



"THE LEEDS BEEKEEPER" – JUNE 2015 – Newsletter 50



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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Happy cold May!! My beekeeping is getting going slowly this year, although I note, with envy, that there are those among us who have substantial amounts of honey already – I do hope you are one of them. If not, good luck for the rest of the season.

A few housekeeping items that I'd like to draw to your attention now that the season is underway – please see the notes below about the Entrance Gate, dogs, and also the new Smoker Lighting Rules.

The Weekend Course, conducted the last weekend of May went extremely well. We were a bit doubtful about the weather, but managed to get all the inspections done in sunshine. The picture above is one that Chris took of some of the 'high fashion' lady beekeepers helping out – photo-bombed – thankyou Andy!! This was the first time using a new caterer, and that was very successful too.

A few of us volunteered to help out at the Countryside Live event in Ledsham. This is a fantastic event aimed purely at primary school children, many of whom are from inner city areas and don't see much in the way of country life.

This was an opportunity for them to see falconry, gun dogs, a dog and duck team, sheep breeds, willow weaving, and many, many other country pursuits, which they wouldn't normally see, not to forget, of course, an excellent demonstration of beekeeping. If you get the chance to volunteer for this next year, I would urge you



to do so because the children are a joy to observe, as they see and learn about these unfamiliar things. The picture here is of the action in the beekeeping tent.

The Leeds Horticultural Show is fast approaching and this, as you know, incorporates the LBKA Honey Show. So check out Cath's article below, and get your honey and mead ready, bake a cake, take some photos and get them entered in the show. Let's make this a good one – there's nothing quite like winning a prize in a show!! Great.

And a few weeks after that on the 30th and 31st August, we'll be staging our open weekend at Temple Newsam. Last year was our first attempt at this, and we felt that footfall was a bit low, so this year we're moving out of the Home Farm into the Stable Courtyard area, where we think it'll be a lot busier. Please volunteer to help out for a few hours with this – pencil it in your diaries – full details will follow.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

June	Wednesday 3	Apiary Meeting 6.30 – 9.00 pm
		Spring Course Week 5 – 6.45 – 8.30 pm
	Wednesday 10	Apiary Meeting 6.30 – 9.00 pm
		Spring Course Week 6 – 6.45 – 8.30 pm
	Saturday 13	Apiary Day 10.00 am – 12.00 noon
	Wednesday 17	Apiary Meeting 6.30 – 9.00 pm
	Saturday 20	Bramham Show
	Wednesday 24	Apiary Meeting 6.30 – 9.00 pm
July	Wednesday 1	Apiary Meeting 6.30 – 9.00 pm
	Wednesday 8	Apiary Meeting 6.30 – 9.00 pm
	Saturday 11 th	Apiary Day 10.00am – 12.00 noon
		Visit to LBKA Apiary from Oldham Beekeepers Assoc.
	Tue/Wed/Thur 14/15/16	The Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate

Wednesday 15	Apiary Meeting 6.30 – 9.00 pm
Sat/Sun 18 th /19 th	BBKA Basic Assessment
Tuesday 21 st	LBKA Committee Meeting
Wednesday 22	Apiary Meeting 6.30 – 9.00 pm
Wednesday 29	Apiary Meeting 6.30 – 9.00 pm
Sat/Sun 31 st /1 st Aug	Leeds Honey Show

NEWS ITEMS

Live in the Hive!

Sent in from Dave Barrett, this is fantastic to watch. Spot the varroa in one shot briefly!

<http://m.wimp.com/timelapse-bees/>

Gate Etiquette!

The tall entrance gate at the top of the driveway must be kept closed and pretend ‘padlocked’ all the time. This is to deter non-members from entering the apiary that way. It is not a gate open for public access at all. In addition, it will prevent dogs from coming in that way inadvertently. If there are dog walkers passing, it would be easy for a dog to stray through there – even for a few minutes it will be distressing for the stock that is kept in those paddocks. If Temple Newsam staff see dogs inside the paddock area, we will be in big trouble. I’m sure you’ve seen that there are sheep in there with lambs, so please, be very careful and even if someone else is on their way up behind you (they won’t be offended), still pull the gate closed against possible dogs nearby.

Dogs

As noted above – just to clarify – dogs are not allowed in the apiary area at all, because of the stock kept in the paddocks.

Smoker etiquette

Can I draw your attention to the new “Smoker Lighting Rules” on display at the apiary. From a Health and Safety viewpoint, please abide by these. It is not acceptable to light smokers from the gas burners, or inside the clubhouse, especially where children are close by. We want to err on the safe side and prevent any accidents. Many thanks.

Temple Newsam Car Park

Unfortunately, at a recent Wednesday evening meeting, one of our members’ car was damaged, whilst parked at the top of the pathway. Firstly, did anyone see anything? And secondly, take care to park carefully, to minimize the risk of this happening.

A Plea from Helen....

