



YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire National

February 2018

Edition 01

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Editorial

Welcome to the latest YBKA Newsletter of 2018 - new year, new title.

Hopefully by now you are hefting your hives and making sure your favourite hobby has plenty of food available - if not, get some fondant.

If there is any risk of your hives being blown over in the wind, make sure they are safely strapped up.

How are your plans for the 2018 season going? Are you prepared for swarming? Will you be attending the Spring Conference? Are you going to try some queen rearing (or in the words of Tony Jefferson, "Bee Breeding") to raise your own new queens for replacement or expansion?

If you have any thoughts on subjects covered in this newsletter, or if you would like to submit an article for consideration, please get in touch. We are intending to have an 'Experts Corner' too, so if you have any questions please do let us know. We would love to share the views of the great beekeepers of Yorkshire, so contributions to this newsletter are always welcome.

Please enjoy this edition.

Editor

Chairman's Notes

It doesn't seem that long ago since we tucked up our bees for winter and now we are eagerly, or anxiously, waiting for that first sighting of them leaving the hive.

Here on the Pennines it has been -4 degrees for several days and plenty of snow showers so I am not expecting Spring to appear any time soon.

When it does I expect that it will be full steam ahead for us all as we take up the beekeeping reins for another season whilst at the same time promising ourselves to learn by last year's mistakes.

I am pleased that we now have Chris Barlow as our new editor of the newsletter and hope that our 1600+ membership can contribute some articles so that we can make the future editions a success.

Finally, I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our annual Spring Conference on Saturday 24 March and myself and members of the GPC are happy to discuss any matters that you wish to raise.

Phil Gee

YBKA Chairman

Wally Shaw Visits Huddersfield 1st February 2018

One of the roles as Secretary of a BKA is to book the guests for our winter speaker programme, and during a HDBKA Committee meeting in late summer I asked those present for ideas for speakers the following year. "Let's go for Wally!" our optimistic bunch announced. "OK, I'll give it a go" I promised meekly wondering how I was to persuade one of Britain's most iconic beekeepers to travel 230 miles in the depths of winter to chat to our merry bunch of Yorkshire lads and lasses. I got in touch with Wally and after much flattery and allurements, Wally gladly agreed to come!

Wally wavered his speaker's fee in exchange for a donation to "Bees Abroad" and after offering some irresistible prizes on the night, we raised £140 for the charity. Thanks to all of you who purchased a ticket. The top prize of a Maisemore Poly Nuc, Super & Feeder was won by Chris Hardy, Chair of Airedale BKA.



We had a great mixture of BKAs attending, including members from Huddersfield, Halifax, Wakefield, Airedale, Barnsley and Leeds along with Northern Bee Books who were there to sell a wide selection of publications, including Wally's titles. I was lucky enough to have my copies signed by the man himself!

All in all, a wonderful evening's entertainment, a brilliant and educational talk by Wally and just as important, a chance to meet and greet members from our local beekeeping community, I hope this will encourage further events with our beekeeping neighbours!

Andy Caveney

HDBKA Secretary



BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM)

This event is the main meeting of the year where the propositions put forward by the area associations, proposers for persons joining the executive are debated and voted upon as well as receiving reports from the BBKA and also to comment on the financial activities and budgets. So, it is quite an important meeting if we wish to have a say at National level.

Unfortunately, this year I was unable to represent YBKA due to getting an appointment the Thursday before the event to have my hernia fixed. I must confess that I did consider postponing the surgery but decided that matrimonial relations should be put above beekeeping.

A report from the meeting will be distributed in due course as it appears I missed an "interesting" meeting

The voting at the ADM seems to cause confusion, so hopefully I will try and simplify it - in reality it is very simple, as there are 2 stages of voting

- Each delegate has a single delegate vote this can be simply referred to as a “card vote” (so if 50 are in attendance, there are 50 persons to vote)
- should any delegate call a “membership vote” then the numbers of members each delegate represents goes into the numbers (for YBKA as an example the delegate has say 2200 votes – this gives representation of all the members in YBKA)

I have heard many times that YBKA does not get good representation at the meeting as we are a large geographical area with lots of members and only one delegate, in reality we have good representation if a membership vote is called.

