



THE LEEDS BEEKEEPER



October 2012 - Newsletter 19

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WELCOME

Welcome to the October 2012 issue. Sadly the Summer is over, and so are the weekly meetings at Temple Newsam on Wednesday evenings. But don't let that mean you are out of touch with the Association – please come along to the Winter Talks (I have put the details in again as a reminder) and don't forget that we still meet at the Apiary on the first Saturday of every month where there are always lots of jobs to do, so please come along.

Don't forget that the AGM is on the 24th October at the Newman Centre in Crossgates. We'll be voting in the Committee for the coming year, and there will be a raffle with a first prize of a Nuc. Don't miss it.

If you need more bulk supplies of jars, see item 6. below – the deadline is the 10th for this opportunity to get them as cheaply as possible, so don't delay.

Last month we talked about the youngest beekeepers. This month, we have an article about Mr. Stan Brownridge, who is LBKA's oldest member, and certainly one of the oldest in the country. He's been a beekeeper since before World War 2, so be sure and read his story.

This month's recipe should warm us all up – Beef Tagine with Prunes. Sounds lovely. And for anyone out there who likes a bit of home brewing, you can now try out President Obama's tippie. See page 6.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2012

Sat 6 th	10.00 – 12.00	Apiary Day
Wed 10 th		Winter Course begins
Sat 20 th – Sun 21 st		Countryside Live, Yorkshire Showground
Wed 24 th	19.00 – 21.00	Annual General Meeting
Thurs 25 th – Sat 27 th		National Honey Show

November 2012

Sat 3 rd	10.00 – 12.00	Apiary Day
Wed 14 th		Committee Meeting
Fri 23 rd		YBKA General Purposes Committee
Wed 28 th	19.00 – 21.00	Winter Talk and Extraordinary General Meeting

NEWS ITEMS

1. Volunteers please? Children's Science Fair, 6th October

It's not too late to volunteer to come along and help at this event – contact Juliet Parkinson <jparkinson@retailexpress.com>; There are lots of jobs to do and fun to be had.

2. Annual General Meeting – 24th October

Be sure to attend the upcoming AGM, to be held at 7.00 p.m. at the usual venue, the Newman Centre, Station Road, Crossgates, Leeds. There will be a raffle, with the very desirable prize of a nucleus of bees, donated by David Haigh, so don't miss it.

3. Extraordinary General Meeting

Members of Leeds Beekeepers Association are invited to an Extraordinary General Meeting of Leeds Beekeepers Association to consider changes to our Constitution.

All the changes to be considered are highlighted in red in the linked document. For the sake of clarity the proposed changes have already been incorporated, however, you are entitled to raise issues on any of the proposed changes should you wish to do so. You are requested to read this document prior to attending the meeting and to bring a copy with you on the day of the meeting. The changes to the Constitution will be the only matters to be discussed at this meeting.

http://www.leedsbeekeepers.org.uk/files/CONSTITUTION_of_LBKA_Final_Proposal_29_Aug_2012.pdf

The meeting will be on Wednesday, 28th November, 2012 at 7.00pm in our usual Winter Meeting Venue: St Theresa's Church 'Newman Centre', Station Road, Crossgates, Leeds .

4. Basic Assessment Fees

You'll be pleased to know that at a recent Committee Meeting it was decided that the Association will pay the Examination Fees for all LBKA members taking the Basic Assessment. Sadly, this cannot be extended to any other beekeeping exams, but will at least get everyone off to a good start.

5. Lincolnshire Beekeeper Talks

The Lincolnshire Beekeepers Association is running two extremely interesting talks in the near future.

1 st November	Apitherapy - the medicinal use of beehive products for human and animal health
4 th October	The Superorganism and Why it Matters to Beekeeper

See Appendix I and Appendix II for full details.

6. Bulk Jar Purchase

Some of you will have seen the adverts by Spinks-Compak in the YBKA newsletter. What is not clear is that they now charge a small order surcharge of £10 for ANY order under £200. £200 equates to around 800 jars and clearly this is significantly more than many beekeepers will need. If you only need one box, then in some jar sizes this surcharge can nearly double the cost of your jars.

Buying them in a pooled purchase alongside other association members will ensure that you don't have to pay the surcharge and there are further discounts if we buy say 10 boxes of a particular type. An **approximate** guide to prices:

72 x	1lb Honey Jars (Screw type lids)	£22
72 x	1lb Honey Jars (Twist off lids)	£21
84 x	12oz Hex Jars	£20
96 x	8oz Round Jars	£24
72 x	110g Hex Jars	£12

Lids are supplied in multiples of 100 regardless of the number of jars in a box. We will only order if sufficient members come forward to achieve a minimum of a £200 order. So if you want to buy some jars (whole boxes only) then please confirm your requirements to David Haigh by email - shop@leedsbeekeepers.org.uk by Monday October 10th. Jars will then be available for collection at the AGM on Wednesday 24th October or at the Apiary Day at Temple Newsam on Saturday 3rd November.

