

COMBINGS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE YORK AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION.

NUMBER 34. JUNE 2010.

President. Ian Kibble.
Vice Presidents, Bill Bell. 01 904 744 219.
John Acheson. 01 757 268 565.
Chairman David Gray 01 904 767 944.
Vice Chairman Sue Hesp. 01 904 489 449.
e.mail :- suehesp13@aol.com
Secretary Tom Robinson 01 904 626 170.
e.mail :- mautomrobee@talktalk.net
Deputy Secretary David Bough 07 713 256 522
Treasurer, Matt Atkinson. 01 904 608 585
e.mail :- matatkin@cisco.com
Membership Secretary. Nigel Davies. 01 904 468 001.
Committee. Matt Atkinson 01 904 608 585.
David Bough, 07 711 801 873.
Nigel Davies. 01 904 468 001.
Hugh MacPherson
Julia Manders
Jenny Smith 01 904 706 941.
Apiary Manager Alan Johnston 01 757 633 202
Groundsman. Ken Barran. 01 757 708 925.
Librarian Alan Johnston. 01 757 633 202.
Education. Sue Hesp 01 904 489 449.

Examination Secretary David Aston. 01 757 638 758.
e.mail :- daston49@hotmail.com
Association Microscopist. Nigel Davies. 01 904 468 001.
Spray Liaison. Jenny Smith. 01 904 706 941.
Publicity. Julia Mander 01 904 704 440
Web site. Linda Carey. 01 759 371 959.
Equipment Officer. David Bough 07 713 256 522.

Magazine Editor. John Fuller. "Summerfield", High Street,
Barmby on the Marsh, Goole. DN14 7HU. 'phone 01 757 638 388.
e. mail :- japlusja@btinternet.com

YORK BKA web site address:- www.yorkbeekeepers.co.uk

Seasonal Bee Inspector – Dhon Atkinson - 07 775 119 437.

ASSOCIATION MATTERS.

Your March edition of "Combings" was delayed at the printers, which gave me the opportunity to pass on our new web site address that Web Mistress Linda Carey had sent me. To remind you, it is :- www.yorkbeekeepers.co.uk

Linda has completely rehashed our web site, making it a lot easier for her to update. For instance, I e.mailed the March edition of "Combings" to her timed at 21.08 and had a reply timed 21.17 to say that it was on the new web site.

Your March edition of "Combings" was delayed at the printers, which gave me the opportunity to pass on our new web site address that Web Mistress Linda Carey had sent me. To remind you, it is :- www.yorkbeekeepers.co.uk

Linda has completely rehashed our web site, making it a lot easier for her to update. For instance, I e.mailed the March edition of "Combings" to her timed at 21.08 and had a reply timed 21.17 to say that it was on the new web site.

I think you will agree that the new address is far better than the old. Straight away it tells interested people who we are and what we do, without opening up the address to find what we are about. 🐝

[Matt Atkinson has taken over as Treasurer after Chris Robinson stood down. Matt can be contacted on 01 904 608 585 or e.mail :- \[matatkin@cisco.com\]\(mailto:matatkin@cisco.com\)](#) 🐝

In previous years I have gone through the Basic Syllabus with prospective candidates, followed by a look through one of my colonies of bees.

This is done on a one to one basis and covers every item in the syllabus. I look upon it as a polishing up exercise. A session lasts up to two hours. It is not compulsory. It is free to members,

If you are interested, then let me know by Sunday 6th June. 🐝

BEGINNERS CLASS.

The tutors for the theory part of this years beginners class where:-

David Gray	An introduction to beekeeping.
David Aston	The life cycle of the bee.
David Bough	Winter and spring management.
Rob Coleman	Swarming.
Alan Johnston	Diseases.
Bob Hirst	Summer management and migratory beekeeping.
Tom Robinson	Removing the crop.
Nigel Davies	Nigel was around to show video slides and as a gofer.

In the past, courses where run during the summer with an hour of theory and an hour of practice.

This year theory and practice have been done as separate entities – theory in the early spring and practice once the season had started .

