

# COMBINGS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE YORK AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION.

NUMBER 39. SEPTEMBER 2011.

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## **ASSOCIATION NEWS.**

Let us start by congratulating Mauby van Wijk and Hugh MacPherson on their success on passing the British BKA's Basic Assessment. Well done. 🐝

There are a few personnel changes taking place in the running of York Beekeepers.

You will be aware that I have been looking for one of you to take over the running of "Combings" from me. Kate Wallace came forward and has given me valuable help over the last couple of years.

I shall be doing the December edition, then Kate will take over assisted by Alan Johnston. Alan will continue as our librarian.

As I have been reducing some of my other beekeeping activities during the course of the season I decided that "Combings" should be one of them.

To concentrate on "Combings" Alan is to give up his task of Murton Apiary Manager. As yet no one has been appointed to take his place.

Ken Barran has not been well lately, so his task as grounds man has been taken over by Mike Marshall. 🐝

This is a message e. mailed to all hands by Nigel Davies on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June .It is self explanatory. The original came from Regional Bee Inspector Ivor Flatman.

You may have already have heard but just to confirm that two colonies on an apiary in 10km square SE63 have been found to have EFB. The 5km radius will extend well into the adjacent 10km square SE53 and into SE52 and SE62.

Beekeepers who are registered on Bee Base as having apiaries within 5km of the outbreak will either have received e-mail notification (this evening) or will be contacted by Dhonn or Pete in due course.

As Bee Base may not be fully up to date with new members in the local associations and some members living outside the risk area may have out-apiaries within 5km of the outbreak that we do not know about, please advise your members of the problem and remind them to self register on BeeBase or contact me if they have any concerns. 🐝

A request in a second message on the same day came from a forward thinking Wendy Maslin and circulated by Nigel Davis is a bit different – give it some thought – it will give you some insight into how the BBKA's examination system works :-

Invigilator Needed

Can you give up time to support the modular exams? An invigilator is required to help with the examinations being held in Harrogate on Saturday 25th March 2012

This simply requires a suitable person to receive the exam papers, give them out and supervise the day, returning the completed papers once all the exams have been undertaken. The day usually runs from about 9 - 4pm.

You do not need to be an active beekeeper and a non-beekeeper would be welcome. I will be available to support throughout the day but am unable to officiate. Please let me know if you can help.

[wendy@maslin.karoo.co.uk](mailto:wendy@maslin.karoo.co.uk) 

### **Yorkshire BKA are running more courses next year :-**

There are two workshops for those wishing to do the more advanced practical examinations

**2nd June - General Husbandry** - This is for those who have been keeping bees for at least three years, have passed the basic examination and intend to take the general husbandry assessment.

**3rd June - Advanced husbandry** - This is for those that already have passed the general husbandry or have applied to take it in 2012.

There is no charge. If you wish to attend these workshops please inform Wendy Maslin.

### **Theory Modules**

As in previous years Yorkshire BKA will be running a series of tutorials during the coming winter to assist members to take the theory modules. The modules being tackled this year are one and five. It is a prerequisite that you have passed the basic assessment. If you are interested in taking one or both of these please contact Wendy Maslin.

Wendy's email address is [wendy@maslin.karoo.co.uk](mailto:wendy@maslin.karoo.co.uk) 

### **Association Extractor.**

The Association has a honey extractor for use of Members. It is a three frame armstrong tangential.

If you wish to use it, then contact Julia Mander on 01 904 653 318.

There is a fee for its use: - £2.00 for two days and £4.00 for a maximum of three days. After that you should return it clean and dry to Julia. It will be signed out and in.

It is anticipated that by the time you read this a second extractor will also be available. 

A Member has offered to loan out his extractor to others. This is his e.mail.

If any member of the club needs a honey extractor we have a small one that we would be happy to lend out.

