



Leeds Beekeepers' Association



## SEPTEMBER, 2012 – NEWSLETTER 18

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## WELCOME

Well at last we got a little bit of decent weather – and the bees took full advantage of it by the look of this photograph taken in mid August at Yorke Gate open gardens, in North Leeds. Here's hoping for a bit more sunshine before the end of the season.

Even though Autumn is fast approaching, we have plenty to look forward to. There is a full programme of Winter Talks arranged, full details below. There is the AGM on the 24<sup>th</sup> October with a chance to win a nucleus of bees. And don't forget the National Honey Show at the end of October – get your entries ready! In the meantime try out this month's recipe – added calories for the forthcoming Winter.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### September 2012

Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 – 12.00	Apiary Day
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	18.30 – 20.30	Apiary Meeting
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 – 17.00	Science Fair, Leeds
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	18.30 – 20.30	Apiary Meeting
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	19.00 – 21.00	LBKA Committee Meeting
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	19.00 – 21.00	YBKA GPC
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	19.00 – 21.00	Winter Talk – If Heath Robinson had been a Beekeeper

### October 2012

Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 – 12.00	Apiary Day
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>		Countryside Live
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	19.00 – 21.00	Annual General Meeting
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> – Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>		National Honey Show

## NEWS ITEMS

### 1. Leeds Horticultural Show – 4<sup>th</sup> August



Well the **not so** good news first: Only ten people entered the competition and four of these were not LBKA members. A very poor show and one which we need to improve on. Come on everyone – work towards entering some of your honey, mead and honey cake next year – have your honey judged by an expert!

Now for the good news: Those that did enter had a very strong chance of going home with a prize or even a trophy. The winning honey cakes were taken to the following Wednesday evening apiary meeting and everyone enjoyed a treat – thank you Andrew and Jane.

Sales were good and although there were a few quiet times we were in the main kept on our toes.

Members of the public were very interested in both the cut away hive and the demonstration bees (shown above with Jane pointing out some interesting details), who were later taken home to enjoy some candy on the patio.

### 2. Apiary Sale Day – 4<sup>th</sup> August

First, many thanks to those who helped out on the day. The gazebos were put up to protect our precious goods from the rain (except it was sunny all morning). Andrew came down with a vast and varied array of sale items, which he set out neatly on his blue tarp.

Liz, Trish and I set out the other goods (supers, assorted goods, old LBKA suits & veils, wood-worm riddled floor, and 20m of scaffold netting). We finally worked out how to switch the gas on in the dark so we could

get the kettles boiling. The shop (and eventually the generator so we could have light in the clubhouse) was opened once Duncan stopped talking. Cath got the teas/coffees and biscuits ready for the hordes. Trish manned the gates and we were all set. Although there were buyers and sellers, and many items exchanged hands, we all felt this event had been underattended and it may be a while before we do it again.

Contributed by Juliet Parkinson

### **3. YBKA Honey Show - Countryside Live**

This is a reminder to all members that the schedules are out now for the YBKA Honey Show as part of Countryside Live. Entries must be submitted by **Friday 14th September**.

**NB.** Members should be concentrating their attentions on entries into the **county classes only** as this section is the YBKA section and trophies, and not the open section.

Copy of schedules and entry form can be downloaded from YAS Countryside Live website:

<http://www.countryside.co.uk/en/livestock-entries/>

Hard copy of schedules and entry form available from: Amanda West, YAS Livestock and entries, Tel: 01423 546231

### **4. Volunteers please? Children's Science Fair, 6<sup>th</sup> October**

This is a request for volunteers to assist at the Children's Science Fair in Leeds on Saturday, 6th October between 10.00 and 17.00 hours. If anyone can help out at this event, please contact Juliet Parkinson <[jparkinson@retailexpress.com](mailto:jparkinson@retailexpress.com)>; There are lots of jobs to do and fun to be had, in particular assistance with transport of items to the venue would be appreciated.

Typical activities include:

Interactive Events:

Quiz (up to 9 years old)  
Spot the Queen Bee in a photo  
Interactive hive labelling via a laptop  
Dress as a beekeeper – suit, veil, gloves  
Observe microscope slides.

Other Activities:

Projector showing bee activities (from DVD in Laptop)  
Display screens, photos and posters  
Hive with stand/brood box/roof/frames and equipment  
Copies of LBKA leaflets/LBKA newsletter.