At the time of writing (early May), organiser Sue Hesp was sorting out the practical demonstrators. 🐝

I heard about the middle of May that imports of Hawaiian queens had been stopped because Small Hive Beetle had been found there. 🐝

David Bough asked for suggestions from you regarding topics for future meetings. He has had some positive responses. Below are some of the topics you have suggested :-

- Talk/demonstration of top bar hives
- Pollen and propolis collection and usage
- Queen rearing course (different methods each year)
- How to Demaree a hive
- How to use a Horsley board
- How to make up a nucleus/making splits
- Show and tell session about beekeeping items
- Update from beginners on how they are progressing
- Talk/instruction from one of our female beekeepers

- How to Demaree a hive
- How to use a Horsley board
- How to make up a nucleus/making splits
- Show and tell session about beekeeping items
- Update from beginners on how they are progressing
- Talk/instruction from one of our female beekeepers
- Instruction on disease identification (EFB in particular)
- Frame changing techniques
- Wax recovery techniques
- How to deal with anaphylactic reaction/First aid course for members
- How to administer oxalic acid
- Shook swarms/artificial swarms
- Control and monitoring of varroa
- Talks from external organisations such as the Water Board and Yorkshire Naturalist Trust on how their land is managed to encourage/maintain wildlife diversity
- Other insect and animal life facing the same problems as bees such as dragonflies, solitary bees, bumble bees, bats etc

All these are good topics. Have you any further thoughts ? 🐝

Our Annual Dinner was a success. Our Auction , which last year was a disaster has bounced back. There where plenty of items for sale and a good crowd of purchasers.

The Social meal at the White Swan in Marched proved very popular with 40 members and their partners enjoying as usual a good meal.

The discussions of course were on bee keeping and on Bumblebees.

There seemed to be a doubt is one or two minds whether honey bees and Bumblebees can live together. 🐝

The Auction on 15th May was a very busy day with 93 lots for sale including 4 nucleus colonies, which fetched a high price. There was some new and of course old but cleaned equipment, which the new beginners generally were bidding for. 🐝

The summer Programme on Saturday 5th June has been changed and will now take place at the Bee Pavilion at Murton when Ivor Flatman will take the meeting. 🐝

For the Heather visit which will be a joint meeting with Richmond BKA on Saturday 14 August in Dalby Forest. Nigel Davies has secured free entry to Dalby and has arranged for a representative from the National Trust to give a short talk about the Trusts commitment/involvement with helping the plight of bees.

At the time of writing I do not have the details

David Gray sent me this message. It is self explanatory.

It is a good chance for those of you just venturing into beekeeping to setup your own apiary. If, whoever takes up Mr Cossham's, I will be interested to hear how you get on.

John Cossham, who has "a large garden" at his home on the Hull Road, is inviting anyone who would like to take up his offer of space in his garden to anyone who would like to establish an out-apiary there. John says he doesn't want to bee-keep himself, but would welcome providing a space for a beekeeper to operate. If you are interested, please phone John Cosham on 01 904 to discuss this invitation with him.

On Sunday 4 July (noon to 4pm) our annual Open Day at Yorkshire Museum of Farming at Murton, run jointly by Murton and York + DBKA.

Its theme is "The Ancient Craft of Beekeeping", and may include candle-making, hive-building and frame making, video loops and talks on beekeeping down the ages, extracting and honey-tasting, observation

John Cosham on 01 904 to discuss this invitation with him.

On Sunday 4 July (noon to 4pm) our annual Open Day at Yorkshire Museum of Farming at Murton, run jointly by Murton and York + DBKA. Its theme is "The Ancient Craft of Beekeeping", and may include candle-making, hive-building and frame making, video loops and talks on beekeeping down the ages, extracting and honey-tasting, observation hives, and demonstrations of beekeeping. Last year very many members of the public attended, and we need a lively team of YDBKA volunteers to help! Offers by phone please to David Gray who will coordinate the event, on (01 904) 767 944 asap.

EDITORS MUSINGS.

