



NEWSLETTER

April 2022

www.aycliffebees.com

For all newsletter items: Contact Roger on 01325 315741
or e-mail us at : aycliffebka@gmail.com

All articles and photographs, items for sale etc are welcome.

SPRING CALENDAR 2022

April 16th – 18th : BBKA Spring Conference, Harper-Adams University, Newport

Tuesday, April 19th: First Apiary Session for members at St Oswalds (6pm)

Sunday, April 24th : OPEN DAY at the Eco-Centre (2 – 4pm)

May 7th/8th : Beginners Course : (Eco Centre/St. Oswalds Apiary)

Things to do in the Apiary

Check for varroa

Check the hives for soundness

Change/clean floors

Provide 1:1 (or 2:1) sugar syrup

Add a super where appropriate.

Check for swarm cells.

The Weather

Keep your eye on the temperatures. The indications are that they will remain low for at least a couple of weeks - up to the middle of April. It's unusual, even at this time of the year, for temperatures to stay below 10 degrees for a sustained period of time and this could be crucial to your bees. If they can't get out to forage, they won't survive, as stores will be down to the minimum by now. Provide supplementary food in the form of 2:1 syrup or fondant until the weather improves. It also means that the first inspection will have to be delayed (floors will probably already have been replaced). Care and vigilance is needed if we want to avoid losing colonies – it is vital for colonies which have struggled to get through the winter to get off to a good start. An indifferent Spring will not help. Check your weather apps (if you have access to them) and respond accordingly and all will be well.

Self Help Training for 2022 (hosted by Chris Barker)

Chris will once again help you prepare for the BASIC and any Modules you are taking: groups will start to meet under his guidance shortly. If you haven't yet contacted Chris please give him a call if you are interested in taking any of the BBKA exams or modules this year.

Contact : Chris for more information.

training.aycliffebka@gmail.com Tel: 07421 471581

BEE COLONIES

Members who would like to obtain a colony of bees should indicate their interest as soon as possible, if you haven't done so already. Also, if you have bees for sale, please let us know.

Subscriptions (2022)

A big thank you to all our members for getting their subs paid in before the deadline. This enables seamless and trouble-free membership of the ABKA, BBKA and Durham BKA so that you are able to enjoy all the benefits including insurance. It also helps our treasurer (Michele Barker) and Membership Secretary (Rev Nick Barker) to fulfill the requirements and deadlines required of us efficiently and with the minimum of hassle. We can now all now settle down to preparing for the new season with confidence in the knowledge that all our members are fully supported and covered.

Beekeeping Equipment and Supplies

Stuart Fawcett, our Equipment/Purchasing Officer is always available to enable members obtain low-cost beekeeping equipment. You can contact Stuart by phone: **01325 320236** or email **equipment.aycliffebka@gmail.com** to order/enquire what equipment/resources we have in stock and what is available for members to hire. The List of equipment and prices can also be viewed via our website www.aycliffebees.com. One of our members has recently had to retire due to ill health and has offered to sell his equipment (new and 2nd hand) to members at very reasonable prices and in excellent condition. Please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to buy any item.

The following items are available for members to purchase:

National Brood Boxes (£25)

Dummy Boards (£1.50)

Supers (£20)

Roofs (£25)

Queen Excluders (£15)

Nucleus Hive (£100)

Solar Wax Melter (£120)

Horsley Board (£40)

Floor (£15)

Gloves (£10)

14x12 Brood Box (£30)

Floors (£15)

Suits (£50)

Crown Board (£10)

Complete Hive (2nd Hand)...£100

ST. OSWALD'S APIARY

Regular sessions will start on TUESDAY, APRIL 19th at 6pm. Sessions will take place throughout the summer usually on a Monday evening but if weather conditions are not suitable this may change. Please keep an eye open for any amended dates & times. Beginners will be allocated a hive to look after (with the help of a mentor) so please let either Chris (07421 471581), Roger (01325 315741) or Stuart (01325 320236) know if you would like to do this. Any member who hasn't got room for a hive at home can apply for a space at St. Oswald's if you wish to keep your hive there. This is usually done on a first-come-first-served basis. Please let us know if you'd like to take advantage of this facility.

ABKA COMMITTEE (2022)

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Roger Chappel	01325 315741	07905 190701	chair.aycliffbka@gmail.com
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