



# YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire National

December 2018

Edition  
10

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## **Chairman's Notes**

Welcome to the December edition of the YBKA newsletter.

Almost there. As the end of 2018 approaches, we can all look back on a challenging year and forward to yet another round of Agricultural Shows, swarm collecting and local beekeeping auctions.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 24 November 2018 and started off with a fascinating presentation from our guest speaker Dr. Rinke Vinkenoog from Northumbria University on the topic of "Urban versus Rural Pollination". His original research project, funded by BBKA, was titled "City Slickers versus Country Yokels"!

As he explained, modern agriculture often makes the countryside a less welcoming place for wild flowers and their pollinators, whereas urban and suburban areas can offer surprising possibilities.

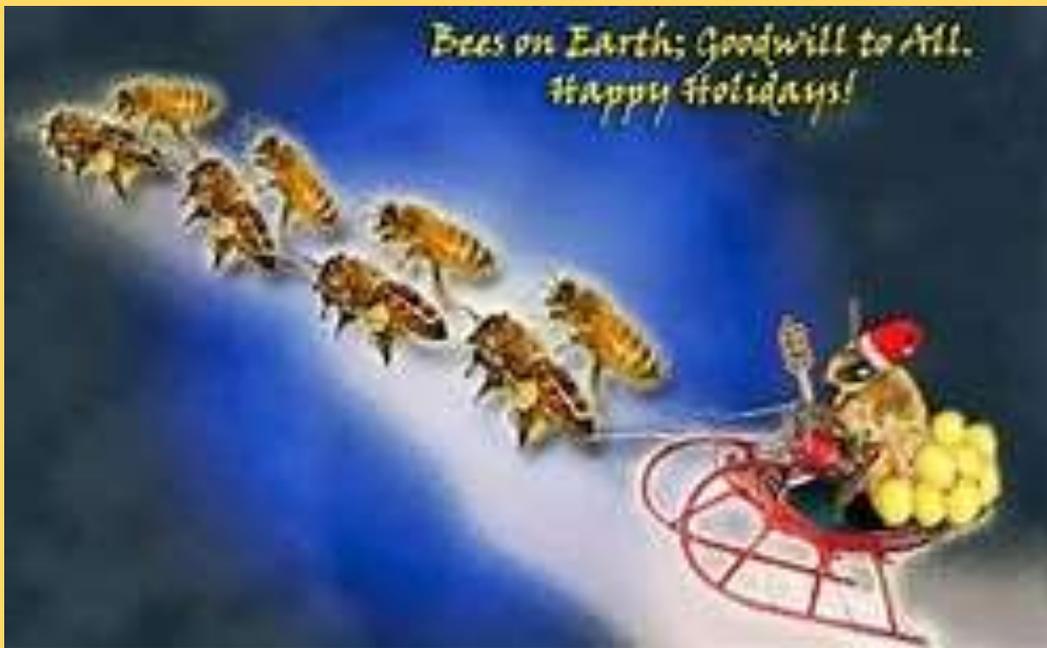
A prospective new association, Selby & District Beekeepers, had presented a request to the GPC "that a new district association based in Selby be granted association status within YBKA".

The request was placed before the AGM and it was agreed that the matter would go forward as a formal proposition to be considered at our Delegates meeting on 23 February 2019.

Arrangements for the annual YBKA Conference, "A TASTE OF HONEY", to be held on Saturday 6 April 2019 have now been finalised with flyers and application forms handed out to associations at the AGM. Full details can also be found on the YBKA website.

And finally – please continue to support Elaine Robinson, our Education Secretary, in her crusade to make us all better beekeepers.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.



## **YBKA CONFERENCE 2019 “A Taste of Honey”**

**Saturday, 6th April 2019 (8.30am to 4pm)**

**Manor Academy, York (YO26 6PA)**

**Book a place through the YBKA website now**

**ONLINE – [www.ybka.org.uk](http://www.ybka.org.uk)**

**Full details at the end of this newsletter**

### **YBKA Study days**

Elaine Robinson, YBKA Education Officer has arranged 4 Module Study Days this Autumn to cover Modules 1, 2, 3 and 7 held in the Pavilion at Harrogate. The first was run in November, 42 members attended from a cross section of Yorkshire associations. Feedback from the attendees was very positive, with members enjoying the opportunity to network with fellow beekeepers. The day was interactive, with great presentations and quizzes from Clare McGettighan, lots of information pitched at the right level, aimed at beekeepers with more than 1 years' experience. Whilst there was no obligation to sit an exam after attending the Study Day, many attendees felt Elaine gave good advice on exam techniques and how the Modules fit into the overall BBKA education curriculum

The remaining Study Days in January and February are featured on the YBKA website and already we have around 40 members per event, so just about at capacity. Roger Pool, David Shannon, Ivor Flatman, Derrie O'Sullivan and Wendy & Simon Maslin are all very experienced beekeepers and will be delivering the sessions: a big thank you to them.

For those members interested in applying for a Module Exam, these are held twice a year and 2019 dates are March 23rd and November 9th. Full application details can be found on the YBKA website under 'Education'.

### **Bee Improvement Events – Hosted by Roger Patterson**

Last weekend we ran 2 events at York and Huddersfield, attended by over 130 members. Roger Patterson, who has more than 50 years' experience of beekeeping, delivered a very interesting and entertaining day; covering many aspects of bee improvement, including queen rearing techniques. We had lots of positive feedback from members, especially about Roger's knowledge, experience and simple methods of improving bees. Members felt Roger gave them confidence through sound advice to try new techniques and experiment. As a result, we are hoping to set up a couple of practical apiary-based sessions in 2 of the County's apiaries with Roger, in the Spring / Summer, so watch this space.