Best wishes, Anthony Day  
CYBER ASSOCIATES LTD  
Sustainable Development Strategies  
PO Box 524 YORK YO10 4XQ  
[www.cyber-associates.com](http://www.cyber-associates.com)

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### **EDITORS MUSINGS.**

A lady called to tell me of a swarm of bees in a blue tit's nesting box early in June. I told her that they would not be honey bees as the nesting box was too small and they would be bumble bees.

She had young children and was worried. She lived on a housing estate on the out skirts of Goole, and, as I was working nearby, went to have a look at them.

The first thing that struck me when I took a look at the nest box was the speed of the bumble bees flight. They were darting all over the place – not just the odd one but maybe a dozen. Bumble bees usually have a gentle flight in and out of the nest.

Nor did I recognise their markings.

With that I got a sting on the tip of my nose. Ordinary bumble bees are not in the least aggressive.

That decided me. They had to go. I went back at dusk and dispatched them.

The very next day I got my copy of BBKA News through the post. In it was an article on "The Tree Bumblebee" - *Bombus hypnorum*. It described exactly what I had seen the day before, including a photograph of their nest in a birds nesting box.

It also made mention of their "defensive behaviour", hence the sting on my nose.

*Bombus hypnorum* is a non native species, first found in Hampshire in 2001 and has spread rapidly.

A couple of days later I was at a meeting in Beverley to be told a similar story. It looks as though we can no longer tell the public that bumblebees are harmless. 🐝

The talk among beekeepers during May and June was the amount of honey they had extracted from the rape.

I extracted two lots in the middle of May that averaged 27¼ lbs per super with maximum water content of 18%.

These are unprecedented figures – particularly the water content.

The low water content was down to the long dry spell of weather at the time. Had it been a more normal spring with more rain then the water content would have been higher.

With 27lbs of honey plus the weight of the wooden super plus frames I found it a bit of a struggle to lift them. I was thankful that they were National supers with a full hand grip and not Langstroth, Dadant or Commercial where you can only pick them up using your finger tips. 

At another apiary meeting, I was going through a brood box with a mix of Hoffman frames and the standard DN1's. To get the required spacing the owner had taken standard plastic spacers – cut one side away and pinned it to the side bar. It worked. I have never come across this before – it is a variation on the “Yorkshire Spacers” available from sundries men. 

An e.mail was relayed to us all from a Member with a drone laying queen asking if we could supply him with a queen quickly.

Editors comments :- I find it is difficult to get hold of queens at short notice. Regular queen rearers will have orders to fill with little spare capacity. I have read some where that it is possible to bank queens, but requires considerable skill and effort.

All I can suggest is to read through beekeeping magazines and contact anybody offering queens for sale.

There is another way round the problem. Snuff out the offending drone laying queen and put a frame of eggs from another colony into the hive and let the bees raise a queen of their own.

I find that drone laying queens / laying workers make such a mess of combs that they are only fit for rendering down. 

Tom Robinson has been busy collecting swarms and tells me of collecting a dozen around York. No doubt other beekeepers have been equally busy doing likewise.

If you do not know the origin of a swarm, then ideally you should keep it isolated at least until there is sealed brood to look at to check for AFB and EFB. Remember that EFB was reported to the south of York in June. 

This season seems to have produced as many earwigs as bees. Every time I took a hive roof off they tumbled out dozens at a time.

As far as I am aware, they do not cause problems for our bees. 

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**NOSEMA.** Kate Wallace has sent this timely piece on the subject.

Beekeepers worldwide find that Nosema can be a very widespread problem in spring and autumn; there are actions you can take to minimize the problem but at the moment, there is no cure.

Nosema can have severe consequences and may result in colony loss.

#### What is Nosema?

Two Nosema species have been identified in honey bees in England and Wales, *Nosema apis* and more recently, the Asian species *Nosema ceranae*.

Nosema is a microsporidian, a single celled organism which forms spores and generally affects the gut. Usually the organism infects the bee via the mouth, passes into the ventriculus (mid-gut), germinates and infects the gut wall. The spores multiply and pass out in the waste; the infected faeces containing millions of spores are cleaned up by the house bees and the cycle continues.