I was looking through a Yorkshire Beekeepers 1949 Year Book recently and in the York entry I spotted "Mother Theresa, Bar Convent, York". Could this be THE Mother Theresa who did so much good work in Calcutta.

I asked Bill Scriven if he could find out if this was the case – it was not. Here is his reply from Mary Walmsley of the convent:-

"We had a Mother Therese Fitzsimmons in the 40s and 50s. She was Headmistress of the Catholic Primary school at Egton Bridge. I think it must be her.

Mother Tersea of Calcutta (now St Teresa) came here once in the 90s but was never a member of our community".

Reading through the Yorkshire Beekeepers 1949 Year Book it struck me how many local Associations there were. In 1949 Yorkshire had 41 affiliated Associations. Now there are only 20, all with fewer members.

I know that Ousedale and New Earswick joined York. Harrogate BKA is still a thriving Association, but not a member of Yorkshire. I suppose some of the other Associations amalgamated while others simply folded.

Barkston Ash was one that folded, but was resurrected 25 or so years ago and is currently expanding it's membership.

Sunday 11th April I got the waft of the first of this summer's barbecue's – not very nice!

The first rape flowers showed themselves about the middle of April. From now on there will be plenty for your bees to forage on and as a result should start building up quickly.

About the middle of May I got a call from the farmer of the land where I have an out apiary to say that he was going to spray the rape close by.

nice! 🐝

The first rape flowers showed themselves about the middle of April. From now on there will be plenty for your bees to forage on and as a result should start building up quickly.

🐝

About the middle of May I got a call from the farmer of the land where I have an out apiary to say that he was going to spray the rape close by.

I went out early the following morning and shut my bees in. They are on mesh floors - which are a big help under such conditions - put an empty super on top with a travelling screen on top of that. I put a piece of ¼" ply wood at each corner of the travelling screen to raise the roof a little. My bees then had plenty of room and ventilation. It goes without saying that I blocked off the entrance. Had a hot day been forecast then spraying them with fresh water would have helped.

I went back early evening and removed the entrance block - all appeared well.

Next day I went through these bees as part of my routine inspection. Al had been very docile until that day when one was very aggressive and I closed it up. Was it any thing to do with the spraying? There were no dead bees in front of the hive. I will have to wait, and see what happens next time. 🐝

Going back to the fence that Nigel Davies and his wife with David Bough erected at the pavilion at Murton.

I was at Murton recently and saw the new net fence. They have made a first class job of setting it up - it can't have been easy as the poles holding the net up are ten feet above the ground. 🐝

ICING SUGAR TREATMENT FOR VARROA.

There is an article on page 9 of BBKA News 169 in February 2008 on using icing sugar to monitor and reduce varroa populations. It was written by Dr Marion Ellis and Nicholas Aliano from the University of Nebraska. You can access a copy of this through the members' area of the BBKA website.

Alternatively you may like to take the advice of Keith Delaplane of the University of Georgia which is to apply a sprinkle of icing sugar on the top bars of the brood box each time you inspect the colony and let the bees take it down through the brood nest. Remember that this as an alternative treatment will need to be repeated as this can only affect the varroa mites that are on the bees not those in the brood.

Editors note: - Sprinkling icing sugar onto the frame top bars is a lot easier (and more economical) than having to treat the whole of each frame separately. Because you are using less icing sugar it may not be quite so effective, but then you may gain a bit by doing it more often.

Thorne's have come out with a "Sugar Dusting Grid" at a cost of £10.43 - consisting of a wooden frame the same area as your brood box with nylon mesh stretched across it. You put 4 ounces of icing sugar onto the screen then brush it out evenly - then remove the screen and brush the icing sugar off the top bars onto the seams of bees.

I reckon you could do the same thing using a travelling screen. 🐝

This strongly worded e.mail came to me from Nigel Davies. It is self explanatory.

Subject: British beekeeping sold to Syngenta, Monday, 9 November, 2009.