## **2018/19 Winter Module Study Days**

Are you thinking of taking any of the BBKA Module examinations, or currently studying for them?

The YBKA winter module tutorials are the ideal way to learn and study with a group of like-minded beekeepers.

Each tutorial will cover an overview of the syllabus, with an expert tutor, who will guide you through what is required within the module.

Held at the YBKA pavilion at the Yorkshire Event Centre, Harrogate, from 10am till 3pm

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019 with Ivor Flatman - Module 3 Honeybee Pests, Diseases and Poisoning**

**Saturday 9 February 2019 with Wendy & Simon Maslin - Module 7 Selection and Breeding of Honeybees**

These tutorials are free and are a great way to learn together in informal surroundings. There is no obligation to **take** an exam.

**To book a place please contact Elaine Robinson YBKA Education Officer: [education@ybka.org.uk](mailto:education@ybka.org.uk)**

**advising which Study Day(s) you'd like to book a place on & which Association you belong to**

## **AGM Reports snippets**

**Below are snippets from the reports presented at the YBKA AGM on the 24<sup>th</sup> November hosted at the Great Yorkshire Showground Pavilion. For the full reports see separate email from YBKA secretary.**

**Chairman's address (Phil Gee).** Well what a year that was – it started with a lovely Spring with bees out foraging and then came the atrocious weather, nicknamed the Beast from the East (that is Eastern Europe and Russia not East Yorkshire!) and everything started to go backwards in a very short space of time. Temperatures where I live went from +7° to - 7° in the space of a few days. Some beekeepers experienced exceptional losses whereas others didn't appear to have been affected. Our 2018 calendar of events kicked off with the Annual Delegates meeting here at Harrogate in January where a lively debate took place regarding the collection of swarms. March saw our Annual Spring Conference in York and, from the feedback received, was a resounding success with over 130 people attending; an all-time record, I think. We had presentations on Palaeontology and the origin of bees, beekeeping in Syria and sustainable beekeeping in Africa. Who said that YBKA was parochial?

**Secretary's Report (Roger Chappel).** The GPC has met 6 times this year and have covered a prodigious amount of business. The committee continues to work hard on everyone's behalf and I'm pleased to say we are now up to strength and everyone is working on full cylinders. Having said that we are still needing new (and younger) blood so don't be shy to step up and help. There must be many members out there with the skills and wherewithal (and a little spare time) who could make a difference.

New blood brings new ideas so why not give it a try. As a prime example our two newest recruits – Elaine Robinson and Chris Barlow – are both doing a fantastic job organising education courses and spreading the word via our main vehicle of communication: the newsletter. As usual we've been fully involved in two very successful shows – the Yorkshire Show and Countryside Live being the main ones – and members have been active in a variety of other events throughout Yorkshire.

### **Treasurer's Report and Budget for the following year.**

Financial Accounts – Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018

On 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Firth Parish, Chartered Accountants completed their independent examination of the financial accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018, which were subsequently signed-off by Phil Gee, YBKA Chairman at the GPC Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The invoice for this work for £474.00 was received and settled on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018; and the intention is for the annual report and financial statements to be submitted for acceptance by the Charity Commission before the end of December 2018.

**Countryside Live (Dave Shannon) and School Days (Phil Gee).** Dave reported that the exhibits were top class and well above the standard often seen at the national. He expressed the hope that more members consider entering exhibits because experience and confidence gained here almost certainly leads to them having the confidence to enter other shows. He thanked the team (led by Nobby Cooper) which, as always, play a big part in making it a success. This was again a roaring success. The YAS supply the Rosettes and prizes and it is a brilliant showcase. We have a wonderful venue which we have been resident at now for some 17 years. This year was the last one for him as he has now handed over the reins to Mark Millard. He said that more helpers were needed though he conceded that the YAS make it difficult because they have restrictions on the number of stewards we can bring in, as their complementary tickets result in lower revenues. [R Ibbotsen asked if the YBKA could sponsor extra stewards – Dave said he would look in to this idea].

**BBKA Reps Report. (Tony Jefferson was unable to attend and therefore Michael Badger deputised).** Michael reported that the ADM had been a very confused meeting, badly chaired, which even affected the outcome of a serious matter voted upon. There was absolutely no discussion about anything related to beekeeping.

**YAS Reps Report (Ivor Flatman).** 2018 saw the 160<sup>th</sup> Great Yorkshire Show held here at the Harrogate showground. Stunning weather, a Royal visit and new innovations and competitions ensured that this was a special event with 134,421 visitors attending over the three days, an increase of nearly 900 on last year. HRH The Princess Royal took a tour of the show including the cattle section which had three national cattle breed shows for the first time. Unfortunately, time constraints didn't allow HRH to extend her visit to the Hives and Honey section or the Normanby Pavilion. However, beekeepers continued to play their part in the success of the Show and it was particularly encouraging to see the return of the nucleus class and the live bees demonstration which is always a great draw to visitors

**Education/Examination Officer's Report. (Elaine Robinson).** I took over the role of Education Officer from Yvonne Kilvington in May this year. With my bees put to bed, I am following my other passion of travel so apologies you have Roger here reading my script rather than myself! Like Yvonne, my goal is to continue to encourage and persuade beekeepers at all levels to never stop learning. So, we can become better beekeepers rather than just keepers of bees.