### **5. Annual General Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> October**

Be sure to attend the upcoming AGM, at the usual venue at the Newman Centre, Station Road, Crossgates, Leeds. There will be a raffle, with the very desirable prize of a nucleus of bees so don't miss it.

### **6. Preparing for Winter**

Following on from the recent presentation given at the Apiary about preparing for winter, a link has been provided on the LBKA website giving all the important points and reminders.

[http://www.leedsbeekeepers.org.uk/files/LBKA\\_Preparing\\_for\\_winter\\_Aug-2012.pdf](http://www.leedsbeekeepers.org.uk/files/LBKA_Preparing_for_winter_Aug-2012.pdf)

### **7. Safeguarding Children in Beekeeping**

Following on from last month's article about safeguarding our younger beekeepers, some of you have rightly noticed that the link mentioned was not available. I am happy to report that we now have the links up on the LBKA website, as follows:

[http://www.leedsbeekeepers.org.uk/files/Safeguarding\\_Children\\_in\\_Beekeeping-child\\_code.pdf](http://www.leedsbeekeepers.org.uk/files/Safeguarding_Children_in_Beekeeping-child_code.pdf)

[http://www.leedsbeekeepers.org.uk/files/Working\\_with\\_Children-BBKA\\_Policy\\_&\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.leedsbeekeepers.org.uk/files/Working_with_Children-BBKA_Policy_&_Guide.pdf)

This is essential reading for anyone with young relatives that want to take up beekeeping.

## **8. Britain's Youngest Beekeeper?**

It seems beekeepers are getting younger and younger (eat your hearts out you old guys down at Temple Newsam). Read about a seven-year old boy at Hebden Bridge.

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/339193/Boy-stung-by-bug-for-beekeeping>

## **9. Beekeeper needed in Pudsey!**

We have been contacted by Charlie Place, as follows:

"I have a hive of bees in a great location on a rhubarb/vegetable farm in Pudsey (off Roker Lane). It is only their second year, they and the farmer are happy. Unfortunately due to a couple of reasons, I need to either take a step back or sell the hive. I was wondering if anyone might be interested in ideally taking over the management of the bees (so they would have no outlay and we could share the honey?) or buy the bees/hive if they would prefer."

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact the Editor, details below.

## **10. Do Bees hold the key to getting younger?**

Sue Baskind read this article and thought other beekeepers would be interested in the link.... any chance of reversing brain damage – I'm interested!

<http://neurosciencenews.com/bees-reverse-brain-aging-learning-deficits-reversible/>

## **11. Do we Need to Feed our Bees?**

At our 'Preparing for Winter' session on Wednesday, a few of this year's beginners were asking if it really was unusual to be emergency feeding bees during spring/summer - this may reassure them!

<http://www.thisissomerset.co.uk/Emergency-supplies-syrup-sugar-left-bees/story-16755072-detail/story.html>

## **12. Fighting Queens - Thanks to Auntie!**

A fascinating piece of footage showing two newly emerged queens fighting it out. Link sent to us by Chris Barlow. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00qj4kv>

## **13. Poor Apple Crop?**

A nice BBC news article on why the apple crop in Taunton is 90% down, because the bees couldn't fly in our cold wet Spring! This is an interesting article, although I have to say that my apple tree has plenty of apples (my bees live right next to it!) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-19408586>

## **14. UK insect numbers 'very low' after months of wet weather**

Read comments from the Buglife conservation charity about how various insects and other small garden creatures have fared during this most unusually wet summer at this link <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-19337612>

## **BEGINNERS' CORNER – SEPTEMBER 2012**

*This feature is aimed at those who started beekeeping and got their first nuc(s) in 2012.*

You should be well into your planning for taking your bees through winter. Things you need to think about (and do!):

- Varroa treatments – you should be planning an application of a Thymol treatment - this could require up to four weeks of treatment and works better in warmer temperatures so the earlier the better. Remember that Thymol will taint honey so take any supers off that you want to extract before applying the Thymol strips.
- Reduce your hive entrances to prevent robbing.
- Add mouse guards when the weather turns cool.

- Think about woodpecker protection – you can construct simple guards using chicken wire.
- If you have more than one colony – are they strong enough or could they be united?
- Do your bees have enough stores? If not, they may need feeding.
- Are there any signs of disease?
- What configuration of hive do you plan to have them in over winter? It is now quite commonly advised to place a full/part full super under the brood box with no queen excluder. This means the bees are at the top of the hive where it is warm but still have access to the honey. You can take the super away in Spring before there is any danger of the queen laying in it.