One thing that continues to amaze and surprise me is that I tried to seek feedback and guidance on the various propositions that were on the ADM agenda, I outlined the propositions at the YBKA AGM. The documents were also contained in the BBKA newsletter. So, having canvassed opinions and comments, I waited for responses to come flooding in and waited and waited further, you guessed it – not a single comment, none at all.

I wonder therefore what we can do as a group to collect any feedback or obtain guidance on the BBKA propositions – there does seem to be a lack of interest. Balancing this there is also comments about not having representation. So, I continue to wonder what our members want.

We also have to consider the timing of the preparation of propositions to be taken to the BBKA ADM, to collate and publish the information to meet the BBKA timeline for the ADM does take quite some prolonged periods. Many propositions fail if they are badly worded, not fully costed or have not had the opportunity to get supported by other area associations – this does take time. Ideally if we are to raise any YBKA issues we should have an outline at the February YBKA delegates meeting – then seek some feedback from the YBKA representatives, then we have time to develop the information over the summer months. We should all accept that over the summer the YBKA committee do not meet very often as other bee related matters take over – we should accept that as volunteers and as we are all beekeepers our bees and practical activities do tend to take over our lives.

I raise the information above in an attempt to assist the future YBKA delegate to BBKA, it is an interesting role.

Tony Jefferson (Whitby BKA Secretary & YBKA delegate to BBKA)

YBKA General Purposes Committee

Wanted! New Education Officer, Contact YBKA Secretary if interested

Education Officer:

- Keep members up-to-date with all examination and qualification potential through the BBKA Education Department.
- Co-ordinate applications for modules and assessments,
- Co-ordinate candidate/assessor appointments
- Arrange distribution of certificates
- Promoting examination/assessment statistics
- Provide advice to members regarding examination or assessment issues
- Organise courses/tuition to assist members preparing for examinations, qualifications, modules and assessments.

Additional Desired skills and abilities:

- *Good communication skills for a varied audience*
- *Enthusiastic and enjoy speaking to people*
- *Ability to use Internet and email*
- *Beekeeping experience - not a necessity but it would be advantageous.*
- *May suit a non-beekeeper member of a beekeeping household*
- *Use own initiative to develop role as appropriate*
- *Supported & welcomed by the YBKA GPC*
- *The posts are voluntary, time required for the post [approximately 2 hours per week]*
- *Reasonable expenses can be claimed*
- *Promote beekeeping and what needs to do to become a beekeeper*
- *Most roles are elected annually at the AGM and appointed to the General Purposes Committee – post holders are expected to attend GPC meetings.*
- *Serve as a Trustee of YBKA if required*
- *Enjoy working as a group and contribute to a friendly and relaxed environment*

The above description is neither intended to be complete, exhaustive or final and are for guidance only. It is expected that the roles will become more specific as time goes on and it is expected that the role will be adapted to suit the specific skills of the holder as appropriate.

The Science Behind Bee Keeping

There are various science journals available to read on the intranet and there is an awful lot of research around honey bees. Below are just some excerpts from this last few weeks

Agricultural fungicide attracts honey bees (dated 8/1/18)

Summary:

When given the choice, honey bee foragers prefer to collect sugar syrup laced with the fungicide chlorothalonil over sugar syrup alone, researchers report.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180108121053.htm>

Worldwide importance of honey bees for natural habitats captured in new report (dated 10/1/18)

Summary:

An unprecedented study integrating data from around the globe has shown that honey bees are the world's most important single species of pollinator in natural ecosystems and a key contributor to natural ecosystem functions.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180110101005.htm>

Think of honeybees as 'livestock,' not wildlife, argue experts

Summary:

Contrary to public perception, die-offs in honeybee colonies are an agricultural not a conservation issue, argue researchers, who say that managed honeybees may contribute to the genuine biodiversity crisis of Europe's declining wild pollinators.