7. BBKA Modules at the Great Yorkshire Show Ground

A reminder that the YBKA is holding module tutorials at the Great Yorkshire Show Pavilion in Harrogate.

Module 1

October 6 th	1.1 – 1.5	Chris Coulson
November 3 rd	1.6 – 1.11	Andrew Cooper
December 8 th	1.12 – 1.1.15 and 1.25 – 1.27	Neil Wilmore
January 12 th	1.16 – 1.22	Keith Bartlem
February 9 th	.23 – 1.33 (excl 1.25 – 1.27)	Tony Jefferson

Module 6

October 13 th	6.1 – 6.6	To be arranged
November 17 th	6.7 – 6.13	John Whitaker
January 19 th	6.14 – 6.21	Gerry Collins

Exam Technique

February 9 th	1.30pm	Val
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These Tutorials will be held in the YBKA Normanby Pavilion on the Harrogate Show ground. Access is through a single pedestrian gate in the perimeter fence accessed from OUTSIDE the show ground. Approach the show ground from Hookstone Wood Road follow signs to the squash club and go past it down the hill. The car park is rough gravelled ground. There is no separate signage to the building. Please note there are events on at the showground on 6th and 13th of October and 17th of November so traffic may be heavier and parking a little more challenging so please allow plenty of time. Sessions will start at 10 am and

aim to finish around midday but be prepared for some to run over a little. It is winter and the heating will be on but the building is not the warmest so wrap up you can always take layers off. Hot drinks will be available. Please also note for those of you wanting to take the exam in March Val will be giving a talk on exam technique on the afternoon of February 9TH.

8. Genetics and Worker Bees

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/sep/16/bee-study-behaviour>

According to a report in the journal Nature Neuroscience*, the job a worker bee does corresponds to distinct patterns of chemicals that latch on to and regulate certain genes in their brains.

Honeybees are born into their place in society. Those fed royal jelly as larvae emerge as queens and do little but lay eggs. The rest become worker bees and divvy up the jobs that need doing around the hive. While some worker bees remain at home, others take flight in search of nectar, pollen and other hive essentials. The entire honeybee workforce are genetically identical sisters. (*not strictly true*)

But analysis of the worker bees' DNA revealed that foragers had one pattern of chemical tags on their genes, while those that stayed home had another. When bees swapped one job for the other, their genetic tags changed accordingly. Scientists call these patterns epigenetic states, because they work on top of the normal genetic code.

* <http://www.nature.com/neuro/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nn.3218.html>

9. Winter Talk – If Heath Robinson were a Beekeeper



The first of the Winter talks was delivered last Wednesday by a very experienced beekeeper from the other side of the Pennines. Graham Royle (pictured) has clearly drawn on his expertise in electronics to create some innovations for beekeepers.

Who would have thought of adapting a vacuum cleaner to collect swarms, or combining the bathroom scales with a periscope to create a reliable method of weighing a hive? And I will never again use an uncapping knife – it's the hot air paint remover in future!

10. Apiary in Headingley

We have been contacted by Sue Griffiths, who lives in Headingley and would like to volunteer her garden for someone to keep a hive. She says: "We have a large flower-rich garden with all round nectar sources and lots of bees. We would be happy for a beekeeper to have a hive here. We live in Headingley."

If you would like to take up this kind offer, please contact the Editor, and your details will be passed on.

11. Boston Spa Honey?

We have had a request for some honey local to Boston Spa, Yorkshire. Do any of you have honey to spare from that area – if so, contact the Editor, who will pass on your details.

12. Black Bees

Bill and Arthur (who keep their black bees in the North West of England) have been running a beekeeping website, and have invited us to take advantage of the decades of experience they have. The site is full of many helpful or amusing articles, so take a look. <http://www.blackbees.co.uk>

They concentrate on Black bees, saying that “It is a wet and cold place – no-one in thier right mind would try to keep bees in such a place.” But because of their isolation, they do have some success in keeping their Black bees away from other bees.

13. Beeswax as Dental Filling

This report is of a 6500-year-old Neolithic human mandible found in Slovenia whose left canine crown bears the traces of a filling with beeswax. <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0044904>

14. Honey bees fight back against Varroa

New research published in BioMed Central’s open access journal Genome Biology finds that specific proteins, released by damaged larvae and in the antennae of adult honey bees, can drive hygienic behavior of the adults and promote the removal of infected larvae from the hive.