Lets hope for a warm sunny Autumn after all this rain.

Best wishes, Juliet, LBKA Mentoring, [mentoring@leedsbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:mentoring@leedsbeekeepers.org.uk)

## **LBKA EDUCATION NEWS**

### **Basic Assessment - August 18th/19<sup>th</sup>**

No less than 13 LBKA members took up the challenge of the BBKA Basic Assessment. We spent Saturday reviewing the topics that are included on the syllabus - this is really just a refresher of material that we cover on our Beginners' Courses. As you might expect when you have lots of beekeepers in the room, we had some lively discussions and sharing of practical experience and all thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to talk bees for a whole day. You never know what people are going to find most valuable but at least two of the group now know how to detach their hood from their beesuit for laundering purposes! Trevor Smith kindly joined us for a while to share his recent experiences of taking the Assessment and explained how he had found it to be a very positive experience.

The Assessment itself took place in the apiary on the Sunday morning. Everyone arrived with nice clean gloves and suits to demonstrate they understood the need for good apiary hygiene and we were under way!... Each Assessment lasted one hour, during which time each candidate demonstrated a colony inspection, showed how to make up a frame and answered some oral questions on beekeeping and disease. There were lots of smiling, relieved faces afterwards and the people I spoke to all said how much they had enjoyed the experience and the chance to spend an hour with a really experienced beekeeper! Many thanks to David Haigh for getting all the colonies ready for inspection and support on the Sunday.

### **Taster Course**

The Taster Course was a great success - thanks to everyone who made it so and especially to Andrew and Jane for taking the lead! What an enthusiastic bunch they look ----

We had excellent feedback on how well organised and informative it was, as well as the beginners being made to feel really welcome. They learned a lot and several have said they are keen to follow up with a proper course.



### **BBKA Modules at the Great Yorkshire Show Ground**

The Yorkshire Beekeeping Association is running some BBKA modules – delivered as tutorials at the Great Yorkshire Show Pavilion in Harrogate.

At the time of printing all dates are subject to confirmation but there needs to be sufficient interest for them to go ahead. Sessions will be held in the Normanby Pavilion on the edge of the Yorkshire show ground. 10.00 am start for about 2 hours and refreshments will be available.

There is no cost to YBKA members but there needs to be sufficient people to make the sessions viable. A tutor will lead the sessions, as details below:

### **Module 1**

October 6 <sup>th</sup>	1.1	–	1.5
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.6	–	1.11
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	1.12	–	1.1.15 and 1.25 – 1.27
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	1.16	–	1.22
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	1.23	–	1.33 (excl 1.25 – 1.27)

### **Module 6**

October 13 <sup>th</sup>	6.1	–	6.6
November	6.7	–	6.13
December	6.14	–	6.21

Please let Wendy Maslin, YBKA exam secretary know if you would like to go along - [beewendi@gmail.com](mailto:beewendi@gmail.com)

### **WINTER SPEAKERS' PROGRAMME 2012/13**

We have now finalised our list of Winter Speakers, and the full programme is shown below. Thanks go to Cath for organising all this.