### [Basic Assessments](#)

We had a total of 30 members successfully pass their basic assessment this year, a pass rate of 95%, this is an increase of 6 members vs 2017, though back in 2015 we had more than double this number. 2/3rds of candidates this year passed with a credit, which is a great result. I believe YBKA have a joint role with local associations to encourage their members to take the basic assessment **and** to offer help and support through local association training. To enable me to spend the time arranging education events, I'd like more support from associations in 2019 to help arrange the assessments and I will be in touch to discuss how this will work in the New Year.

**Equipment & Resources Officer's Report** (Derrie O'Sullivan). Derrie briefly said that he was in the process of drawing up a list of items held by the YBKA and arranging insurance to cover the most valuable items such as Microscopes and Trophies. He also said he is working in conjunction with the Conference committee to ensure that beekeeping equipment is available for sale at the Spring Conference at cost and seeking quotes to acquire a quantity of cups (with the YBKA Logo) for future sale. Each delegate who attends the Spring Conference will be presented with a free cup (part of our strategy supporting a cleaner environment and restricting the number of plastic cups). He said he was also in the process of getting a large quantity of YBKA fabric Badges printed which hopefully will be available for members to purchase at the next Delegates meeting in February.

**Newsletter Editor's Report.** It's been a great first year as the Yorkshire Beekeeping Association newsletter editor. Last year I noticed that after the AGM the association did not have an incumbent editor and I felt that the association does some great things for the beekeepers and people of Yorkshire and a great way to communicate this is by way of print or at least an electronic PDF document. So, I felt I had to step up to the challenge and help spread the good word that Yorkshire BKA does.

## **Rural versus urban pollen: do they affect bee larvae development differently?**

by

**Helen Smith**

During the spring and summer of 2018 Helen Smith, an undergraduate at the University of Hull, undertook a third-year project which examined the effect of pollen types on the development of the solitary bee *Osmia bicornis* (the red mason bee). The main thrust of the work was to establish a methodology that could be used to assess the effect of pollen types upon mason bee development in a way that might allow us to infer their potential effects upon honey bees (*Apis mellifera*), which is difficult to assess directly. The methodology was successfully established and some results obtained. Given this situation it is now possible to concentrate better on pollen source quantification and sampling. The University supervision was by Dr James Gilbert of the School of Environmental Science and Beverley Beekeepers Association contact was Dr Chris Coulson. Beverley BKA collaborators were: Allan Carswell; Wendy Maslin; Gillian Thatcher and Chris Coulson. Helen's report is appended below.

Does the pollen available in urban and rural landscapes have any effect upon bee larvae development? A new study by the University of Hull, in cooperation with Beverley Beekeeper's Association, is using a clever combination of solitary bees and honeybees to begin to ask this question for the first time. Helen Smith, a third-year undergraduate project student at Hull, is asking: what is the effect, if any, of raising solitary bees (red mason bees, *Osmia bicornis*) on a diet of pollen gathered by honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) in rural versus urban locations?

We know that the flowers from which pollen collected by honey bees' changes in different landscapes - which is part of the reason different locations produce honey with distinctive flavours. Previous work has shown that urban bees collect more diverse pollen than rural bees<sup>1</sup>. We also know that bees foraging in different rural landscapes produce beebread with different nutritional compositions, and also that the more the landscape is covered by farmland the lower the protein content of the beebread<sup>2</sup>.

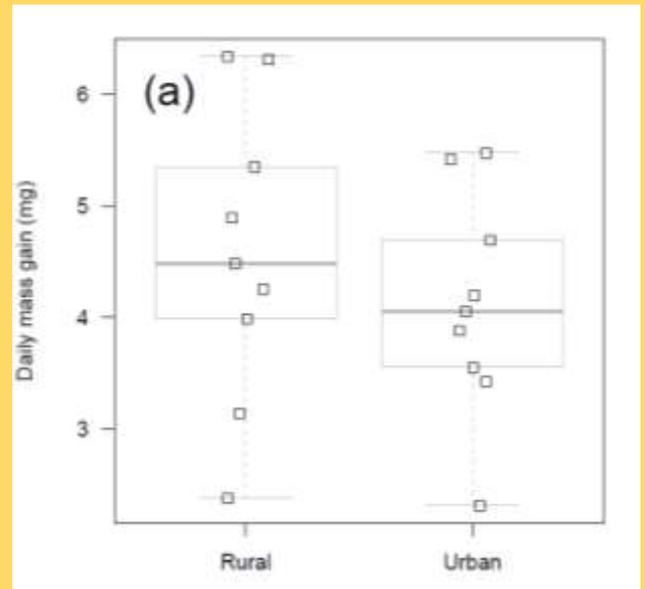
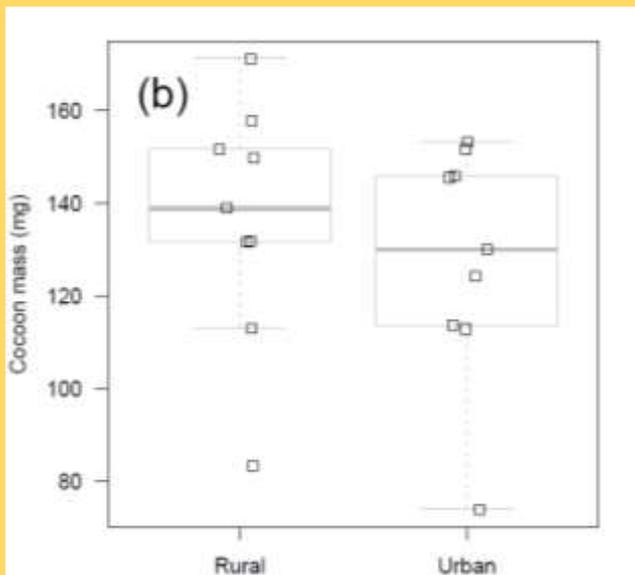
But do these different landscapes cause differences in bee growth and survival? This is a more complex question. We might, for example, simply check the health and success of bees emerging from hives in different landscapes. But it isn't as simple as that: this approach would be confounded by many other variables besides diet that might differ across locations. In fact, without very careful experimental manipulations, it is difficult to be sure that any observed differences are actually due to changes in nutrition and not something else. We need to have a methodology whereby the nutrition received by individual larvae within a hive can be varied. This is something that is very difficult to do with honeybees. Solitary bees may provide a model for how we can achieve this.

