members, as well as friends and family. Their commitment, enthusiasm and energy went into the move to the new site over the last and has the apiary looking great.

Its clear from the feedback that we received we have an apiary of national significance, which will be a great place to conduct training and promote sustainable beekeeping, of which we can be really proud. Well Done to everyone involved.



There was a great turnout from ADBKA members, old and new! As well as specially invited guests from the national BBKA, members from Hexham BKA and neighbours of the apiary site, including Stephen Hogg who was very helpful with the ground works and Andrew Black & Paul Garvey, who provided electricity for the boiler so we could have tea on the day!



After much mingling and bee talk, there were some inspiring words from ADBKA Vice Chairman Brian Ripley, ADBKA Chairman David Pearce and BBKA Chairman Doug Brown, before the official ribbon cutting ceremony.

Then there was cake!



Resourceful as ever, members brought along a range of sandwiches, nibbles and cakes to make up a very impressive spread.





David Pearce demonstrated his trade mark "bare hands" hive inspection technique, to instil confidence in other members, show the benefits of good handling technique and show the importance of breeding bees for good temperament!



New members also took the opportunity to conduct hive inspections and practice their skills learned during the beginners course that has been running during the spring and early summer. They wore gloves!



George Eames, our regional examiner, took a tour of the apiary where he will be conducting basic assessments later in July.



The day was a great way to launch our new apiary and to bring people together through their common passion for beekeeping. Thanks to everyone who helped make the apiary, and the day, a success. ☺





ADBKA - out and about



On Saturday 26th April 2014, Susan Hathaway represented ADBKA at the Northumbrian Gathering in Morpeth, in the Millennium Garden. Here is Susan about to open up the demonstration hive.



The event was attended by 1500 children and celebrated its 10th year.

ADBKA was presented with a plaque by the organisers for supporting the event over so many years. Junior ADBKA member Barney Hay (aged 10) received the plaque on behalf of the association, as well as helping with the stand and demonstrating how hot it can get in a bee suit all day!.

It was an excellent day and there was lots of interest from the children.



On 5th June 2014, ADBKA put on a display at the Children's countryside day at Glendale. The day is organised by the Glendale Agricultural society and is aimed at providing an insight to rural life to 5 to 9 year old children in Northumberland and North Tyneside.

The team included: Sandra Carrot, Keith Grimes, Iain Hay, Sharon Spurling, Judith Barton, Liz Chadwick, Derek Goggin, and Fred Coxon, who used the observation hive and demonstration hive, as well as illustrations, wax, honey and comb to explain the fascinating world of beekeeping to the children.



On Saturday 12th July ADBKA was represented at the Felton show. It was a busy day at the stall and the weather beautiful throughout. Many people were educated as to distinctions between bumble and honey bees and lots of children fascinated by the demo hive and finger-tickling bees. 😊





Beekeepers Travels

Jan Broderick recently travelled to India on holiday and shares with us her beekeeping encounter.

"As newly-minted beekeepers, Alan and I are intrigued with all things bee-related. So on a recent visit to Kashmir in north-west India we were delighted to see rows and rows of beehives in the fields within this beautiful valley. Our driver knew nothing about these hives, but several days later we came across this place by the side of the waterway running through the old part of Srinagar.



Obviously we stopped our boatman and went in to explore. The lovely, friendly lady showed us in and invited us to sample the different flavours of honey. They ranged in colour from a pale, straw-yellow to the darkest tawny-brown. All were very runny – although that may well have been partly as a result of the 30-degree temperature. Our favourite for its unusual tangy taste was the Saffron honey. We had to buy some for our breakfasts whilst staying in the area.

The hives all looked to be nationals and the beekeepers rarely wore bee suits. She explained that until recently she hadn't owned one. A German tourist apparently brought one over for her as a present and it hung on the wall for us to see. Sadly she was unable to take us out to the hives themselves, but maybe on another visit perhaps?"

Honey Recipe

Thank you to Helen Wright for providing this editions recipe.