Penned by Phil Chandler

"Putting Syngenta in charge of UK research into the causes of honeybee deaths is arguably the equivalent of putting the tobacco companies in charge of research into lung cancer, or asking the manufacturers of alcohols to research the causes of teenage binge drinking." *

If you have not already heard, the giant pesticide manufacturer Syngenta has positioned itself as overseers of UK research into honeybee problems (see <http://tinyurl.com/yeryyfl> for full story). This means that we can wave goodbye to any truly objective British bee research, as - according to the press release announcing the funding - not one of the nominated university departments will be looking at pesticides as a potential cause of honeybee deaths.

teenage binge drinking." *

If you have not already heard, the giant pesticide manufacturer Syngenta has positioned itself as overseers of UK research into honeybee problems (see <http://tinyurl.com/yeryyfl> for full story). This means that we can wave goodbye to any truly objective British bee research, as - according to the press release announcing the funding - not one of the nominated university departments will be looking at pesticides as a potential cause of honeybee deaths.

At least part of the blame for such a reprehensible state of affairs can be laid squarely on the BBKA Executive Committees - past and present - for having sanctioned the endorsement deal with Syngenta and Bayer that lead to the BBKA's subsequent silence on the pesticides issue.

If you have not already seen it, I really recommend you watch the film The Vanishing of the Bees (see <http://vanishingbees.co.uk/screenings> for UK dates & venues). Better than anything I have yet seen on the subject, it examines the causes of bee die-offs in the USA and in Europe, and concludes - as so many others have done - that our toxic agricultural system is at the root of the bees' problems. I watched it last night, and afterwards answered questions from the audience, who were audibly shocked to hear that the BBKA takes money from Syngenta and Bayer for endorsing their pesticides. They were also clearly shocked at the extent to which the history of such companies is enmeshed with the Nazi's production of wartime nerve gas, and the web of lies they have spun around the real extent of the toxicity of many of their products. Even Bayer's flagship aspirin is now known to do more harm than good in healthy people (<http://tinyurl.com/kwfpal>), contrary to what the manufacturers have been telling us for 100 years.

Vested interests are the real causes of bee deaths - of that I am convinced. Profit is God: shareholders' interests must be placed before the public good at all costs. Research that discovers inconvenient truths is suppressed: research departments that step out of line have their funds withdrawn. Don't just take my word for it - Scientists For Global Responsibility have just published a paper entitled 'Science and the Corporate Agenda: the detrimental effects of commercial influence on science and technology (see <http://tinyurl.com/yh2jmg7> for free download).

But there is hope. The Co-op has done a great job of drawing attention to the neonicotinoid issue by banning them from their 25,000 hectares of UK farmland and by sponsoring The Vanishing of the Bees. They are also funding research into the effects of pesticides on bees. There is a growing organic farming movement and more and more beekeepers are turning to more natural, chemical-free methods - finding that the Varroa mite is not such a problem as we have been led to believe.

So what can you do?

Friends of the Bees has been launched and will become more active as time and funds permit. Please support this new charity, which is devoted to the interests of all bees - and especially honeybees.

Support our friends in the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Bees for Development and the Global Bee Project, who are also doing excellent work.

Take a look at how you shop - could you do more to support organic and other chemical-free food producers - especially local ones?

Take a long look at your beekeeping methods with a view to focusing more on the underlying health of your bees, and less on the honey crop. To paraphrase a well-worn phrase: think not what your bees can do for you, but what you can do for them.

links:

Friends of the Bees - www.friendsofthebees.org

The Barefoot Beekeeper - www.biobees.com

Natural Beekeeping Network - www.naturalbeekeeping.org

Co-op Plan Bee - http://vanishingbees.co.uk/plan_bee

Vanishing of the Bees - <http://vanishingbees.co.uk/>

links:

Friends of the Bees - www.friendsofthebees.org

The Barefoot Beekeeper - www.biobees.com

Natural Beekeeping Network - www.naturalbeekeeping.org

Co-op Plan Bee - http://vanishingbees.co.uk/plan_bee

Vanishing of the Bees screenings - <http://vanishingbees.co.uk/screenings/>

Bumblebee Conservation Trust - www.bumblebeeconservation.org.uk

Bees for Development - www.beesfordevelopment.org

Global Bee Project - www.theglobalbeeproject.com

* Graham White, a beekeeper and environmental author, commenting on Syngenta funding research into the disappearance of honeybees, The Herald, 4 October 2009 

BBKA Chairman Martin Smith had this to say on the subject in his editorial in December 2009 BBKA News :-

I make no apologies for devoting my entire column to one subject this month.