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/presscenter/pressreleases/20120928b>

THE OLDEST BEEKEEPER?

Stan Brownridge, at 93 years old, is the oldest member of the Leeds Beekeepers Association, and is an Honorary Life Member. He is also believed to be the oldest living member of the British Beekeepers’ Association, being a member since 1926. Although Stan was born in Garforth and spent much of his professional life here, he and his wife are now living in Bishop’s Stortford.

Stan says he could write many pages about his experiences as a beekeeper, and we might ask him to do that over coming months, we will start with a brief biography of his life.

Stan was born on 1st August 1919 and lived in the Castleford area. He attended Castleford Grammar School from 1932 until 1938. In 1938 he was the North of England AAA Junior Champion for 1 Mile.

In 1938 he trained as a teacher at Beckett’s Park in Leeds but when the War came along he had to put his teaching on hold. He joined the RAF in 1940 and served as a Flight Sergeant until the end of the War in 1945.

Returning to teaching in 1946, Stan taught in schools in the Kippax area until 1954, after which he was appointed Headmaster at East Garforth School. In 1957 he moved to Hertfordshire to take up another Headship, and served in three different schools there. In all, Stan was Headmaster at four different schools over a period of 27 years until his retirement in 1981.

Stan was involved with Beekeeping from a very early age, as his maternal grandfather and his father were both beekeepers and both fruit growers. They mainly grew raspberries and strawberries – both excellent for bees and for honey.

Stan says, “My father was an intuitive beekeeper and usually had about 30 colonies in two or three apiaries. Over the many years, we produced literally tons of honey, including heather honey (which we sold to America). My father was a stalwart of the Leeds and Wetherby Beekeepers Associations.

After the War, Stan studied for and passed all the Beekeeping theory exams.

Some words of wisdom passed down through the generations from Stan’s father, which he considers to be extremely valuable lessons:

1. Remember, Bees are ‘wild’ creatures and can be dangerous, so always secure your clothing (including gloves)
2. When manipulating a colony, remember Bees live in the dark, so do not expose the combs to the daylight without good reason. Pretend you are a surgeon and expose only one or two combs for the minimum time.
3. Listen to the Bees – their buzz and behaviour indicates their emotions.

Stan thinks 2012 has been the worst 'Bee year' he has ever known. The weather and crops never coincided and the Bees swarmed in desperation.

He would like to relate a personal experience, demonstrating that you never know what's going to happen whilst you're busy with your bees:

"On 17th August 1946, my father and I were setting up some 30 colonies at Blubberhouses for heather honey. Suddenly, the farmer's wife appeared to inform me that my (first) wife had just given birth to our first son at Hazelwood Castle. That son has recently received a Fellowship of the BMA, presented by Princess Anne, for some 40 years as a GP in the Worcester area, which he served as a Secretary for over 25 years.

BEGINNERS' CORNER – OCTOBER 2012

This feature is aimed at those who started beekeeping and got their first Nucs in 2012.

All being well your varroa treatment is now concluded (although the chilly temperatures in September may have reduced efficacy) and your bees are well on their way to being ready for winter.

One of the most important things to ensure now is that they have enough stores. You may well have no experience of how heavy a hive needs to be (the so called 'hefting the hive' technique) so have a quick check through that the frames in the hive are full of stores. If in doubt feed now with sugar syrup before temperatures get too cool. I have left a full super on mine as well as the brood box to give them the best chance possible. I noticed this week that mine have also been accessing their sealed stores during the cold wet period so even though they had stores they are using them up.

Don't forget your mouse guard and your woodpecker protection!

Juliet Parkinson

HONEY RECIPES

This one sounds like a real Autumn feast – good one for those chilly evenings.

Beef Tagine with Prunes Serves 4

Ingredients

4 tbsps olive oil
1 tspn ground ginger
2 tspns ground cinnamon
1 finely chopped onion
1 good bunch roughly chopped coriander (reserve 4 tbsps for garnish)
1.2 kg stewing beef in small cubes and trimmed excess fat
24 saffron threads infused in 2 tbsps of boiling water
400g stoned prunes
6 tbsps honey
sea salt and black pepper
25g sesame seeds
180g blanched almonds

Garnish with lightly toasted sesame seeds and toasted blanched almonds and reserved chopped coriander.

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large pan and add the ginger, cinnamon, onion and coriander.
2. Fry to evenly coat the onion and cook the spices for a minute.
3. Add the meat and continue to stir to coat evenly
4. Cover the meat with boiling water and add the saffron infusion.