Naan with Garlic & Coriander

"This is from "The Bread Machine Book" by Linda Doesser - I have made these many times & they're really tasty. Only uses a small amount of honey but in those lean years.....! "



Ingredients

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 100 ml hot water | 2 tsp clear honey |
| 4 tbsp natural yogurt | 1 tbsp melted butter |
| 200 gm strong white bread flour | 1 tsp easy-blend dried yeast |
| 1 finely chopped garlic clove | Sunflower oil |
| 1 tsp ground coriander | 1 tsp black onion seeds |
| 1 tsp salt | 1 tbsp fresh chopped coriander |

Instructions

- Add water, flour, garlic, ground coriander, salt butter, honey and yeast to bread machine pan.
- Fit bread pan into machine, set to dough and press start.
- Place three baking sheets in oven preheated to 240C.
- Divide mixture into three, shaping each in turn into 8mm thick tear drops, while covering others with oiled film.
- Place naan onto baking sheets and sprinkle onion seeds and fresh coriander
- Bake for 5 mins, until puffed up and grill to brown and blister
- Brush with melted butter and serve warm



Bees in the News

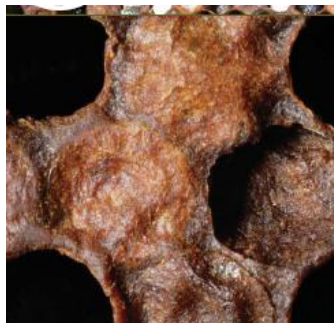
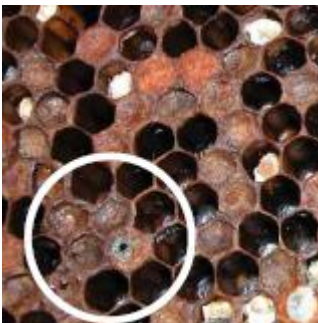


Meet Buzz ! The daily mail reported in April that Josh Kennet from Australia has trained his black labrador, Buzz, to sniff out AFB.

The rest of us will just have to stick to knowing the signs and using the ropiness test!

The key signs of AFB are:-

- Sunken Sealed Brood Caps
- Perforated cappings
- Pepper pot pattern
- Goosey cell contents



Photos from FERA paper : Foulbrood diseases of honeybees 2013 (1)

Swarm Season Special!



David Guthrie shares his swarm stories from this season.

"It's all a blur now, but there was a fortnight in June when there seemed to be nothing but swarms of swarms. We had eight in and around our Felton garden. Eight. Two got away but the other six have joined ADBKA's burgeoning stocks. And in the process, I learned an awful lot about swarm-catching. And keeping the neighbours sweet! It'd be interesting to know how many swarms in total ADBKA members tackled during this amazing episode!"





Queen Rearing Programme



The queen rearing programme has been very active during the spring. Although the number of people participating has reduced, the level of understanding, knowledge and experience is growing.

After initially establishing the best colonies to breed from. This was done based on seeking good temperament and using wing morphology analysis carried out by Peter Rose

A "cell building" hive was established from mainly sealed brood and grafted lava were placed into it for the young bees to feed and develop.

Although the first three attempts to graft were not successful, a great deal has been learned about the conditions for successful queen raising.

Here is Bryan Cole grafting lava from a brood comb.



Six Queen cells were successfully taken from hives in the apiary and raised in the cell building hive. These were transferred into mating hives and have been taken to Seahouses to be mated. It is hoped that two or three of these will successfully mate and will be transferred into nuke boxes in the apiary.



Here is Brian Ripley and Ian Thompson examining the frame of queen cells from the cell raising colony.

Jim Rogerson also donated to the programme six queens which he had grown from cells taken from a colony he had rescued from Newton on the Moor recently.

See below Peter Rose and Bryan Cole transferring them into individual mating boxes, together with bees from supers in the apiary hives, ready for taking them away to be mated.





Apiary Update



"We are having the best year that the association apiary has ever had. We started the season with 17 hives and at the start of July we were up to 34.

A number of the hives are ready to take honey and we look like we will be able to sell a small number of nukes. This which will help pay for new hives and equipment for the apiary.

It has been a great deal of work to look after so many hives and the training days have helped to ensure all the hives are looked through.