The Executive presented five propositions to the Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM) in January 2009 in relation to the BBKA's relationship with the Agro-Chemical industry. The five propositions were debated and the results of the debate broadly supported the status quo.

I paraphrase the propositions but they were:

1. To engage with the Agro-Chemical Industry - passed overwhelmingly.
2. To discuss specific products - passed overwhelmingly.
3. To allow the use of the BBKA logo on specific products (paraphrased as endorsing).
4. To receive money for the granting a license to use the logo (BBKA Enterprises received £17,500 this year for such licenses).
5. To allow the monies to be used as the Trustees saw fit, or to ring fence the monies for research.

I then commented in February 2009 BBKA News on the result in relation to propositions 3 & 4 as follows:

Both of these propositions were passed, but not overwhelmingly as with the first two. It is clear that a significant minority of the membership is uneasy with this policy and this is something that the Executive will have to consider in its future dealing with these companies.

On the final 'hurdle' the delegates decided that the Trustees should have discretion as to where the monies received were allocated.

This year, a proposition has been put forward by Twickenham & Thames Valley BKA that in effect calls for propositions 3 & 4 to be reconsidered again by the 2010 ADM. In order that this proposition can be debated again within the normal 'three year rule', Twickenham have obtained support from 25% of the Area Associations for this to be included with the papers. Those who have received the ADM papers will see that the BBKA Executive responses are very similar to those of last year and that once again we are asking the delegates to express clearly the members' wishes which the Trustees will act upon. Other members who are interested can view the pack of information that goes to delegates in the members' area of the BBKA website.

I quote verbatim from my December 2008 letter to members this time last year *'This is an issue that some people feel very strongly about - both for and against the current position. I have deliberately drawn attention to the fact that this debate would be taking place and I urge you to have your say at local and association level.'*

If you choose to debate it at local level and then decide to mandate your delegate to vote as they see fit on the day this is fine - this is a democratic decision of your association. Equally if you choose to specifically instruct your delegate to vote in a certain direction then this is also fine. What is important is that you as individual members make a decision as to how you would like the votes that your delegate have, to be cast.

You can argue that this proposition should be reconsidered for one of two reasons - either that the membership did not give it proper consideration last year, or

If you choose to debate it at local level and then decide to mandate your delegate to vote as they see fit on the day this is fine - this is a democratic decision of your association. Equally if you choose to specifically instruct your delegate to vote in a certain direction then this is also fine. What is important is that you as individual members make a decision as to how you would like the votes that your delegate have, to be cast.

You can argue that this proposition should be reconsidered for one of two reasons - either that the membership did not give it proper consideration last year, or that events have moved on. I actually do not think it matters. You are been asked to reconsider the decisions taken last year and either confirm your views or change your minds. Once again I am drawing your attention to this proposition to give it as much airing as I can. Last year I was able to flag this issue up in two editions of BBKA News; this year we did not have that notice and it is only by this column that the membership as a whole can be informed about the debate. Do not let this shortened time for you to consider the issues put you off. Make your view know through your associations to your delegate. 📧

Editor's note: - I am inclined to support Mr Chandler. While things are running smoothly, all is well. When contentious disputes arise you will be reminded about who is putting money into your coffers. 📧

Here is another system for getting rid of varroa mites on your bees.

POWDERED SUGAR.