Affected bees have a shorter life span due to an inability to properly digest protein, and as Nosema affects development of the hypopharyngeal glands, they are unable to produce brood food, so an infection during the winter period will lead to problems in the spring (spring dwindle).

A summer infection of Nosema is less serious and tends to clear up as the bees can void outside the hive, so the infection is removed from the colony.

#### Symptoms

There are no outward symptoms of Nosema. Dysentery is often seen in association with *N. apis* infections; this may be seen as faecal 'spotting' at the hive entrance or across the frames.

*N. ceranae* infections may show as a progressive reduction in the number of bees in a colony, until the point of collapse. In the final phase of the infection, secondary diseases appear, including chalk brood and American Foul Brood and in time, the colony has insufficient bees to carry out basic colony tasks and the colony collapses. There may be no evidence of bee mortality in front of the hive and the dysentery seen in *N.apis* infection is not present.

#### Treatment and action.

Avoid crushing bees during manipulation; this will prevent any spores passing into the hive.

An antibiotic is available - Fumadil B -which is added to the autumn feed of sugar syrup. Although this inhibits the spores from reproducing in the gut, it does not kill them.

Fumidil B is currently effective against both *N. apis* and *N.ceranae* but there is a problem of developing resistance and a risk of contamination of honey by the antibiotic.

The National Bee Unit (NBU) recommend that instead of using medicines for treatment of Nosema, beekeepers should use good husbandry to maintain strong, healthy colonies, headed by young, prolific queens.

As spores can remain viable for at least a year, it is not advisable to transfer combs between colonies – yet another reason for regular comb change!

**NB.** When feeding in autumn, ensure only thick syrup (2lbs **white** sugar to 1 pint water) is used and feed early enough to ensure the syrup can be processed by the bees, fermentation of the winter stores will not result Nosema, but may cause dysentery.

## Diagnosis

The beekeeping authority, David Cramp, in his book A Practical Manual of Beekeeping, gives details of his field diagnosis method:

- Select your bee. Don't use gloves – you will probably be stung but you will get hold of the bee better.
- Remove the bee's head. Pull it off gently – slowly but surely. This severs the mid-gut from the head.
- Grasp the very last segment of the bee's abdomen with a pair of tweezers and gently holding the thorax with your other hand, slowly but firmly pull the sting and last segment away from the bee.
- The rectum and mid-gut will follow. Keep pulling slowly and firmly. The bee may still be struggling at this point.
- After the mid-gut has emerged, hold it over a piece of white paper. The mid-gut can now be seen easily.
- Study the mid-gut. If it is tan coloured and wrinkly, it is healthy. If it is smooth and white, it probably has Nosema.

The NBU offers a diagnostic service, see the website for charges <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/>

### To sum up:

Keep strong, healthy colonies on clean comb, maintain good husbandry practices, breed queens from Nosema resistant stock and, as ever, use effective Varroa control. Use antibiotic if you wish but be aware of resistance and never use it as a prophylactic. 🐝

**York + DBKA microscopist, Nigel Davies will test your bees for nosema on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September at his home.**

**I have picked the bones out of e.mails exchanged between Kate Wallace and Nigel thus :-**

**I think it would be a good idea to offer the service to all.**

**To limit the number of occasions I have to set up the microscope, I think offering one particular day for people to call round to my home and have their bees tested would be the way to go so it causes me the least amount of work. Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September is free at the moment if you wanted to use that date, and it should give those with a positive result time to feed before winter.**

**You will need to collect about 20 - 30 bees from each colony. The best ones are the mature foragers, which should be picked off the hive as they return to the hive. A pair of tweezers is good for the task. Put the bees into a jar and put them in the freezer overnight. This will kill them painlessly and preserve them until you bring them over to me.**

**Phone Nigel on 01904 468001 for more details.** 

Editors note :- Picking bees off the hive entrance is a laborious task.

