

Teaching Apiary News:

The teaching meetings at the apiary started at the end of April, as part of the successful beginner's weekend. At that stage, we had 2 hives with laying queens, but more colonies have been made during the season.



Since then, meetings have been held every fortnight, with an extra meeting on Monday the 19th June. This was arranged as part of the Northern Region Bee Inspectors programme to check local apiaries in the aftermath of the outbreak of American Foulbrood last September.

At this meeting, the Bee Inspectors demonstrated how to examine frames for signs of foulbrood and Small Hive Beetle, followed by an informal chat over tea. (see report & photo in next column)

As well as meetings for members, the apiary has hosted some visits from the St Bees cubs.

The apiary garden continues to develop. Although we have had some problems with rabbits, the rabbit-resistant plants are spreading and doing very well.

Thanks to Grahame Pinches for the two photographs of the garden in July.



Beginners Course, 29th & 30th April:

9 people attended the beginner's course, which comprised a day of talks and a demonstration of equipment at Lamplugh Village Hall on Saturday, followed by a visit to the Apiary on Sunday afternoon. Following the course, several people have joined Whitehaven Beekeepers, and 2 have already started keeping their own bees. Thanks to Sandra Manson, who provided 2 very delicious and sustaining soups for lunch on Saturday.

Northern Region Bee Inspectors Visit:



A team of Bee Inspectors came to West Cumbria for a week in June, to check our apiaries as a follow-up to the AFB outbreak last summer. No further cases of AFB infection were found, and Julia Hoggard (our local seasonal bee inspector) has written to thank everyone involved

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for their co-operation and support in planning and carrying out this inspection.

It is very reassuring that no further evidence of AFB has been found in the Copeland area.

W&DBKA events and dates for your diary:

WDBKA Annual Honey Show:

Our next event is our annual Honey Show, which will take place, and be part of Gosforth Show on Saturday 19th August. www.gosforthshow.co.uk

There are classes for various types of honey, beeswax exhibits, baking with honey, and confectionery, plus children's classes. The full schedule has been circulated, and the closing date for entries is Tuesday 1st August. As last year, Ian Gregory, from Carlisle will be judging the exhibits.

As well as the show exhibits, WDBKA will have a stand to promote beekeeping. This will include an observation hive, beekeeping equipment a demonstration of skep-making, and activities for children. If anyone would like to come and help on the stand, they would be very welcome, and there are lots of other things to see and do at the show, so please think about entering your honey and coming along on 19th August to support Whitehaven Beekeepers!

Annual Dinner:

Our annual dinner will be held on Friday 8th September at the Parkside Hotel. The menu and further details will be circulated shortly. Please make a note of the date in your diary if you would like to attend.

Evening meeting in late September:

There will be an evening meeting with 2 talks, about the treatment of varroa, and feeding bees for the winter, at Lamplugh Village Hall in late September. The date will be circulated once the date has been finalised.