Posted Saturday, November 9, 2002

SALEM BEEKEEPER'S GIZMO HAS HONEY INDUSTRY ABUZZ

Monday, November 4, 2002 - - By The Associated Press SALEM, OREGON —

A Salem beekeeper has invented a machine that uses powdered sugar instead of chemicals to rid bees of the deadly Varroa mite, a parasite wiping out hives around the country. The bees are sunk in a vat of powdered sugar, sent onto a vibrating screen and emerge free of the mite. Harry Vanderpool says a couple of pounds of powdered sugar and his invention — a machine he calls the Mitey-Victor — could help beekeepers get the upper hand against the mite. At stake are billions of dollars in the honey industry and in crops reliant on bee pollination.

Scientists trying to stop the Varroa mite have long known that powdered sugar will cause the mites to release their grip on honeybees, although they're not sure why. But Vanderpool's mechanical extractor is something new, and it has the world of apiculture buzzing with speculation.

The beekeeper's invention could provide an alternative to the chemical warfare that has been waged on Varroa mites for the past 15 years. Vanderpool's concept showed enough promise that the Oregon Department of Agriculture gave him nearly \$12,000 from a federal grant to develop a prototype. The machine is a two-level vibrating screener that is powered by a 12-volt battery. Made of stainless steel, the prototype is built on a two-wheeled trailer chassis. "This isn't rocket science whatsoever," Vanderpool said.

Bees and powdered sugar go in a hopper at the top. Mites and leftover sugar fall into separate drawers at the bottom. The Varroa mites dry up and die in less than an hour. Most of the bees fly out of the machine, and others are temporarily dazed and fall onto a conveyor that deposits them on the ground.

Powdered sugar is routinely used to deliver antibiotics to bees because the insects will eagerly consume it. Ken Kite, a Stayton resident who keeps beehives as a hobby, let Vanderpool test his machine on his bees. He was impressed, as well as amused: "It just bounced these sugar-coated bees out into a pile." The bees were unharmed after their journey through the Mitey-Victor, Kite said, and subsequent tests indicated that few mites remained in the hives. Vanderpool, who keeps 50 hives on his property south of Salem, says his bees have passed through the Mitey-Victor with no ill effects.

Editors note: - This is another idea that has not caught on. Your bees will not be very happy after being shaken up like that. The theory is sound as we regularly use caster sugar, shaken on to bees or comb tops as a means of reducing the numbers of varroa in a colony. As I understand it, sugar gets onto their feet and causes them to loose their grip. 📧

effects.

Editors note: - This is another idea that has not caught on. Your bees will not be very happy after being shaken up like that. The theory is sound as we regularly use caster sugar, shaken on to bees or comb tops as a means of reducing the numbers of varroa in a colony. As I understand it, sugar gets onto their feet and causes them to lose their grip. 🐝

PAST EVENTS.

Wednesday 17th March.

We had a visit from Dhonn Atkinson. Dhonn has taken over from Alan Johnston as Seasonal Bee Inspector for our area. Dhonn can be contacted on 07 775 119 437.

Friday 26th March.

This was our Annual Dinner, held at the White Swan at Deighton. 40 members, their spouses and friends attended.

Saturday 17th April.

Rob Coleman organised a bus trip to Stoneleigh for the British BKA's Annual convention.

Wednesday 21st April.

Half Yearly General Meeting was held in the library at Murton. Only 23 Members attended compared with 26 last year.

Such meetings are very mundane but have to be held to keep Membership up to date with what is happening in the Association.

It followed the usual course – Chairman's report, Treasurer's report, Membership report.

Chris Robinson resigned as Treasurer in January due to ill health. His task has been taken over by Matt Atkinson ('phone 01 904 608 585).

Matt presented a balance sheet for the end of January which was very healthy.

Tom Robinson is to stand down as Secretary at the AGM in October. At present David Bough is shadowing Tom and will be taking over from him at the AGM.

Ken Barran retired as Apiary Manager and is now Head Groundsman keeping the pavilion tidy. Alan Johnston is now looking after the bees at Murton.

Nigel Davies and his wife Fiona with David Bough have erected a high see through net fence round the bees at Murton. This will keep the bees and the public apart.

The fence was paid for by a generous grant from North Yorkshire Co operative Society.