Adult bees are in the supers or on the outer frames of the brood nest. Hold a three quarters open large match box with the tip of the open part just touching the comb and the remainder parallel to the comb. Gently pull the match box towards you scooping up bees and closing the matchbox at the same time.

To check the contents, open the match box against a car window or a piece of perspex.

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## **PROBLEM.**

I went to one of my apiaries on the 31<sup>st</sup> May last year to find a swarm had emerged from one of my hives and clustered underneath. I collected the swarm, and then went through the colony to decide what to do next.

I saw a virgin queen emerge, so I culled all other queen cells and was happy.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> July there was no brood what so ever, with the brood box full of honey. I did what the books tell us to do under these circumstances and added a frame of eggs from another colony.

Nothing happened. They did not draw queen cells which they would have done had they been queenless. All this time the bees showed no aggression what so ever. Had they been queenless then I would have expected them to be aggressive.

20<sup>th</sup> July I went through them again looking for the queen, but could not find her. Again the bees were most docile.

6<sup>th</sup> August two of us went through them with a view to requeening. From front to back, back to front and front to back again – scrutinising the floor board. We could not find a queen. All this time the bees behaved in an exemplary manner.

7<sup>th</sup> August I put another frame of eggs in and again they did not draw queen cells.

Every thing indicated a queen right colony – but with a very elusive queen.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO NEXT? 

Tom Robinson sent me this e.mail that he in turn received from The Bee Farmers Association.

## **West Sussex County Council : Food fraud probe uncovers fake honey**

Date: 08 June 2011

A fake food fraud probe by West Sussex County Council Trading Standards Service led to officers seizing 1.1 tonnes of counterfeit honey from a London importer.

They went to the importer's premises after discovering the problem at a Worthing retailer, where samples were taken and confirmed to be illegal.

"The tests showed they did not contain any honey at all – just a syrup based substance. This led us to visiting the suppliers, where we found so-called Hasbal Honey with Syrup and so-called Aynoor Honey with Nuts," said Graeme MacPherson, Head of Trading Standards.

"The retail value of the illegal goods totaled £7740. Investigations are ongoing but we would urge the public to look out for these products and notify us". 

This is another snippet sent to me by Tom Robinson from the York Press of 25 years ago

"St Samson's Square, York had been a hive of activity.

Nearly 20,000 bees gathered on a tree branch and made the shoppers scatter in fright.

But Barry Potter capped them all.

He used an old straw wastepaper basket to cover the bees and teased them into the basket by using smoke from smouldering dried grass.

He used the waste paper basket, as the bees would cling to the rough exterior

Barry of Knapton Lane, Acomb then took them to a hive at Askham Bryan College of Horticulture.

Editors note :- Barry Potter was a member of York Beekeepers at the time. He was involved in the setting up of our pavilion at Murton. 

### **Another stories from Tom:-**

On 1<sup>st</sup> July a lady from Burton Stoneland reported a swarm of bees in her house, She said she had sprayed them and they were very angry, she also said there were bees in a bush about head high. .

On visiting her premises, it was found that she had washed her rucksack and put it outside on the line to dry.

It must have been out for some time because a swarm of honeybees had landed inside her rucksack and had been making comb.

She took the rucksack into her house together with the swarm and reported that she had bees in her house.

She had sprayed the bees with wasp killer and had killed all the swarm. The few remaining bees in the bush were of course useless and were not viable. 🐝

### **Now for a Wasp tale.**

On 4<sup>th</sup> July a neighbour called me to look at a swarm, which turned out to be a large wasp's nest.

It was so large that I called Dr Michael Archer\* to identify it.

It turned out to be the Norwegian wasp or a super wasp.

The nest was killed after 10pm using commercial wasp killer

The following day the nest was cut from the bush and Michael Archer took it away for analysis.

On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011 he reported the following facts:-

Super wasp (*dolichovespula Media*)

Nest dimensions Height 29cm. Width 22cm x 18cm.

Number of adults found 16 queens (Not the original Queen) 53 males 273 workers.