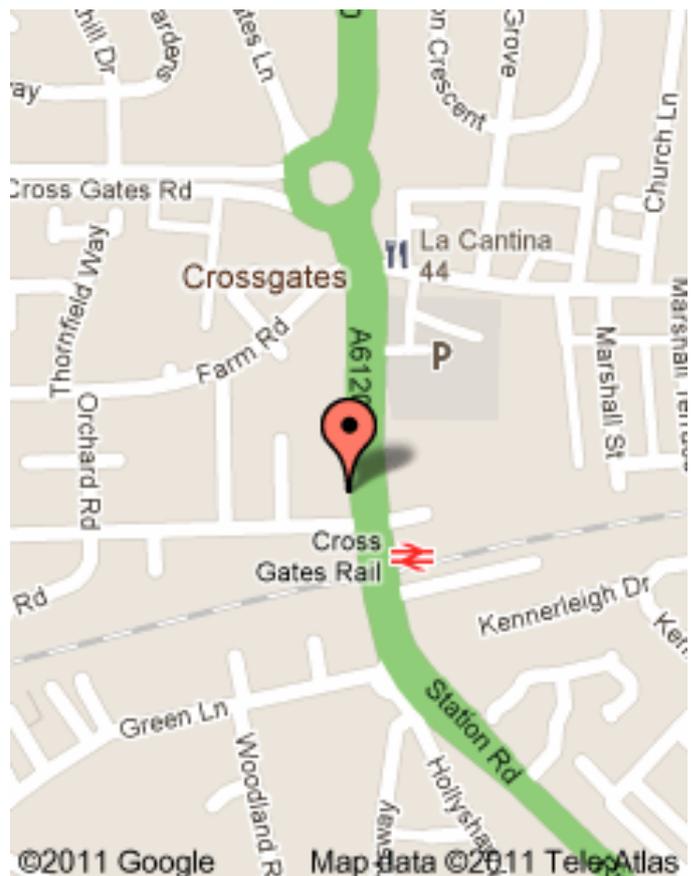
Winter Programme	Speaker	Topic
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Graham Royle	'If Heath Robinson had been a Beekeeper'
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> October	AGM, LBKA Members	Good Practices in Beekeeping
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Jane Sargeant, LBKA	Bee Products – Wax, Cooking, Cosmetics Will be held at Temple Newsam
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Wendy Maslin, YBKA Education Officer	YBKA/BBKA Courses
December	No Meeting	
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Dr. Steve Martin, Sheffield University	Varroa Research re Virus Transmission
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Dr. Mike Garrard, Leeds University	Urban Pollinators Project
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> March	LBKA Members	Good Practices in Beekeeping

All meetings, (except 3rd November at TempleNewsam) will be held at:  
**St Theresa's Church 'Newman Centre', Station Road, Crossgates, Leeds, LS15 7JY**

The centre is located across the road from Crossgates shopping centre, there is free parking available on site. Access to the car park is via a steep path between the church and the Newman centre (the old school).

Public transport :Crossgates railway station - 3 minutes walk, bus No.40 stops outside, buses 56 and 64 stop on Crossgates Road close to the MECCA Bingo, 5 minutes walk

**Time:** 7.00-9.00pm (Doors will be open from 6.30pm and close at 9.30pm)



## HONEY RECIPES

### Date and Honey Cheesecake

#### Base

50g butter or marg  
3 tbsps golden syrup  
175g rolled oats  
1 egg yolk

#### Filling

225g cream cheese (full or low fat)  
3 eggs separated  
4 tbsps thick honey  
30g plain flour

4 tbsps double cream  
100g chopped stoned dates  
50g caster sugar

#### Topping

3 tbsps thick honey  
100g chopped stoned dates  
Preparation time= 45minutes  
Cooking time =1 ½ - 1 ¾ hours  
Oven 160C, Gas Mark 3

#### Method

For the flapjack base, melt the butter or marg and golden syrup in a saucepan. Stir in the rolled oats and egg yolk. Press evenly over the bottom of a greased loose bottomed 18-20cms round cake tin. Chill whilst making the filling.

For the filling, soften the cheese in a large mixing bowl. Beat in the egg yolks, honey, flour and cream. Fold in the chopped dates. Whisk the egg whites until soft, then whisk in the caster sugar. Fold lightly but thoroughly into the cheese mixture. Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin and smooth the surface. Bake in a pre-heated oven for 1 ½ - 1 ¾ hours, or until firm but still spongy to the touch. Turn off the oven, open the door and leave the cheesecake to cool for an hour

For the topping, melt the honey in a saucepan over a gentle heat. Stir in the dates and nuts and then spread evenly over the top of the cooled cheesecake. Chill in the tin for 2- 3 hours. Ease the tin carefully away from the base of the cheesecake and lift off the tin base

#### Serves 10

This one sounds delicious and I plan to try it this weekend. Thanks again to our resident foodie, Sue Baskind.

### Honey Cake Recipe – as used in the Show

Whilst on the subject of recipes, we have had requests for the honey cake recipe used for the Leeds Horticultural Show competition. This can be found on Page 26 of the Leeds Horticultural Show Schedule of Classes on their website. If anyone is trying out this recipe, be sure and do it again in time for next year's Show – we can do with more entries!

#### And a final thought:

Never be afraid to try something new in beekeeping - remember:  
Amateurs built the Ark - Professionals built the Titanic

AS USUAL, MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED –  
AND PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS (ARTICLES, ANECDOTES,  
PHOTOS, RECIPES, ETC.) FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER TO  
KATEY SLATER AT [EDITOR@LEEDSBEEKEEPERS.ORG.UK](mailto:EDITOR@LEEDSBEEKEEPERS.ORG.UK)