

Teaching Apiary News:

Hive monitoring

Richard Robinson has installed hive monitoring equipment in one of the hives at the teaching apiary. If you wish to have a look at the output from the equipment you can click on the Hive monitoring logo on the members page of our website, i.e. www.whitehavenbeekeepers.co.uk. To access the members page, the login is :

User name – member

Password – WDBKA

You can select 1 hour, 6 hour, 1 day etc for each of the graphs and you can select Temperature, weight etc. This is currently a beta test so is liable to glitch, but it's a start.

Richard is also putting in a bid for additional monitoring equipment from Cumbria Beekeepers Association, which is making funds available for good causes.

Start date for weekly Apiary visits

Visits to the teaching apiary will start on Saturday 4th May, and then continue on a weekly basis through the season on alternating Saturdays and Sundays. The dates are available on the Events Calendar. For new members, all meetings start at 13.00, and we meet at the overflow car park at West Lakes before walking down to the hives. We have spare bee suits for adults and children at the apiary.

Stand making workshop

The stand making workshop on 30th March was very productive and enjoyable. With Peter Broadbent demonstrating how

to put them together, sixteen stands were successfully made from the kits which he had prepared earlier. Our thanks to Peter for all his hard work, which made the day such a success.



Events

Our **Beginners Course** will be held on the weekend of Saturday 27th - Sunday 28th April. This will comprise a theory day at Lamplugh Village Hall on Saturday, followed by a visit to the teaching apiary on Sunday 28th April to look through the bees. So far we have had 15 expressions of interest so are hoping for a good turnout. If you know anyone who is interested, can they get in touch with Debbie Keighley, W&DBK Secretary, Moss Ghyll, Asby, Workington, CA14 4RP Tel: 01946 861538

E-mail: debbie.m.keighley@gmail.com

Sunday May 19th. The annual Used Bee Equipment auction will be held at Houghton Village Hall, starting at 10.30am.

Showing skills, evening meeting on 20th June, from 7.00 9.00 pm at Lamplugh Village Hall.

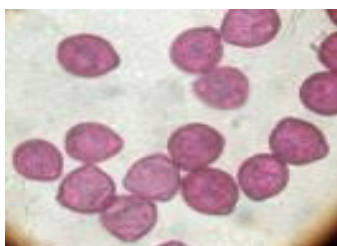
Ian Gregory from Carlisle Beekeepers is coming to give a talk about preparing honey and wax for showing.



Ian is an experienced honey judge and has judged the classes at our local Honey Show for several years, so this is a welcome chance to learn what makes a winning entry.

After Ian's talk there will be a pie and peas supper.

Pollen Microscopy.



We are planning to hold a pollen microscopy day during the autumn. Dominic Rhodes has agreed to help with the event. If you are interested in looking at the wonderful structures of different pollens, you can start collecting pollen samples over the summer. The best way to store pollen samples is in labelled **paper** envelopes (pollen will go mouldy in plastic).

Basic Bee Assessment.

At the AGM last November, a number of people expressed an interest in doing the BBKA Basic Bee assessment. The aim of this assessment (quoting from the BBKA) is;

“To provide new beekeepers with a goal which will give them a measure of their achievement in the basic skills and knowledge of the craft. It is hoped that it will be a springboard from which to launch into the more demanding assessments. A pass in the Basic Assessment is a prerequisite for entry into all other assessments.”

Please can any members who are keen to do the Basic Bee Assessment let me know by e-mail. Once we have names and numbers, a session will be arranged to help prepare for the assessment.

Whitehaven Beekeepers need a logo!

The committee has decided to buy a banner to help our gazebo stand out at Gosforth Show. Can anyone design a suitable logo that we could use? If you feel inspired, please could you send your designs to me?

New brew using apiary honey

Ennerdale Craft Brewery has used honey purchased from our teaching apiary to create a new beer to add to their range. It is called “Honeycomb” and is described as “a smooth golden beer, brewed with local, Cumbrian honey to give a subtle, sweet flavour.”

New Facebook page for Whitehaven Beekeepers

One of our members, Sarah Dockeray has set up a Facebook page for Whitehaven Beekeepers. The aim of this is to aid communication, and raise awareness of beekeeping. Sarah has agreed to be the

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moderator. If you want to join this group, please go to the following link.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/399744827264271/?ref=share>

Bees For Sale

If members have bees available for private sale, this can be advertised within the association. Just let me know and I will circulate your message and contact details.

We are also hoping to raise nucs of bees at the teaching apiary. Anyone who is interested in buying bees from the association as they become available this year, please let me know and I will put your name on the waiting list.