The occurrence of relatively few eggs indicated that the queen had recently died

The nest consisted of 4 combs with 1098 cells. (The largest nest of this species found in England had 1851 cells.)

The oldest comb consisted of small cells (About 6mm diameter from wall to wall). This was used to rear workers and males. At least 463 adults had been reared

The other three combs consisted of large cells (about 8mm-diameter from wall to wall) and were used to rear queens and males. At least 120 adults had been reared

It is likely that at least another 87 workers 241 males and 169 queens would have been reared to the adult stage.

With the loss of the queen and the presence of relatively few eggs, the nest was at, or near its peak development

- *Dr Michael Archer spoke to the York + DBKA in 2000 about wasps and was so interesting, I tried to persuade him to speak in 2012 without success.* 🐝

On Monday 11 July I was called to another near neighbour who had a wasps nest in his garage.

I visited his property and found another wasps nest almost as big as the one above but certainly a "super wasp nest " the entrance being outside via a small hole in the brickwork but the nest was high up on the garage wall

I attended at 10pm and sprayed the entrance and the nest with a commercial wasp killer having all my protective clothing on.

Although the wasp nest was killed I had a sting on my arm which came up like a small pudding.

The nest has been left in situ.

Editors note :- Michael Archer also spoke to previous to 2000 on solitary bees in the neighbourhood. I found it an interesting topic.

It would be nice if we could find someone else to give us such a talk. 🐝

There is a lot written in the popular press on the use of pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides – some of it verging on hysteria.

Below is a statement from the British Beekeepers Association outlining their view on the topic.

### **Statement from the BBKA on Neonicotinoid Pesticides**

The BBKA shares the concerns expressed relating to reports of possible harm to honey bees that may be caused by the neonicotinoid group of pesticides. It calls for an urgent review of all the available data on the effects of these compounds. The BBKA has consistently urged for more research into this group of compounds as evidenced in its paper *Honey Bee Health Research Concepts* (Jan 2009) and earlier papers submitted to Government. The BBKA itself is funding research on pesticide residues in bee colonies at Keele University.

This urgent review, based not only on existing literature but also encompassing any new and as yet unpublished data, should involve a thorough re-evaluation and up to date risk assessment of these agents and their effects on honey bees by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate in the UK and competent European authorities, the outcome of which must lead to appropriate action.

Martin Smith. President. 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011 

### **MERCY SHIPS**

I was channel hopping on the television recently, when a ship came up on the screen that I recognised. She is called “African Mercy”. She was bound for Lomé in the West African state of Togo. The pictures went on to show the work that the volunteers did – a lot of medical work.

It brought to mind that York BKA invited a representative of Mercy Ships to talk to us about their work. I dug back through “Combings” and found this in your March 2006 edition :-

“Kate Beck spoke fluently with slides and short videos on Mercy Ships.

Mercy Ships are an American based world wide charity with a fleet of three ships – the third is being fitted out on the Tyne and will be commissioned in London in early April. (This ship is a redundant Danish roll on roll off ferry that was purchased by a supporter of Mercy Ships and donated to them).

Mercy ship work in the Caribbean and West Africa. The ship Kate is attached to is going out to Ghana.

All Mercy Ships have modern hospital facilities and operating theatres. Kate showed slides of badly deformed people before and after remedial surgery.

The volunteer crews of these ships build such things as orphanages, schools and clinics using local labour, thus teaching them a craft that they can use after Mercy Ships have left. They also teach health and agricultural training.

Beekeeping is to be taught for a few reasons – relatively low start up costs. Being a cash crop, the money generated will help greatly when the average income is 70 pence per day.

With malnutrition being widespread in Ghana, consumption of honey will improve diet. £65 will set up one beekeeper with a hive and suits etc. I got the impression that the crop would be extracted communally.

Your Committee decided to give Mercy Ships £65 out of Association funds.

If you have any redundant beekeeping equipment, Mercy Ships will put it to good use.