Red mason bee mothers provide individual offspring with discrete pollen balls. Researchers at the University of Hull have discovered they can manipulate these pollen balls after the parent has sealed up the nest cell and left. This Spring, in a pilot study, I allowed female red mason bees to breed on Hull University campus. A few days later, once they had provisioned their nests with pollen balls and left, and their larvae had hatched out within the nests, I brought the nests into the lab and swapped the pollen balls for new ones, thus providing the developing larvae with a different diet. The new diet was composed of honeybee collected pollen from hives in either urban or rural areas, carefully collected from capped cells, generously donated by beekeepers from members of Beverley Beekeeping Association from within Hull (urban) or the Beverley area (rural).

There are many differences between mason bee and honeybee biology that might make honeybee pollen less suitable for mason bees than pollen gathered by their own species. To my relief the mason bee larvae ate the new pollen with gusto and almost all developed healthily. However, the experimental design ensured that any differences seen in the bees' larval growth and development must have been down to nutritional differences in the pollen.

Analysis showed there were no differences in weight, growth or survival between the bee larvae raised on pollen from urban and rural beehives (Figure 1). This indicates that pollen from these two areas around Hull could have similar nutritional value to mason bees, despite what we know about differences in pollen diversity between urban and rural areas elsewhere<sup>1</sup>. Perhaps honeybees are able to select a well-balanced diet for their young regardless of what pollen is available. Perhaps developing mason bee larvae are not particularly sensitive to, or are particularly good at dealing with, differences in the pollen makeup of their food. Or perhaps any differences may become evident later in life when these bees become adults and reproduce themselves. These interesting pilot results should lay the foundation for wider studies of pollen nutrition in honeybees and mason bees which could shed valuable light on the effects of pollen nutrition upon bee health in the UK.

Figure 1 (A) Cocoon weight of mason bee larvae raised on pollen from rural vs. urban beehives. (B) Daily mass gain for mason bee larvae developing on pollen from rural vs. urban beehives



## Can listening to bee's help save them - and us?

Can artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning help save the world's bees? That's the hope of scientists who are scrambling to reverse the dramatic declines in bee populations.

Bees are in trouble, but we're not quite sure why.

It could be the overuse of insecticides; air pollution; warming temperatures; the varroa destructor mite; or even interference from electromagnetic radiation. Full BBC News article [here](#).

## Tree Beekeeping 1000AD style

In Eastern Europe the art of making bee hives in trees and passing the tree hive down from generation to generation has gone on for it is believed 1000 years or more, in Poland alone in a census from 1827, over 70,000 tree hives were recorded. However, by the 1930's the craft was dying out. It is now making a humble come back. The below two YouTube videos give an interesting insight in to how to make your own, however you will need a tree with an 80cm diameter, which might be a stumbling block for most, but it is fascinating to watch.

<https://youtu.be/vSpQm4Oj7Ns>

<https://youtu.be/xBveSf8EwrQ>

**Saturday 12th January 2019 @ Great Yorkshire Showground**

**Ivor Flatman - Module 3 training**

**Book place [education@ybka.org.uk](mailto:education@ybka.org.uk)**

**Honeybee Pests, Diseases and Poisoning**

## Jobs in the apiary in December

From late November, through December and the early part of the New Year, honeybee colonies are in cluster mode. Odd bees venture out of the hive on milder sunny days, either for toileting flights or water gathering. The majority will be huddled in a cluster in the brood box. When the temperature drops significantly, worker bees generate heat within the hive by contracting and relaxing their flight muscles. The queen is usually found within the center of this cluster where the temperature varies between 20C (when the colony is brood-less) and 30-35C (in spring when the queen resumes her laying pattern).

By December, the summer bees will have died off, leaving winter bees and very little brood if any. Most queens reduce egg laying, or stop completely, now. Provided you have made sure your bees had the recommended 50/55 lbs of stores per colony to see them through the winter, they should have enough stores to last them through to Easter time next year, or thereabouts, when the new season's first forage supplies are available. However, good beekeepers will check their hives for stores on a weekly basis throughout the winter months; hefting them, without need to open the hives at all. Fondant can be given safely, in the event of stores running low, but not syrup! Some have a quick look down through the hole in the crown board to check the bees are still ok. It's sensible to make sure that hive roofs are still secure and have not been dislodged by strong winds.

This time of year, when the colony is brood-less, or has a minimal amount of brood is also an excellent time to treat your bees against the varroa mite. One method, "trickling", can be performed on the shortest day, or a mild day in later December. It involves applying a trickle of oxalic acid, diluted in a thin sugar syrup, between each seam of bees in the cluster, at a rate of 5ml per seam. This mixture is lethal to larvae and so treating now ensures least possible losses.

To apply this carefully measured dose, you can buy a small injection gun that re-fills to the exact measure with each squeeze of the trigger between seams. This type of device makes the job very easy, especially with two people. The procedure should be done as quickly as possible to retain the colony temperature. Always wear your bee suit and gloves, with goggles and a mask when using oxalic acid. Oxalic acid is a hazardous substance, take care. Keep your smoker lit just in case the bees get angry then you can smoke them down quickly. (Note: when using oxalic acid to treat honey bees for varroa only use an approved treatment product).