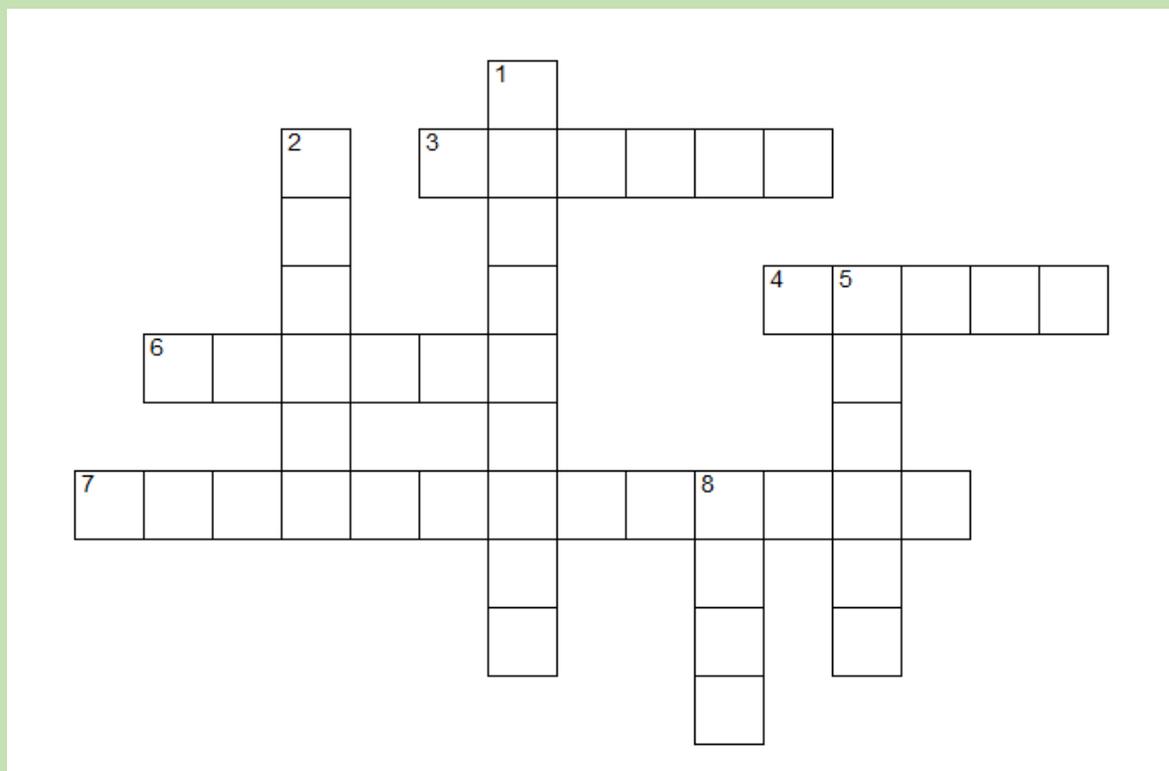
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180125140910.htm>

Deformed wing virus and drone mating flights in the honey bee (*Apis mellifera*): implications for sexual transmission of a major honey bee virus

Abstract: Deformed wing virus (DWV) represents an ideal model to study the interaction between mode of transmission and virulence in honey bees since it exhibits both horizontal and vertical transmissions. However, it is not yet clear if venereal-vertical transmission represents a regular mode of transmission for this virus in natural honey bee populations. Here, we provide clear evidence for the occurrence of high DWV titres in the endophallus of sexually mature drones collected from drone congregation areas (DCAs).

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13592-011-0088-7>

Honey Bee Body parts



ACROSS

- 3 What do bees store pollen in
- 4 Part of the bee that make some beekeepers go ouch!
- 6 Simple eyes that discern light intensity
- 7 Latin word for honey bee

DOWN

- 1 A pair of appendages near the insect's mouth
- 2 Two large compound eyes contain about 6,900 of what
- 5 Middle section of a bee
- 8 How many wings does a bee have

Answers at the end of the newsletter

Annual Spring Conference
Saturday, March 24th, 2018
8.30 am to 4.30 pm
VENUE: Manor Academy in York

08.30 – 09.15	Registration and refreshments
09.15 – 09.30	Welcome and Introduction
09.30 – 10.15	Margaret Murdin (NDB). The BBKA and what it stands for.
10.15 – 10.30	Workshops and how you can book them. Introduction of Dr. Ryad Al Sous.
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break [Delegates opt for workshops & discussion groups]
11.00 – 11.45	Dr. John Varker. This lecture sets the scene for the evolutionary history of bees.
11.45 – 12.30	Trisha Marlow. How Bees help development in rural communities abroad.
12.30 – 13.30	LUNCH
13.30 – 15.30	Workshops and Discussion Groups:

Breeding better Bees & Queen-rearing - Tony Jefferson & Jim Pearson

The use of honey and beeswax in Cerate - Sara Robb

Skep-making - Geoff Pearson

Re-cycling wax - Chris Coulson

Discussion groups headed by Trisha Marlow, Dr Ryad Al Sous and John Varker.