If you want more information then go to [www.mercyships.com](http://www.mercyships.com)"

Editors note:- At the time "Africa Mercy" was the third of three ships that the charity owned. Looking on their web site the two oldest ships have "been decommissioned", but as each was over 50 years old, it probably means scrapped. 🐝

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS.**

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September.**

York + DBKA microscopist, Nigel Davies will test your bees for nosema

To limit the number of occasions I have to set up the microscope, I think offering one particular day for people to call round to my home and have their bees tested would be the way to go so it causes me the least amount of work, and it should give those with a positive result time to feed before winter.

You will need to collect about 20 - 30 bees from each colony. The best ones are the mature foragers, which should be picked off the hive as they return to the hive. A pair of tweezers is good for the task. Put the bees into a jar and put them in the freezer overnight. This will kill them painlessly and preserve them until you bring them over to me.

Phone Nigel on 01904 468001 for more details.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September** Harrogate Autumn Flower Show.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September.** Bees for Development

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October,** Murton. Annual general Meeting.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October.** The 80<sup>th</sup> National Honey Show will be held at St Georges College, Weybridge, Surrey KT15 2QS.

If you wish to exhibit at the National, and you cannot deliver your exhibit personally, then Northern Bee Books or Thorne's will take them for you.

[www.honeyshow.co.uk](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk) for more information.

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November.** Murton. Annual Honey Show.

## **2012.**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.** Beverley BKA auction will be held in Woodmansey Village Hall. Woodmansey is on the Hull road a couple of miles south of Beverley.

### **PAST EVENTS.**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June.** Apiary meeting at Rob Coleman's.

It was a reasonable day's weather for our apiary meeting at Plainville. All the students from this year's beginner course were invited to get some hands on experience at beekeeping.

About 30 people came for an afternoon's fun. I emphasised the importance of disinfectant and clean equipment as I know from experience what can happen if you become complacent

Some more experienced beekeepers were also in attendance to give advice.

We started at 1.30pm with three smokers being lit – eventually - and the importance of them being fully operational for the duration with plenty of fuel inside. A student was in charge of each smoker.

We did a dry run of the Pagden swarm control method in the yard. Everybody is taught this method at our classes so continuity hopefully exists and a pattern is established.

We also explained the Horsley board method. This is useful when you only have one hive. But I feel that the Pagden method explains every thing simply.

Our swarm control demonstration was done on a national hive. It had been left purposely congested on a brood and a half the previous week so a few unsealed queen cells were present. The queen was blue and clipped.

An inspection was made pointing out queen cells and the congestion in the hive.

We duly found and caged the queen which went into my pocket for safety.

The old hive moved back six feet and a new brood box with foundation put on the old site.

A frame of eggs from the old hive was put in the middle of the new brood box and the queen from my pocket released onto the top bar of the brood frame. She quickly ran down safely to her new home. It is always good to see her down and safe.

Then we put the super of stores back over the new brood box, so all the flying bees go on working as before.

It was explained how two queen cells are left in the old brood box to be sealed over and allowed to emerge and become mated. We also harvested another queen cell and introduced into an Apidea with a few young bees to obtain another queen if possible. This Apidea will be kept shut up for three days and then sited some where else in the apiary and released.

To date the old queen is busy still. She has been to the borage and now is on the heather. The new queen is home and laying well. I decided not to unite the colonies as explained, so now have two colonies from that procedure and also another queen which has replaced another old queen.

The students were given some drones to practice marking on in stead of queens. Consequently I was confused at times during my inspections seeing blue dots on bees all around.

We then inspected a hive which had some chalk brood and wasn't building up properly.

On the boundary fence was a swarm hung in a small tree very conveniently. A student held a skep under the swarm – we shook the branch and all the bees and queen fell nicely into the skep.

The swarm was tipped onto a sloping board in front of a Dartington hive and allowed to march into their new home, demonstrating fanning calling the rest in. The queen was seen walking up the board. This is always a spectacle to watch.