I like to keep the apiary clean and remove any capping's that may have dropped to the ground underneath the hives. The bees remove the capping's to get to the honey stores beneath, during these winter months.

When it is cold in December and January, with no bees flying, it is a good time to treat the outside of the hives with a fresh coat of wood preservative. Close up the entrance for 5 minutes to apply a quick coating that will see you safely through to next spring, protected against bad weather. It's a good time to clean and coat all your spare supers and brood boxes too, to get ready for the season to come. Don't forget to check that mouse guards and woodpecker protection netting, if used, are securely in place.

Plan next year's activities with the bees. If you want to move them to another site next year, now is a good time to do it. There are no flying bees to contend with in late December and a re-sited colony will soon re-orientate to its new surroundings and new forage opportunities when it comes out of cluster in the spring.

Don't forget to enlist on those module exams to better your beekeeping skills. Or swot up and take your basic assessment next year.

Happy Christmas to one and all.

Dave Shannon.

## **District Events For All**

Yorkshire Beekeepers Association have 21 district associations that run events through the year. Below are districts and their events where they are happy for any beekeeper from any of the district associations to pop in if they wish and contact to book on to one of their events

### **Richmond & District BKA 2019. District website [here](#).**

We meet monthly, on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at Richmond Golf Club , Gold Club website [here](#).

Winter program is;

- Mon 7 Jan Ian Glastonbury - top bar hives
- Mon 4 Feb Louisa & Michael Ells - Our first year
- Mon 4 March Gerry Collins 'Selection & queen rearing for the hobbyist beekeeper'
- Mon 1 April Mike Samworth 'Using microscopes for beekeepers'

### **Beverley BKA hold their winter meetings at The Darby & Joan Hall, Finkle Street, Cottingham, HU16 4AZ.**

Meetings start at 7.30pm and run until about 9:30 pm. We have a refreshment break and raffle. Our winter programme is as follows:

- No Meeting in January 2019
- Monday Feb 4th - Hull Allergy Unit
- Monday Mar 4th - An Introduction to Bee Watching, Dr Africa Gomez
- Monday Apr 1st - An update on The Flow Hive &The Bentley Hive, John Tunncliffe

### **Halifax and District BKA 2019 Events Calendar**

- HBKA winter meetings start at 7.30pm at St Paul's Methodist Church, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax. HX6 2EQ
- HBKA summer meetings have directions or a telephone number.

Wednesday 9th January - Beekeeping using several different types of hive. A series of short talks by Association Members

Saturday 26th January 10.00am until 3-30pm - Joint Microscopy session with Huddersfield BKA, St Paulse Methodist Church, Sowerby Bridge. A Pie and Pea Lunch will be served. Please Book

Wednesday 13th Feb 2019 - The Asian Hornet lifecycle, reproduction and nesting sites, and how to protect our bees.  
A talk by Kirsty Stainton, NBU

Wednesday 13th March - Preparing Heather, Rape and other Special Honeys, A talk by Dave Shannon

Wed 20th March to Wed 1st May - HBKA Beginners' Course – 7 weeks 7.30 - 9.30 (Price - £75), Good Shepherd RC Church, Cragg Vale, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5EA, Phil Gee – ☎ 01422 886114

Wednesday 10th April 2019 - "Simple Methods of Making Increase" - Making new colonies and raising queens without fancy methods. A talk by Wally Shaw, Anglesey BKA (A joint meeting with Huddersfield BKA)

Saturday 27th April 2019 - Joint Nosema Screening Day with Huddersfield BKA, Bring your own bee samples for testing.  
Taylor Hill Centre, Close Hill Lane, Huddersfield HD4 6LE.

Saturday 11th May HBKA - HBKA Auction with Mike Joyce, Brickhill Farm, Scholes, Cleckheaton, BD19 6LY. ☎ 01274 869644

Saturday 1st June - Preparation for Basic Assessment, Redacre Barn, Westfield Terrace, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5DQ

Saturday 15th June - HBKA Social and BBQ Lunch 1pm - 4pm (Speaker to be confirmed.) Brickhills Farm, Scholes, Cleckheaton, BD19 6LY. ☎ 01274 869644

Saturday 29th June - Basic Assessments, HBKA Association Apiary, Church Lane, Southowram

Saturday 13th July 2pm - Garden and Apiary Visit, Also "Heathers and Honey" – A talk by Tony Jefferson, Middle Fold Farm, Edge Lane, Hebden Bridge, HX7 7PG

Saturday 10th August - Halifax Show and Honey Show

Saturday 17th August 2.00pm - Apiary Visit, Also "Bees and Human Health" – A talk by Alan Brook

Saturday 14th September 2pm, Honey Extraction, Dianne and Jeff Gill ☎ 01422 367003

Wednesday 9th October - HBKA AGM

Saturday 26th October 10.00—12.00 Beginners and Mentors Review (Followed by lunch at the Hinchcliffe Arms) Woodland View, Cragg Vale Halifax HX7 5TB. ☎ 01422 886114

Wednesday 13th November - "Research of Hive Activity" and lessons Learned" A talk by Jane Mossley, Eat Natural – Pollination

**If your district is running events where they are happy for beekeepers from other districts to attend please email the newsletter editor the details and I will add them in here for all to see and share.**

## **Science Behind Bee Keeping**

### **Fungus provides powerful medicine in fighting honey bee viruses**

A mushroom extract fed to honey bees greatly reduces virus levels, according to a new paper. In field trials, colonies fed mycelium extract showed a 79-fold reduction in deformed wing virus and a 45,000-fold reduction in Lake Sinai virus compared to control colonies. The hope is that the results of this research will help dwindling honey bee colonies fight viruses that are known to play a role in colony collapse disorder. Full details are [here](#).