15.30 – 16.00 Beekeepers question time. The YBKA Chairman (Phil Gee) will chair this section. The panel will consist of the speakers, the Regional Bee Inspector and members of the General Purposes Committee. An opportunity to question the speakers on what you have heard during the day and any other beekeeping issues that you may have.

Ticket price is either
£10 per ticket but does not include lunch and refreshments
£20 and includes all refreshments and lunch.
To book your ticket please contact Roger Chappel the YBKA secretary
By post 4, The Green, Brafferton, Darlington, Co. Durham DL1 3LB or
By email: secretary@ybka.org.uk
By phone 01325 315741 or 07905 190 701
You can pay by card over the phone or by cheque (payable to YBKA)
Please remember to inform us if you have any special dietary requirements.
Address for conference:
Manor Academy, Millfield Lane, Nether Poppleton, YORK, YO26 6PA



at the Manor Academy in York.

YBKA Spring Conference 2018

www.ybka.org.uk/event/spring-conference-2018/

Our main speakers at the conference

Dr. Sara Robb is an award-winning scientist, professional speaker, author and managing director of her company Bath Potions. Sara moved to the United Kingdom to continue her research. In 2003, Sara left academic research and founded her company Bath Potions, which specialises in honey soaps and beeswax creams. Recipes are available in her first book: "Dr Sara's Honey Potions". Sara lives in North London with her family and runs workshops at the British Beekeepers Association Spring Convention and The National Honey Show each year. Sara has a continued interest in aging and anti-oxidants, particularly, the anti-oxidants in bee products and how they can slow the aging process.

Margaret Murdin (NDB) is a Master Beekeeper and is just completing her second year as Chairman of the BBKA. She has been a trustee of the BBKA for the last 6 years and is Assistant Moderator for the written exams. She assesses practical assessments at Basic, General Husbandry and Advanced Husbandry levels and tutors for the Correspondence Course. Margaret teaches beekeeping quite extensively. She moved from Merseyside to Oxfordshire last year and downsized her beekeeping operation because of the demands of the Chairmanship. Margaret keeps 9 colonies locally to where she lives and whenever possible escapes from the BBKA to enjoy her bees. She also likes to work with the BBKA staff and trustees as a whole integrated team and, using this approach, has taken the BBKA from years of losses to two years of significant surpluses without the need for an increase in capitation.

Dr. W. John Varker is a retired Leeds University Palaeontologist (Earth Sciences Department), who for 36 years lectured student groups of from 4 to over 300. He also has experience in Adult Education. His research concerned microfossils used for dating rocks which is obtained by dissolving limestones. For five years he was a member of an International Committee visiting sites in Germany, France, Ukraine, China, Mongolia and several parts of the United States. John came to beekeeping only recently when he inherited a single empty hive and so consequently joined the Leeds BKA, had his garden vetted for suitability and bought his first nucleus colony and set to work....

Trisha Marlow is a BBKA Master Beekeeper and assessor for the BBKA Basic assessment in England, Wales (through the WBKA) and Africa (BBKA Basic in Modern African Beekeeping). She lives on the family farm in the Welsh Marches with partner Paul. As volunteer Project Manager for the UK poverty alleviation charity Bees Abroad, her focus is mainly on projects in Ghana at this time as well as various sub-committee work at home. Trisha is also the Vice-County bee recorder for Montgomeryshire, records moths for the County and in her "spare time" likes to grow things, travel, and is finally learning to ride horses.

WORKSHOPS

A variety of workshops will be taking place throughout the day covering such wide topics as cerate and soap production (**Dr Sara Robb**), Skep making (**Geoff Pearson**) and making the best use of re-cycled wax (**Chris Coulson**). **Tony Jefferson** and **Jim Pearson** will give their own unique views on how best to develop good-natured colonies and how to rear your own queens with the very best characteristics.