Fiona Davies is making a new flower garden for Murton. She had plants at home earmarked for the job, but lost a lot to frost during the winter. So – can you help with shrubs or bee friendly plants?

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday 5th June. Apiary Meeting 14.00 to 16.00

At the Nature reserve New Earswick hosted by David Gray. 01 904767 944.

This meeting is being replaced by:-

AN APIARY MEETING AT OUR MURTON APIARY

A chance to see the new developments in the Apiary, Pavilion and Bee Garden and a chance to "meet the bees" (bring your protective_clothing, or borrow).

The meeting will be led by Ivor Flatman and held at Y+ DBKA Murton Apiary (instead of led by David Gray at his New

Saturday 5th June. Apiary Meeting 14.00 to 16.00

At the Nature reserve New Earswick hosted by David Gray. 01 904767 944.

This meeting is being replaced by:-**AN APIARY MEETING AT OUR MURTON APIARY**

A chance to see the new developments in the Apiary, Pavilion and Bee Garden and a chance to "meet the bees" (bring your protective_clothing, or borrow).

The meeting will be led by Ivor Flatman and held at Y+ DBKA Murton Apiary (instead of led by David Gray at his New Earswick Apiary).

Sunday 6th June. Hardcastle Craggs. 10.00

The National Trust are holding another "Balsam Bash" in attempt to remove the invasive water balsam. They have done this for a couple of years now and don't appear to have got on top of it. Meet at the Midgehole car park.

Editors note:- I put some bees on a site close to water balsam this year for the first time. It starts flowering in July and continues into September. I noticed that balsam stood six feet tall at first. Towards the end of its flowering period it was only half that. You know how explosive the seeds are. Was the late balsam from the seeds of the early balsam. If so, then it could explain why the National Trust have to keep going back.

Saturday 12th + Sunday 13th June.

Yorkshire BKA Queen Rearing Course with Clive de Bruyn. Beekeepers are being sounded out about this (October 2009) to see what numbers are likely to attend.

This course is shown in the Yorkshire BKA events calendar. (February 2010).

Sunday 4 July. Murton 12.00 to 16.00

A PUBLIC OPEN DAY on "The Ancient Craft of Beekeeping" run in conjunction with the Staff of the Museum of Farming)

A team of York + DBKA members are needed to tell the public about beekeeping.

Its theme is "The Ancient Craft of Beekeeping", and may include candle-making, hive-building and frame making, video loops and talks on beekeeping down the ages, extracting and honey-tasting, observation hives, and demonstrations of beekeeping. Last year very many members of the public attended, and we need a lively team of Y+ DBKA volunteers to help! Offers by phone please to David Gray who will coordinate the event, on (01 904) 767 944 asap.

Saturday 10th July. Our Annual BBQ

Jenny Smith will host this year's barbeque. Jenny always puts on a good do. Don't miss it. Come rain or shine, Jenny can put us under cover.

This is an e.mail I received from Jenny :-

From 5 p.m. for the BBQ. I will do the salads and soft drinks and do some sweets and also get the plates/disposable cutlery etc.

Members need to bring what they want to BBQ and any alcoholic drinks. Extra sweets would be welcome. If anyone has any fold up garden chairs they could bring in case the ground is wet! Evelyn (new beekeeper) is helping me with the BBQ which will be nice.

I would be grateful if members could let me know how many are coming the week before so I have an idea of the numbers either by email (lowrancehouse64@yahoo.com) or telephone 01 904 706 941.

Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15th July.

The Great Yorkshire Show at Harrogate.

Wednesday 21st July.

week before so I have an idea of the numbers either by email (lowrancehouse64@yahoo.com) or telephone 01 904 706 941.

Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15th July.

The Great Yorkshire Show at Harrogate.

Wednesday 21st July.

Driffield Show, on the Kellythorpe Show Ground just south of Driffield.

Saturday 7th August.

Tockwith Show. £7.50 a head.

Saturday 14th August. Heather Meeting.