### **Common weed killer linked to bee deaths**

Honey bees exposed to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, lose some of the beneficial bacteria in their guts and are more susceptible to infection and death from harmful bacteria. Scientists believe this is evidence that glyphosate might be contributing to the decline of honey bees and native bees around the world. Full details are [here](#).

### **Epigenetic patterns determine if honeybee larvae become queens or workers**

Scientists have unravelled how changes in nutrition in the early development of honeybees can result in vastly different adult characteristics. Full details [here](#).

### **Deconstructing the superfood that determines honeybee hierarchy**

All bee larvae eat royal jelly when they're new, but only future queens continue to eat it. To figure out why, researchers are taking a close look at the molecular ingredients of the fancy fare. Full details are [here](#).

### **A break from the buzz: Bees go silent during total solar eclipse**

In an unprecedented study of a solar eclipse's influence on bee behaviour, researchers organized citizen scientists and elementary school classrooms to set up acoustic monitoring stations to listen in on bees' buzzing -- or lack thereof -- as the August 2017 total solar eclipse passed over North America. The results were clear and consistent at locations across the United States: Bees stopped flying during the period of total solar eclipse. Full details [here](#).

### **How wasp and bee stinger designs help deliver the pain**

Next time you're stung by a wasp or a honeybee, consider the elegantly designed stinger that caused you so much pain. Researchers found that the stingers of the two species are about five times softer at the tip than at the base to make it easier to pierce skin. The stingers are harder closer to the insect's body so they don't bend too much, or break, as you yelp in agony. Full details [here](#).

## **Asian Hornet Sightings**

Asian Hornet sighted this last month and confirmed in three places by the NBU.

In Fowey, Cornwall a nest has been destroyed and two new sightings confirmed in Liskeard and Hull

THE BBKA IS URGING ITS MEMBERS TO ACT NOW IN ORDER TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT IN THE DETECTION OF ASIAN HORNETS

**Defra has issued new advice that all beekeepers in areas of the country where there are no Asian Hornets at the moment should set out MONITORING traps for Asian Hornets baited with meat or fish**

For an NBU guide on how to make a trap, click [here](#) ( this is PDF document)

For an NBU video guide on how to make an Asian hornet trap, click [here](#) (you tube video)

Government news article [here](#).

An excellent online article here by an Englishman in France who talks about his initial losses and his defence tactics which include stand skirts, muzzles and an electrified fly bat. Full article [here](#).

## **Basic Assessment Information**

The Basic is a great way to consolidate your learning after your first full year of keeping bees and earn a recognised BBKA qualification. **It enables you to start Module exams, if you wish and helps you, through further education, to become a better beekeeper.**

Basic assessments update from 2018

- 20 Candidates achieved a Credit & 10 Passed, a great result!
- 30 out of 31 beekeepers passed their exam, a 96% pass rate, in line with National figure of 95%
- Top YBKA Associations for entries were:
  - Richmond 8; Bradford 6; Doncaster 4; Beverley 4; Leeds & Huddersfield 3

**YBKA CONFERENCE 2019 "A Taste of Honey"**

**Saturday, 6th April 2019 (8.30am to 4pm)**

**Manor Academy, York (YO26 6PA)**

**Book a place through the YBKA website now**

**: ONLINE – [www.ybka.org.uk](http://www.ybka.org.uk)**

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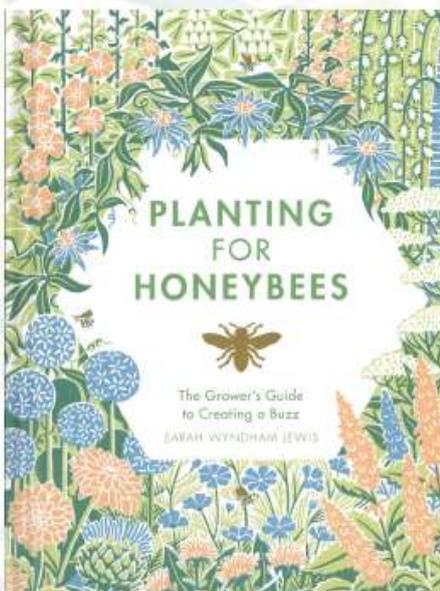
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# PLANTING FOR HONEYBEES

By Sarah Wyndham Lewis



Our gardens would be unrecognisable without the gentle buzz of the humble honeybee. Yet in recent years bee populations have suffered from the loss of green spaces and need our help.