5. Bring to the boil and then turn the heat down and add half the prunes .
6. Gently simmer for 1 1/2 hours.
7. Add the rest of the prunes and the honey and simmer for a further 30 mins or until the meat is tender and the liquid has thickened and reduced.
8. Taste and season with salt and pepper as required (may well not need any)
9. Serve with garnish on top.

Obama's favourite tipple?

While on the subject of food (and drink), this link was spotted by several of our readers. It seems that, after much pressure, the White House has finally released the recipe for President Obama's favourite beer – and guess what's in it? Read all about it at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-19454412> <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/09/01/ale-chief-white-house-beer-recipe>

APIARY DAY – 1ST SEPTEMBER 2012

WOW what a busy morning at Temple Newsam. Far too many jobs to do! The grass wanted cutting, the apiary wanted strimming, the 2 benches wanted siting, lots and lots wanted weeding, the shop needed opening, the bees wanted merging, the bees needed assessing for how much feed they would need for over wintering and the extra cupboard for the kitchen wanted building and fitting. Tea/coffee/biscuits needed consuming and photographs needed to be taken. The loo needed emptying. All this went onto the blackboard for people to see when they came down.... well, except the photographing thingy, I wanted to do that.

Simon was down early and started cutting the grass, great job. Graham ruffled my feathers and got us moving "the bench" outside of the hut along with postcrete, flags and sharp sand. I put the kettle on, opened the milk, got the biscuits out, teabags out and coffee out and cups. phew.

Mark G turned up with willpower, motivation and a posthole digger. I asked everyone if they wanted a drink. They did. damn. I made a drink for every one and forgot one for myself!!! whats thats all about?

We shot the bench (see picture of dead bench) and then drilled its feet, attached chains. Mark G drilled the holes in the ground, Graham and Mark measure up and sited the bench. Then they had a drink and laid the flags for the second bench.

Bruce arrived to start strimming the apiary. Bruce will be known henceforth as Bruce Almighty. He did a great job in the apiary. You can now see bee hives instead of nettles, water balsam and grass. It took him all morning and lots of tea and biscuits of a brush to brush himself down afterwards.

Katey and Cath got weeding, Clare turned up and started to help out. By this time I had opened the shop and Jane had arrived to staff it, in the nick of time too, customers were turning up. They do get in the way of taking photographs.

Gordon arrived and started sanding and painting the WBC hives, shortly following by Marc who started sanding and painting the other WBC hive.

The kettle at this point was on constantly and tea, coffees, hot juice and biscuits were going round all the time.

Keith arrived looking like he needed a drink, he didn't get one, he got suited up, played with fire to light his smoker and went forth to do battle with Apis Millifera "Yorkshire". He merged a colony, he assessed all the others for winter feed, It is believed 20kg of sugar to top up the hives. This was acquired and fed. One colony was missing its data sheet, so another one was added from the library.

By this time the benches were sited. Great work by Mark G and Graham L, who then started putting the last kitchen unit together. The unit is now put together and attached to the unit. Clare also assisted with technical issues. It looks great.

All in all a very busy morning. Everyone pulled together really well and did a great job. Thanks to all – and if you couldn't make it this time, don't forget we have an Apiary Day every first Saturday on the month, so come along next time.

WINTER SPEAKERS' PROGRAMME 2012/13

For those who missed It last time, here again is the schedule of winter speakers.

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

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

And a final thought:

By anonymous

You cannot learn to be a beekeeper from a book
You cannot learn to be a beekeeper on the internet
You CAN learn to be a beekeeper by drawing on thousands of hive years experience
within your local beekeeping association

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

LINCOLNSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

www.bbka.org.uk/local/lincolnshire

Registered Charity number 500360

AUTUMN LECTURE

JOHN DRAKES



John is a Seasonal Bee Inspector and Apitherapist

APITHERAPY ▪ the medicinal use of beehive products for human and animal health

**Rural Science Centre Riseholme College
7.30pm Thursday 1st November 2012**

**ADMISSION £3
INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS
ALSO: GRAND RAFFLE**
To book please contact Mike Beecham
Email: mike@codemill.eclipse.co.uk
Tel. 01507 578612

LINCOLNSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

www.bbka.org.uk/local/lincolnshire

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SPECIAL COUNTY LECTURE

KEITH DELAPLANE



FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA USA

Keith is both Professor of Entomology and a practical beekeeper

***The Superorganism and Why it Matters to
Beekeeper***

Rural Science Centre Riseholme College

7.30pm Thursday 4th October 2012

ADMISSION £3

INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS

ALSO:

GRAND RAFFLE

NORTHERN BEE BOOKS

To book please contact Mike Beecham

Email: mike@codemill.eclipse.co.uk

Tel. 01507 578612