To be held at Dalby Forest. Contact Nigel Davies for more information nearer the time. 01 904 468 001.

Saturday 28th to Monday 30th August. (August Bank Holiday weekend)

Cawood Craft Fair.

Friday 17th September to Sunday 19th September.

Harrogate Autumn Flower Show.

Wednesday 22nd September. Murton 19.30.

A talk on honey showing by Tony Jefferson. To help you prepare your exhibits for next months Honey Show.

Wednesday 20th October. 19.30.

York BKA Annual General Meeting at Murton.

Thursday 28th to Saturday 30th October.

National Honey Show will be held at St. Georges College, Weybridge, Surrey. KT15 2QS

Wednesday 17th November. Murton.

York BKA Annual Honey Show.

Saturday 4th December.

Yorkshire BKA's Annual General Meeting at the Normanby Pavilion, Great Yorkshire Show Ground, Harrogate.

Wednesday 20th April 2011. Murton, 19.30.

York BKA Half Yearly General Meeting

PAST EVENTS.

Wednesday 17th March.

We had a visit from Dhonn Atkinson. Dhonn has taken over from Alan Johnston as Seasonal Bee Inspector for our area. Dhon can be contacted on 07 775 119 437.

Friday 26th March.

This was our Annual Dinner, held at the White Swan at Deighton. 40 members, their spouses and friends attended.

Saturday 17th April.

Rob Coleman organised a bus trip to Stoneleigh for the British BKA's Annual convention.

Wednesday 21st April.

Half Yearly General Meeting was held in the library at Murton. Only 23 Members attended compared with 26 last year.

Such meetings are very mundane but have to be held to keep Membership up to date with what is happening in the Association.

It followed the usual course – Chairman's report, Treasurer's report, Membership report

Wednesday 21st April.

Half Yearly General Meeting was held in the library at Murton. Only 23 Members attended compared with 26 last year.

Such meetings are very mundane but have to be held to keep Membership up to date with what is happening in the Association.

It followed the usual course – Chairman's report, Treasurer's report, Membership report.

Chris Robinson resigned as Treasurer in January due to ill health. His task has been taken over by Matt Atkinson ('phone 01 904 608 585).

Matt presented a balance sheet for the end of January which was very healthy.

Tom Robinson is to stand down as Secretary at the AGM in October. At present David Bough is shadowing Tom and will be taking over from him at the AGM.

Ken Barran retired as Apiary Manager and is now Head Groundsman keeping the pavilion tidy. Alan Johnston is now looking after the bees at Murton.

Nigel Davies and his wife Fiona with David Bough have erected a high see through net fence round the bees at Murton. This will keep the bees and the public apart.

The fence was paid for by a generous grant from North Yorkshire Co operative Society.

Fiona Davies is making a new flower garden for Murton. She had plants at home ear marked for the job, but lost a lot to frost during the winter. So – can you help with shrubs or bee friendly plants?

WORDS FOR YOUR BEEKEEPING DICTIONARY.

OOPHAGY. Egg cannibalism. Workers eating haploid drone eggs. Or any eggs or young larvae if nectar and or pollen become scarce.

FOR SALE.

CLARO BEES for all your beekeeping supplies.

Large stock and very keen prices on all items.

Cedar National hive parts, frames (all in first and second quality), clothing, gloves, foundation, jars, spacers ,tools, smokers, medicines, straps etc. etc. all normally in stock and at below list prices. Advice on the selection and use of beekeeping equipment always available. Open every Saturday morning 09.00 to 12.30 April to October inclusive.

Beside the Harrogate Arms, past the RHS Harlow Carr Gardens, Crag Lane, Harrogate, HG3 1QA, or by arrangement: - 01 423 567 315. A map showing our location is available at www.hrbka.org.uk 

12oz/340gr hexagonal honey jars in boxes of 84 with lids at £23.50.

Ambrosia syrup at £16.00 per 14kg tub. Contact Colin Hattee on 01 430 860 972. 

--- o o o 0 0 0 o o o ---

And finally: - Corduroy pillows are making headlines.