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Committee Position	Name	e-mail address	Telephone(s)
Chairman	Phil Gee	<a href="mailto:pjgphilgee@btinternet.com">pjgphilgee@btinternet.com</a>	01422 886114
School Day Organiser		-	07769 650059
(Area rep : Halifax, Huddersfield, Wakefield/Pontefract)		-	
		-	
Vice-Chair	Roger Chappel	<a href="mailto:yorkshirebka@gmail.com">yorkshirebka@gmail.com</a>	01325 315741
		<a href="mailto:secretary@ybka.org.uk">secretary@ybka.org.uk</a>	07905 190701
		-	
General Secretary	Roger Chappel	<a href="mailto:yorkshirebka@gmail.com">yorkshirebka@gmail.com</a>	01325 315741
Area Rep (Northallerton & Thirsk, Darlington, Richmond )		<a href="mailto:secretary@ybka.org.uk">secretary@ybka.org.uk</a>	07905 190701
		<a href="mailto:rogerchappel21@gmail.com">rogerchappel21@gmail.com</a>	
		-	
Treasurer	Norbert Cooper	<a href="mailto:norbert.cooper@btinternet.com">norbert.cooper@btinternet.com</a>	01937 834 809
		-	07957 404 047
		-	
Education Officer	Elaine Robinson	<a href="mailto:education@ybka.org.uk">education@ybka.org.uk</a>	
Area Rep ( Beverley & Rydale)		-	
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Membership Secretary	VACANT	-	
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Webmaster	David Lamont	<a href="mailto:davidlamont431@btinternet.com">davidlamont431@btinternet.com</a>	01274 619787
Area Rep (Bradford)			07968 817153
		-	
Honey Show Chief Steward	Mark Millard	<a href="mailto:mark.millard@yahoo.co.uk">mark.millard@yahoo.co.uk</a>	01924 271 203
		<a href="mailto:wpbka.sec@gmail.com">wpbka.sec@gmail.com</a>	07497 429 646
Bee Health Liaison Officer	Ivor Flatman	<a href="mailto:ivor.flatman@homecall.co.uk">ivor.flatman@homecall.co.uk</a>	01924 257089
Area Rep (Barnsley)			07751 061 753
Newsletter Editor	Chris Barlow	<a href="mailto:newsletter@ybka.org.uk">newsletter@ybka.org.uk</a>	07849 150 837
Equipment/Resources Officer	Derrie O'Sullivan	<a href="mailto:derrie@ntlworld.com">derrie@ntlworld.com</a>	07801 953 145
		-	
AREA REPS			
Leeds	Kirit Gordhandas	<a href="mailto:ybkarep@leedsbeekeepers.org.uk">ybkarep@leedsbeekeepers.org.uk</a>	
Rotherham	Bronwen White	<a href="mailto:bron@mistral138.plus.com">bron@mistral138.plus.com</a>	01142 307957
		-	
Barkston Ash	Greg Sharp	<a href="mailto:gandjsharp@hotmail.co.uk">gandjsharp@hotmail.co.uk</a>	07746 986 716
		-	
		-	
Doncaster	Dave Shannon		01302 772837
			07907 856515
York & Malton	Vicki Leaf	<a href="mailto:vicki@glade-farm.co.uk">vicki@glade-farm.co.uk</a>	07847 327 861

Airedale & Scarborough	Linda Schofield	<a href="mailto:gorluvaduck@gmail.com">gorluvaduck@gmail.com</a>	01535 609379
		-	07853 651 965
		-	
Whitby	Tony Jefferson	<a href="mailto:stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk">stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk</a>	07749 731945
		-	
DISTRICT CONTACTS			
Easingwold		-	
Richmond	Peter Creek	<a href="mailto:creekpeter@rocketmail.com">creekpeter@rocketmail.com</a>	01748 812075
		-	07922 087877
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Malton	Bob Hirst	<a href="mailto:pamandbob@btinternet.com">pamandbob@btinternet.com</a>	01904 706 111
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Ryedale	Elaine Robinson	<a href="mailto:education@ybka.org.uk">education@ybka.org.uk</a>	
		-	
Wharfedale	John Forsyth	<a href="mailto:johnsj1984@gmail.com">johnsj1984@gmail.com</a>	01943 876450
Doncaster	Miranda Dickinson	<a href="mailto:miranda@thorneyford.co.uk">miranda@thorneyford.co.uk</a>	07766 737 682
Beverley	Simon Maslin	<a href="mailto:4simonm@gmail.com">4simonm@gmail.com</a>	01482 656 018

## Yorkshire BKA Calendar of events

**Friday 11th January: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm**

**Saturday 12th January – Module 3 Tutorials 10am till 3pm (Harrogate)**

**Saturday 12th January: BBKA ADM (10.30 am) Kenilworth**

**Saturday 9th February – Module 7 Tutorials 10am till 3pm (Harrogate)**

**Saturday 23th February: Delegates Conference (Harrogate) 10am**

**Saturday 23rd March: BBKA Module Examinations.**

**Saturday 6th April: YBKA ANNUAL CONFERENCE (YORK)**

**12th, 13th & 14th April: BBKA Spring Convention (Harper Adams)**

**Friday 26th April: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm**

**June 4th/5th: YAS Schools' Days**

**July 9th – 11th: Great Yorkshire Show (Harrogate) – Helpers always welcome and required at the YBKA display**

**Friday 19th July: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm**

**(Proposed)Saturday, 21st Sept: Mead Workshop (Harrogate)**

**Friday 4th October: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm**

**(Proposed)Sunday 6th October: Study Day**

**October 19th/20th: Countryside Live & YBKA Honey Show (Harrogate)**

**October 24th – 26th: National Honey Show**

**(Proposed)Saturday 2nd November: Study Day**

**Friday 8th November: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm**

**(Proposed)Saturday 9th November: Module Exams (Harrogate)**

**Saturday 30th November: AGM 10am (Harrogate)**

**(Proposed)Saturday, 7th December: Study Day.**

## **BBKA Forum**

The BBKA have a new online forum. This is the web address. Pop along, sign up and say hello.

[www.bbkaforum.co.uk](http://www.bbkaforum.co.uk)

## **Classified Adverts**

Do you have anything for sale, if so please email [newsletter@ybka.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ybka.org.uk) the editor for a free private sales listing

## **YBKA CONFERENCE 2019 “A Taste of Honey”**

**Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (8.30am to 4pm) at the Manor Academy, York (YO26 6PA)**

08.30 – 9.15 Registration and refreshments

9.15 – 09.30 Welcome and Introduction

09.30 – 09.45 Tony Jefferson, Jim & Geoff Pearson, Dave Shannon and Chris Coulson will explain how, why and when they will be running their workshops and drop-in clinics throughout the day.