Our lovely Membership Secretary, Helen Lowry, has asked that when members change their address, or any other contact details, could they please update Webcollect. In addition, could they email her direct through the website, so that she can update her members’ spreadsheet. This will enable her to notify YBKA, and in turn BBKA, keeping your membership details correct through the system. You’ll then be sure of continuing to receive your updates, newsletters, etc.

Leeds Beekeepers Fleeces / Polo Shirts

You'll have seen that a number of our members have very nice fleeces and polo shirts with the LBKA skep logo and their name on the front. If you have been longing to own one of these extremely desirable items of clothing, now is your chance. More than that you can now get them in a variety of colours! Even better. These are available to order in the shop any time – you need to give the name, item of clothing, size and colour to Duncan or David (who have the order forms) and they will do the rest. Details are below:

Various sizes are available from child through to XXXL i.e. children **5-6yrs 7-8yrs 9-10yrs 11- 13yrs** and adults

Adult size	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
Inches		36	38-40	42	44	46-48	50-52

As an Association, we've agreed that maroon (the colour you've all seen us in) will be the colour that we'll use for helping out at events, to promote a good, cohesive image. But if you do want a different colour, you can now have maroon, black, grey, white, navy, yellow, bottle green, red, royal, sky blue.

Apiary offer in Moortown

"I live in Moortown, at the head of a cul-de-sac which backs onto some woodland. It is a quiet, secluded garden in which over a dozen bird feeders are located, supporting at least 16 species of birds on a daily basis. There are many places over 15 yards from our or any other house. I'd be happy for someone to visit or to provide more information." If you are interested, please contact the editor and I will put you in touch.

Antique Bee Books for Sale

We have been contacted by Stephen Armitage regarding some antique bee books that he wishes to sell. The books are:

- Keys J The Practical Beemaster 1st Edition (about 1840) - foldout etching is missing but otherwise in good condition.
- Huish R A Treatise on Bees, Nature, Economy and practical management 2nd Edition (1817), has been re-covered in leather, fold-out etching included.

Both books are on sale on e-bay for £175 but Stephen Armitage (located in Batley) is open to offers, contact Stephen direct on his mobile 07910 530212. There are newer versions of these books available on Amazon should you wish to view the contents.

New Bee Movie

New movie premiered at Cannes this month about a family of bee-keepers:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/film/filmreviews/10839261/Cannes-2014-The-Wonders-review-a-mesmerising-coming-of-age-tale.html>

Middle Class Beekeepers???

This was on the front page of the DT on 13th May. All the more reason to get our swarm control up to scratch!

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/wildlife/11600059/Middle-class-urban-beekeepers-blamed-for-town-centre-swarms.html>

Wellies Wanted

As mentioned above, we would like to have a small supply of wellingtons of various sizes so that people can use them as necessary when going into the apiary. If you have any old boots you can donate, that would be very much appreciated.

Bee Health Day in York

We have received the following very kind invitation from York and District Beekeepers, which some of you may wish to accept. Full details are in Appendix B to last month's newsletter (available on the LBKA website)

Great Yorkshire Show – Yorkshire Honey Show

Following the talk by Dave Shannon at the end of March about Preparing Honey and Wax for Shows, some of you may be interested in showing your honey at the Yorkshire Show Tuesday, 14th to Thursday, 16th July 2015. The entry form and schedule of events at the Honey Show were published in the last newsletter. They can also be found at http://greatyorkshireshow.co.uk/uploads/files/2015_Hives_and_Honey_Schedule.pdf

Leeds Flower Show 1st, 2nd August - LBKA Volunteers needed

The **Leeds Flower Show** is taking place on **Saturday and Sunday, 1st and 2nd August at the Grammar School, Adel, Leeds LS17 8GS** [off the A61 to Harrogate]. Leeds Beekeepers have a stand in the main hall and Volunteers are requested to make this a successful event. We have display material (re general beekeeping and LBKA activities), our own display boards, an observation hive and some hive products for sale.

Members and the public can submit entries in the various bee-related categories i.e. honey, mead, honey cake, a super frame of sealed honey, candles and other wax products, photographs of bee related activities etc. The entries will be judged on Saturday morning; hence the later start on Saturday compared to Sunday. I will be distributing entry forms at the apiary shortly. There is a small entry fee and a small prize for the winner of each category with possibly a trophy to keep for a year.

Volunteers are needed to assist on each day of the event and for setting up the afternoon/evening before the event. This is an opportunity to share your beekeeping enthusiasm with the public. If you could fill any of the slots listed in the table below it would be very much appreciated, please e-mail secretary@leedsbeekeepers.org indicating which timeslot(s) you prefer.

If you have **any hive products for sale**, (even if you cannot attend yourself then) again please e-mail as above. All volunteers will gain free entry into the event and free parking, there are lots of other activities in addition to the plants and gardening materials on sale. You can combine a good day out with a few hours of volunteering. Do it for the bees!

Leeds Flower Show						
Set Up Friday 31st July	Saturday 1st August			Sunday 2nd August		
	15.00 – 18.00	12.00 – 14.30	14.30 – 17.00	09.30 – 12.00	12.00 – 14.30	14.30 – 17.00
Slot	1	2	3	4	5	6

Please let me know your availability as soon as possible.