Time was running out. A small BBQ was arranged for 4pm with some of Myra's cakes to enjoy as we had a look into a big Dartington which I had shook swarmed in April. A full box of bees in a Dartington 14"×12" is quite an eye full for a beginner to see.

We had a good after noon. Some tips had been shown.

I also explained that I clip my queen's wings so if I miss a queen cell and she issues I don't loose my bees. This happened later and the queen stayed on the ground with a few bees around her – the rest went home and continued working.

One last demonstration was to introduce a new queen into a colony using a Butler cage.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.** Julia Mander has this to say on: - "The Art of Beekeeping" day at Murton Museum of Farming on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

125 people came to the museum on the Sunday, a great number attracted by the bee-keeping theme, and the good weather. We also had a visit from the newest WI in York, based at Brigantes in Micklegate, and following this, one of the members has already signed up for the practical course next year!

We were given a very good plug by Radio York who sent one of their presenters to interview us, and from feedback, a number of people came who had been listening to the radio.

Tom Robinson and Mike did sterling work demonstrating candle making and the observation hive by the entrance, with Jenny pointing directions for all the other events. In the function room there were children's activities whilst in the beekeeping pavilion there was another observation hive, demonstration of making up frames and a very much enjoyed extraction and tasting!

Three hives were opened over the afternoon by David's Gray and Bough, and the 12' high screen proved absolutely superb, as was the description of everything that was going on was fascinating to all there.

As there were at least 10 of us helping, it was a wonderful social event and a very relaxed enjoyable day. David Gray has sadly said that this is his last year organising the event, passing over the responsibility to Peter Crosby and myself. We have a lot to live up to!!

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August.** Hosts Doreen and Gordon Griffin would like to thank everyone who attended our Annual BBQ. We estimate 30 people came and hopefully enjoyed the convivial atmosphere, it was good to chat to a cross section of experienced and new beekeepers.

We were so lucky with the weather and enjoyed a sunny evening.

Thank you to the ladies who brought delicious deserts and to Graham Thompson for his valuable assistance and contribution of extra burgers and sausages.

We enjoyed hosting the evening and would like to thank the Committee for giving us the opportunity to contribute to the social side of activities.

P.S. Sweep was totally exhausted next day, he had never had so much fun.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August.** The heather meeting planned for this day regrettably had to be called off.

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## **FOR SALE.**

### **BEES FOR SALE.**

I have recently developed severe allergy to bee stings giving me no alternative but to retire from bee keeping. It is with some sadness that I have 3 hives with bees to sell.

I have 3 national hives in cedar. They are mostly components bought from Thorne's. The hives will comprise: hive stand, floor, 1 brood box, entrance reducer, queen excluder, 1 super, cover board and roof (galvanised covered).

Each colony contains a June/July 2011 queen. The bees are good natured, use minimal propolis, dark coloured and hard working. Some of the colonies have been reduced from 2 brood chambers down to one, so many differ in size from the attached pictures. Most, if not all brood frames being sold with bees have been drawn out this year, therefore you are not inheriting frames with old brood comb in need of replacement.

The bees are currently undergoing their autumn varroa treatment. The reason for this is that before I developed the bee sting allergy, I bought "Api Life Var" for all 3 hives @ £6 per hive so wanted to use it up. No further varroa treatment should be necessary this season. The bees have finished the treatment this coming weekend (27th August), which is when they will be available to buy.

Due to the circumstances of selling these hives you will find they are my best hives and hive components. They are available to buy at £200 per hive.

I can be contacted on 07766250629 or emailed at halliday\_mark@hotmail.com.

Many thanks, Mark Halliday

## AMBROSIA FONDANT

Boxes of Ambrosia fondant are available at £16.00 each.

The fondant is packed in 12.5kg boxes with five 2.5kg packets of sealed fondant in each box.

Ambrosia syrup is also available in 12.5 kg plastic canisters at £16.00 each.

If you are interested please contact David Bough.