09.45 – 10.30 Dr. Nicola Kay Simcock ***Food for thought, the honeybee as a model  
... animal for the study of physiology***

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 11.45 Peter Lewis ***The sensory analysis of honey***

11.45 – 12.30 Tom Aspinall ***Bumblebees and their ecology***

12.30 – 13.45 LUNCH

13.45 – 15.15 **Workshops and Discussion Groups:**

**Preparing bees for the heather.....Tony Jefferson**

**Preparing honey exhibits for the Show.....Dave Shannon**

**Steam Wax extraction.....Chris Coulson**

**Selection of Breeding stock.....Jim Pearson**

**Skep-making (Geoff Pearson) and Asian Hornet trap construction**

15.15 – 15.30 Comfort Break

15.30 – 16.00 Beekeepers question time.

# WORKSHOPS

## 1.45 – 2.30

- 1A Tony Jefferson: Preparing the Bees for the Heather. Main Hall**
- 2A Jim Pearson: Can I improve my bees by selective breeding? Balcony.**
- 3A Dave Shannon: Preparing Honey exhibits for Showing. Performing Arts Studio.**
- 4A Chris Coulson. Reclaiming Bees Wax. Activity Studio**

## 2.30 – 3.15

- 1B Tony Jefferson: Preparing the Bees for the Heather. Main Hall**
- 2B Jim Pearson: Can I improve my bees by selective breeding? Balcony.**
- 3B Dave Shannon: Preparing Honey exhibits for Showing. Performing Arts Studio.**
- 4B Chris Coulson. Reclaiming Bees Wax. Activity Studio**

There will be on-going demonstrations and practical guidance on Skep-making (Geoff Pearson) and Asian Hornet trap construction (members of the committee and NBU) in the main concourse throughout the day.

1.45 – 2.30	2.30 – 3.15
Tony Jefferson(Session A):Main Hall [1A]	Tony Jefferson(Session B):Main Hall [1B]
Jim Pearson (Session A): Balcony [2A]	Jim Pearson (Session B): Balcony [2B]
Dave Shannon (Session A): Studio [3A]	Dave Shannon (Session B): Studio [3B]
Chris Coulson (Session A):Activity [4A]	Chris Coulson (Session B): Activity [4B]

*Please note that delegates will this year be able to book the workshops they wish to attend in advance but these will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis so early booking is advised. Delegates should choose a reserve workshop for each session.*

## Workshop Notes

**Tony Jefferson.** Tony has many years of experience keeping bees in the Whitby area. He has always specialised in the production of Heather Honey being surrounded by the moors over on the East coast. Year on year he produces tons of honey which is always in very high demand. Tony has written several books on this topic and regularly wins prestigious competitions with this high-quality honey and has recently qualified as a Senior Honey Show Judge. This is a workshop not to be missed and all beekeepers are sure to pick up numerous valuable tips which will help improve their honey production.

**Dave Shannon.** Dave is an extremely experienced beekeeper (Doncaster BKA) who has excelled in the art of producing honey products to the highest possible standards. He has held the role of Chief Honey Steward for the YBKA for many years and is a fully qualified Chief Honey Judge officiating in the various Honey Shows throughout the year. If you are keen to hear the strategy you need to adopt to stand a chance of getting the top accolades and the tips from one of the top judges in the country then you won't be disappointed.

**Jim Pearson.** Jim is an experienced bee-man and a master beekeeper. He has dedicated a great deal of time to the art of improving his bees (he claims to be in search of the 'perfect bee') and does this by precise selective breeding. His aim is to help other beekeepers breed good-natured and productive colonies and he will go in to minute detail looking at all the pros and cons. This is a practical workshop which will benefit all beekeepers.

**Chris Coulson.** For over 40 years Chris has been a 'DIY beekeeper' and has written and talked extensively on the subject and has recently made a couple of videos on DIY techniques. Initially, he confesses, the DIY angle was for economic reasons but then environmental ones took over. He now uses as much reclaimed and recyclable material as possible, ranging from food tins to church pews and cooker parts to old pans! He has made his own foundation since he started beekeeping, hence his interest in reclaiming and recycling bees wax. His session will deal with these matters and he'll discuss the methods he has adopted, some successful others not! He has recently built a steam wax extractor which needs more thought. Over the years he has tried to improve his wax recycling but considers this an ongoing process. Feel free to bring your ideas and comments to the workshop.

**Geoff Pearson.** Geoff needs very little introduction. He is well known for his humour and his relaxed style and this workshop, which demonstrates the skills needed to make your own skeps, gives further insight in to other uses the skill of basket weaving can bring to assist the beekeeper.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE (April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019)

Application Form (Cost: £10 per person + optional buffet)

Full Name	
District/Association	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone(s)	
Email address	

LUNCH PREFERENCE

Own Packed Lunch (no additional cost)                      Cold Buffet (£10)

WORKSHOPS

Session A (1.45 – 2.30)		Session B (2.30 – 3.15)	
Session A (Reserve):		Session B (Reserve):	

To book: either visit the YBKA website [www.ybka.org.uk](http://www.ybka.org.uk) and book on-line, send a cheque (payable to Yorkshire Beekeepers Association) for £10/£20 to the YBKA secretary (Roger Chappel) :4, South View, Brafferton DLI 3LB  
or pay by card over the 'phone:  
01325 315741/07905 190701.