Cath Graham, Secretary of LBKA

FIRST SWARM OF THE YEAR – 24th May

Well the weather might have been cold and wet, but the bees are now at full strength and many are preparing to swarm.

I've been working hard doing things to prevent my own bees from swarming.

But there are always feral swarms at this time of year.

Today I collected my first swarm of the season. It was in East End Park, conveniently located in a low privet hedge.

A quick snip with the secateurs cleared enough for my straw skep and voila - it was captured.

As luck would have it Leeds Beekeepers Association were holding one of our beginners classes that night, so I was able to take the swarm to the apiary at Temple Newsam and demonstrate to the class how to transfer the swarm from the skep into their new home / hive. A bit of added interest and extra experience for the course members.

Since then have collected a further three swarms from various parts of the City. All have been safely housed in new hives and are already working hard.

Contributed by Dave Darrett

FIRST EXPERIENCE OF SWARM COLLECTION

Finally, after putting it off and leaving it to the brave, long-standing beekeepers among us, I decided with much trepidation to put my name on the Swarm Collection List. Being 'older' and female, and not the most confident, I wasn't sure about this. I didn't want to go up ladders, or anything difficult. But still, I did want to start collecting swarms, so I went for it.

The call came last Saturday. Panic! There's a lady with a swarm in a garden not far from me. More panic!! Right then, swarm collection kit loaded (suit, sheet, box, secateurs, saw, smoker, string, sellotape, nuc box, etc., etc.) and off I went, pretending a confidence I didn't really feel.

The swarm was very conveniently located at just about eye level in a very nice camellia tree. They were well clustered, with just a few flying around – what could be easier.



The lady of the house was very brave and not afraid of approaching them at all, however, the rest of her family were hiding inside behind the patio doors, where they had an excellent view of the proceedings. I told her I would have to snip the branches of the tree a bit, which she was ok with, and suggested she might want to retreat behind the door as well. I suited up, laid out my sheet, held up the box under the swarm and snipped the branch --- it was like a plague of Egypt – bees everywhere -- whoever said that you can snip the branch and they'll fall neatly into the box was definitely exaggerating!! Thank goodness for the sheet. I felt confident that the queen was in the middle of cluster in the box so I upturned it, put it on the sheet and hoped for the best. Lo and behold – it worked!

It took a while, but slowly and surely, with much fanning, the bees made their way into the box. Some re-gathered in the tree, but they were small clumps and easily got into a smaller box, which I then put on the floor next to the big one and they very obligingly crawled out of one box and into the other.

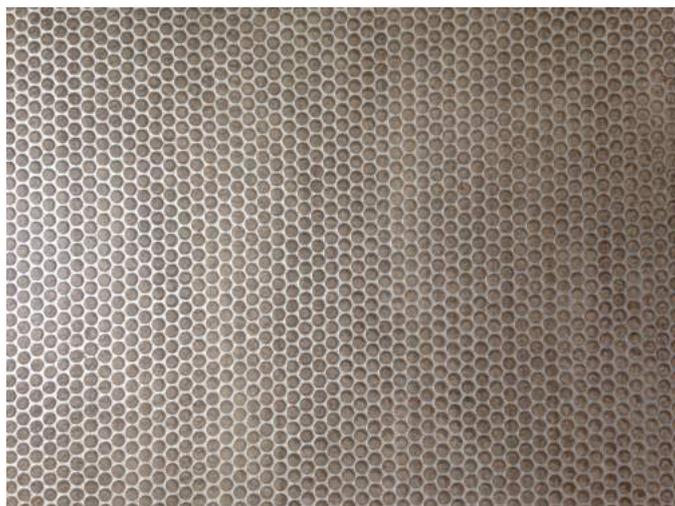
There was a bit of waiting around for all the bees to go in (there were returning foragers that drew out the time as well), and the homeowner came out to keep me company. She was delighted to see these bees going to a good home. She showed me where they'd come from – apparently there have been bees living in her neighbour's roof space for some time and they'd flown down from there, firstly gathering on the hanging basket, but then preferring the camellia (very discerning). I apologized that it was taking a bit of time, but she said this was the best afternoon's entertainment she'd had.

The bees are now living happily in a new hive, and are looking good – I checked them today, 3 days later, and they are drawing comb, laying in stores and the queen is laying well. The homeowner very kindly sent me some pictures, and I promised to take her round a jar of honey when they've made some, so let's hope they do!

Contributed by Katey Slater

Honeycomb, honeycomb!

This is not a wax honeycomb. Proof that the honeycomb structure works for all sorts of things – this is actually the floor of a very posh shower cubicle! Sent in by Mark Ghent.



Please send your contributions (articles, anecdotes, Photos, recipes, etc.) for the next newsletter to editor@leedsbeekeepers.org.uk

And don't forget – beekeepers gather for a relaxing pint at the Brown Cow every Wednesday after the apiary meeting – so come and join us.