Looking forward we will look to sell, combine and re-queen some of the colonies, so that we go into winter with about 20 strong colonies"

Brian Ripley, Apiary Manager

Top Tips – For Summer

Alnwickdotes asked Bryan Cole for his top 3 tips for new beekeepers in the summer. They are:-

- *"Enjoy your bee-keeping, remember its fun and don't get stressed when the bees don't do what you expect"*
- *"Take your time. Don't be in a rush to take on more than you are ready for., it takes time to become a good beekeeper."*
- *"Learn from your mistakes. There will be lots of things that don't work , its not failure, its learning!"*

Members - Me & My bees

Alnwickdotes asked new members, Charlie and Lynn Brown about their bees and beekeeping.

What's your experience and approach to keeping bees ?

"I inherited two empty hives when I moved house last year and was lucky enough to catch a swarm in one. This prompted me to join the ADBKA and attend a beginners course on beekeeping. My initial colony survived the Winter however I lost half of them when they swarmed in June. A few weeks later I caught a swarm in a neighbours garden and now have two colonies.

My approach to beekeeping is to learn all I can from experienced beekeepers and appreciate the wonder of the cooperation and communication going on within a hive."



What's your beekeeping goal for the future ?

"To fully understand the life cycle of a bee and become more knowledgeable in the activities going on within a hive, therefore being able to predict what they may do next and be able to take appropriate action. To maintain three healthy productive hives."

What would be your hardest earned advice for other beekeepers ?

"Join a proactive beekeeping club and attend a beginners beekeeping course prior to getting your bees.

Attend the apiary sessions and get as much practical hands on experience as you can and question experienced beekeepers.

When you have your own bees, maintain close contact with your Mentor, learn the signs of imminent swarming and actions to take to prevent it."



Training @ ADBKA

The beginners training started on 26th April, with 25 people taking part on the course.



Sue Richardson using the demonstration hive to explain the parts of a hive and show photographs of life inside the hive.



Practical sessions were run at the apiary during the spring. Great use was made of the hives in the apiary and the covered briefing area. Committee and members were on hand to give demonstration inspections and give beginners the opportunity to have hands on experience with the bees.



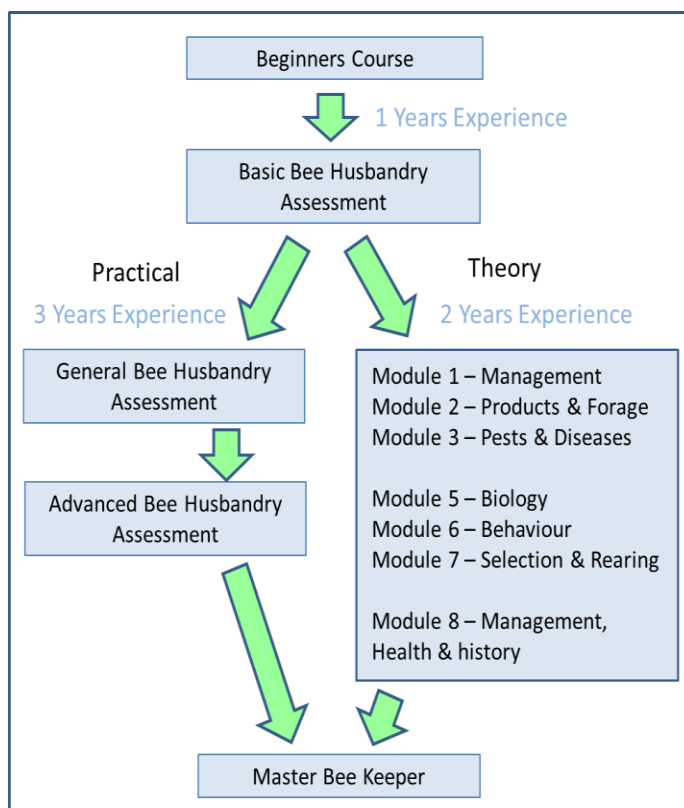
Ian Robson, our training manager, has managed to get himself appointed Examinations secretary for Northumberland.

In addition to the beginners course, 13 people attended the "Basic Husbandry" training course on 10th May at West Thirston Church Hall, facilitated by Val Francis, of BBKA.