Yorkshire Beekeepers pavilion volunteers, for
The Great Yorkshire show July 2018.

Ever year at the great Yorkshire show the Y.B.K.A opens up our headquarters on the Harrogate show ground to the public. We sell honey produced by our volunteers and stewards plus we have a range of stalls set up inside the pavilion displaying all the various types of equipment used in beekeeping, microscopy stall run by Jim Pearson who many will know and we have honey tasting plus an observation hive live bees and more.

All this though is totally dependent on volunteers who give up their time to come along and help on a daily basis. We love to get our volunteers from all our 20 plus associations if possible. We require 10 volunteers each day of the show, and this year's show is held on Tues July 10th, Wed July 11th and Thurs July 12th. Volunteers can sometimes ask for one two or three days, dependent on how many volunteers apply.

The volunteers gain free entry into the show to help out in the various activities we put on plus they get a free lunch prepared by our kitchen steward Linda and all drinks and snacks throughout the day are provided. If you have any special diary request please let me know when you register on the list. I send out a ticket to each volunteer for their entry nearer the time and we like them to arrive by 9-00 am each day as after this time it gets very busy and parking can be troublesome. If for any reason tickets are sent out but you can't attend, please let me know and return the entry tickets. Address will be provided.

The volunteers are taken on a first come first served basis, as it has proven very popular with couples and singles alike, please let me know a.s.a.p. Each volunteer can bring up to 25 jars of their own honey for sale at the show sold at a premium price, however this must be clean honey free of any bits / labelled correctly as for sale to regulations UK standards, plus only in either 1 lb or 12 oz jars only. Cut combs must be 8 oz and all will be sold as such and of last year's honey at the oldest. Honey sections are limited to 10 per day round or square these are in place of the 25 jars. All prices listed will be sent out prior to the show to anyone who says they will bring honey along for sale.

Anyone wishing to come along and help out please contact me, Dave Shannon on 01302 772837 with the day/ days you wish to come along and I will try to accommodate your wishes. Names and addresses of those interested will be taken from the first week in April on this number and I look forward to hearing from each and every association with a few volunteers to help out on what is a great show and we at Y.B.K.A are a very popular attraction over the three days of the show. Please secretaries try to get your members involved or come along yourselves and enjoy the days out. Evening are the best time to contact me between 6-00 / 8pm.

Happy beekeeping for 2018
Dave Shannon.

Y.B.K.A. CALENDAR 2018

Saturday 10th February - Module Tutorials 10am till 3pm
Saturday 24th February : Spring (Delegates) Conference 10am
Saturday 17th March: BBKA Module Examinations.
Saturday 24th March: YBKA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
6th, 7th & 8th April : BBKA Spring Convention (Harper Adams)
Friday 27th April : GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm
Friday 8th June : GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm
June 12th/13th : YAS Schools' Days
July 10th – 12th : Great Yorkshire Show (Harrogate)
Friday 20th July : GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm
Friday 7th Sept : GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm
Friday 5th October : GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm
Saturday 6th October: Autumn Delegates Meeting (Provisional)
October : Countryside Live & YBKA Honey Show (Harrogate)
October 26th – 28th : National Honey Show
Friday 9th November : GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm
Saturday 10th November : Module Exams
Saturday 24th November : AGM 10a