Mobile :- 07 713 256 522.

e.mail :- [david@thecottageholtby.co.uk](mailto:david@thecottageholtby.co.uk) 

## 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.

We are situated beside the Harrogate Arms, past the RHS Harlow Carr Gardens, Crag Lane, Harrogate, HG3 1QA,

Open every Saturday morning 09.00 to 12.30 April to October inclusive or by prior arrangement. Contact Robert Hart on 01 423 865 873.

A map showing our location is available at [www.hrbka.org.uk](http://www.hrbka.org.uk) 

## YORKSHIRE BEEHIVES offer a 10% discount to York BKA members.

Yorkshire Beehives manufacture in Cedar and Redwood (pine) and carry a stock of National and Commercial hives and their components in both timbers.

We also manufacture WBC, Langstroth, Dadant, Top Bar hives, Twinstock boxes etc, etc, to order and will manufacture to customers own designs and ideas.

In addition we currently keep a small stock of the following items:- framed wired queen excluders, plastic queen excluders, glass quilts, porter bee escapes, metal frame runners, castellated spacers, mouse guards, pre-formed roof metal and varroa mesh.

Contact:- PAUL SNOWDEN, Unit 5, Milners Yard, Riccall Grange, King Ridding Lane Riccall, York YO19 6QL,

Telephone :- 01 757 248 821 or 07 777 691 782. web site:- [www.yorkshirebeehives.co.uk](http://www.yorkshirebeehives.co.uk)

E.mail [yorkshirebeehives@btinternet.com](mailto:yorkshirebeehives@btinternet.com) 

**CLOTHING.** Remember - as a Member of York + DBKA you can now get a 20% discount on clothing items available from BBwear Beekeeper's Clothing supplier.

You must advise BBwear that you are a Member of the York & District Beekeeping Association, BBwear will then check with Nigel Davies our Membership Secretary that you are in fact a fully paid up Member of Y+DBKA before you can receive your discount".

BBwear, Beekeeper's Clothing, 1 Glyn Way, Threemilestone, Truro, Cornwall TR3 6DT.

Telephone :- 01 872 273 693. e.mail :- [mike.bb1@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.bb1@btinternet.com) [www.bbwear.co.uk](http://www.bbwear.co.uk)



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### **WORDS FOR YOUR BEE KEEPING DICTIONARY.**

**GUTTATION** The appearance of drops of plant sap on the tips or edges of leaves of some vascular plants. At night transpiration does not usually occur because most plants have their stomata closed.

When there is a high soil moisture level, water will enter plant roots, because the water potential of the roots is lower than in the soil solution. The water will accumulate in the plant, creating a slight root pressure. The root pressure forces some water to exude through special leaf tip or edge structures called – hydathodes - forming drops.

Bees will collect this water and if insecticides are a constituent of the seed coating they will be poisoned.

**STOMATA.** Minute pores in the epidermis of the leaf or stem of a plant, allowing movement of gases in and out of the intercellular spaces.

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### **SOLUTION TO PROBLEM.**

In mid August I had purchased a few queens as part of my regular requeening programme. So rather than killing each queen prior to introducing her replacement, I kept a couple to one side.

Having nothing to lose, I introduced a marked queen into the colony. If they had a queen of their own then the introduced queen would be killed. I went back a week later and there was my marked queen walking over the comb and had been laying for a couple of days.

Why would a colony give every indication of being queen right when they had not been for some time? During the summer queens will be stopped from laying if conditions are not right.

Having seen that this colony was queen right, I did not do another major inspection before winter.

At my first inspection the following spring, I found I had a drone laying queen on my hands – and there she was walking over the comb I was holding – but she was unmarked.

It is not un common, when you re queen a colony for your new queen to be accepted and start laying, only to be superseded a short time later. This is what happened to my old queen, but, with it being late in the season had not mated properly and she became a drone layer.

Some of the comb was a mess where drones had been raised in worker cells. It was too early in the season to get hold of English queens so I snuffed the dud queen, knocked the bees off the combs, took the hive home and rendered the combs down.



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And finally.

**WRINKLES:**      Something other people have, similar to my character lines.