This training was in preparation for the practical Basic Assessments in Bee Husbandry carried out at the apiary on the 13th and 14th July by George Eames.

Congratulations to : Ian Chadwick, Bryan Cole, David Cummins, Jill Halliday, Ian Jobson, John Wilsdon, and Christopher Wren from Alnwick and Hexham BKA for successfully passing their assessment. Well done.

There are two streams of training available to members who have passed the basic assessment, through BBKA, which are shown below. Members can pursue training to any level they want, up to the level of Master Beekeeper.



Courses over the coming year include BBKA General Husbandry in Autumn 2014. The Introduction and Basic course will run again next year. Contact Ian Robson. ian@kw-purvis.co.uk



Bee Poetry

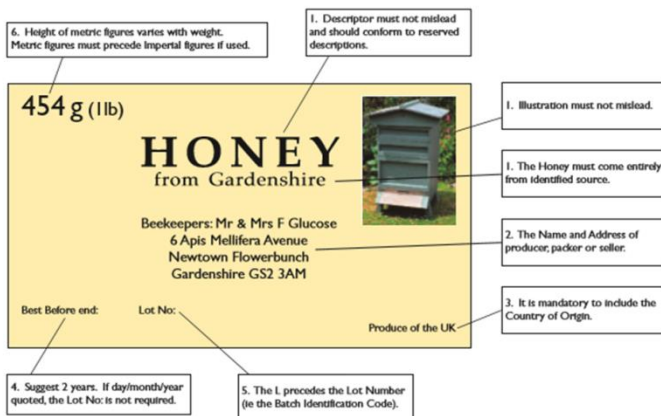
Thank you to Jan Broderick for providing this excerpt from a poem by Isaac Watts

*How doth the little busy bee
Improve each shining hour,
And gather honey all the day
From every shining flower!*

*How skilfully she builds her cell!
How neat she spreads the wax!
And labours hard to store it well
With the sweet food she makes.*

Beekeeping Basics

Honey Labelling – It's a legal requirement to label honey for sale, although it is quite simple and straight forward, if you have a printer and PC or if you use an internet label printing service, like Thorne's. This illustration is taken from the BBKA guidance leaflet of the requirements.

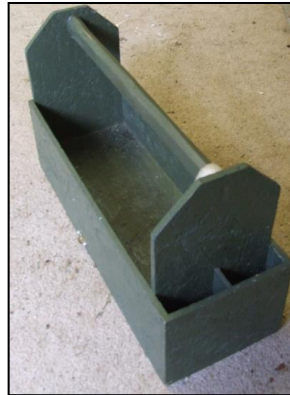


be **informed**, be **up to date**, be **entertained**
read

THE BEEKEEPERS' QUARTERLY
the 64 page full colour magazine in its 25th year
view a sample at www.bkq.org.uk
£26 per year from Northern Bee Books
Scout Bottom Farm, Mytholmroyd,
Hebden Bridge, HX7 5JS
Sales@recordermail.co.uk
www.groovycart.co.uk/beebooks

DIY Project Corner

This editions DIY project is from Ian Jobson, who has made an apiary equipment tidy.



"The ends, sides and base of the tool carry body is made from a 17cm wide strip of 6mm flake board, but think ply would have been better.

The handle was made from 1" x 1.5" stripwood, chamfered and rounded for comfort.



The floor is raised from the base, to act as a lid for a 4 frame nuke box, which clips to the tool body. It can be great for carrying frames to the



Hives, holding the first frame in an inspection, holding the queen frame during swarm control, or collecting wax in a bag

Here it is already to go to the apiary.

Even when the nuke is removed the smoker is held above car boot carpet level on the way home!"



*'Blaw, blaw ye wastin winds, blaw soft,
Among leafy trees,
With the gentle gale from hill and dale,
Bring hame the laden bees'
Robert Burns, Of A' the Airts*

Western Red Cedar Hives,
crafted to perfection.

Contact us for a quote

The Hive Maker
Shaun Scrimgeour
Tel: 0191 2532101
Mobile: 07904003555
Email: shaun.scrimgeour@gmail.com