Yorkshire BKA Facts

The large eyes at the front of a bee are called

Compound eyes



YBKA Committee Position	Name	e-mail address	Telephone(s)
Chairman	Phil Gee	pjgphilgee@btinternet.com	01422 886114 07769 650059
General Secretary	Roger Chappel	secretary@ybka.org.uk	01325 315741 07905 190701
Treasurer	Norbert Cooper	norbert.cooper@btinternet.com	01937 834 809 07957 404 047
Education/Examinations Officer	VACANT	Apply to YBKA secretary for position	
Membership Secretary	Jonathan Burton	jonathanburton@aol.com	01909 569400 07894 562 824
Webmaster	David Lamont	davidlamont431@btinternet.com dave@mtvhosting.co.uk	01274 619787 07968 817153
Honey Show Chief Steward	Dave Shannon	daveshannon.aca@me.com	01302 772837 07907 856515
Newsletter Editor	Chris Barlow	newsletter@ybka.org.uk	07849 150 837
Equipment/Resources Officer	Derrie O'Sullivan	derrie@ntlworld.com	07801 953 145
Area Representatives			
Beverley	Position Available	Apply to YBKA secretary for position	
Wharfedale	Rob Claxton-Ingham	rob@claxton-ingham.seriouslyinternet.com	07961 423 216
Barnsley, Doncaster & Rotherham	Bronwen White	bron@mistral138.plus.com	01142 307957
Halifax, Huddersfield, Wakefield & Pontefract	Phil Gee	pjgphilgee@btinternet.com	01422 886114 07769 650059
Darlington, Northallerton, Richmond	Roger Chappel	secretary@ybka.org.uk	01325 315741 07905 190701
Bradford	Position Available	Apply to YBKA secretary for position	
Area Rep (Easingwold)	John Gaunt	j.gaunt@wass.co.uk	01347 868516
Barkston Ash)	Sandy Goodall	s.goodall@btinternet.com	01937 844827
York	Vicky Leaf	vicky@glade-farm.co.uk	07847 327 861
Airedale	Position Available	Apply to YBKA secretary for position	
Leeds	Katey Slater	slaterkatey@gmail.com	
Whitby, Scarborough, Malton & Ryedale & BBKA ADM Delegate	Tony Jefferson	stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk	07749 731945
NBU Rep	Ivor Flatman	ivor.flatman@apha.gsi.gov.uk	01924 252795
YAS Rep	Ivor Flatman	ivor.flatman@homecall.co.uk	01924 257089 0777511 9436

President: Lord Gisborough, Gisborough Hall, Gisborough, Yorks TS14 6PT

Yorkshire BKA Facts

A main blood vessel running through a bee is called

Dorsal Aorta

THORNE



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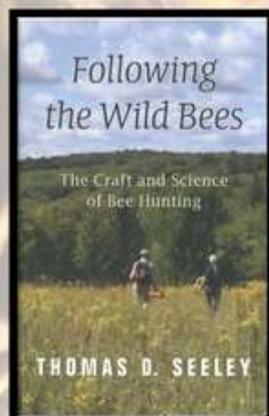
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There are queen cells in my hive - what should I do?

Latest NBB publication, Author Wally Shaw

A great reference for beekeepers wanting to make use of their queens with correct methods and practice.



Following the Wild Bees

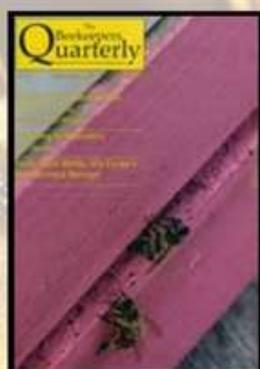
By Thomas D. Seeley

Following the Wild Bees is a delightful foray into the pastime of bee hunting, an exhilarating outdoor activity that used to be practiced widely but which few people know about today, A Fascinating read for anyone into Apiculture.

Mating Biology of Honey bees

By GUDRUN KOENIGER, NIKOLAUS KOENIGER, JAMIE ELLIS
AND LAWRENCE CONNOR

A truly impressive synthesis on an enormous body of research on the reproductive biology, and especially the mating behaviour of honey bees.



The Beekeepers Quarterly

The Beekeepers Quarterly - 4 Issues per Year

The BKQ is an international English language beekeeping journal which has been published since 1984 by Northern Bee Books and edited by John Phipps. Over the years it has developed into a 60 page full colour magazine which is available both in print and online.

Over 350 Beekeeping titles available visit
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We are asking you

to give some of your precious time

to help us with:

- **Contributing to the newsletter and website**
- **Joining the YBKA committee as Education officer**
- **PR Officer - shout it loud for the beekeepers of Yorkshire. Can you do that?**

If you have any stories about your bee keeping that you wish to share then please email it to the newsletter editor

We are looking for a replacement Education Officer for the wonderful Yvonne Kilvington. If you are interested in the role please email Roger Chappel on secretary@ybka.org.uk

