



# NEWSLETTER

## May 2022

[www.aycliffebees.com](http://www.aycliffebees.com)

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

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

### CALENDAR (Spring & Summer) 2022

Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> May	World Bee Day (Amazon). Morton Park, Darlington
Mondays (6pm)	Regular Apiary Sessions at St. Oswald's
18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> June	Raby Castle Seasonal Market
July	Visit to Stoneleigh Apiary (Whitby) <b>tba</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> September	Hurworth Country Fair

### *Things to do in the Apiary*

**Check for varroa**  
**Check the hives for soundness**  
**Add a super where appropriate.**  
**Check for swarm cells.**

**Shows & Fairs.** The ABKA are keen to attend any Shows or Fairs which are being run anywhere in the North East. Please let us know if you are aware of any being arranged or an Open Garden which would be suitable to put on a display. **If you can lend a hand, even for an hour, please let our new Show Secretary (Cheryl Blakey) know (Tel: 07747 731202 or 01325 310811 or email [cherylblakey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cherylblakey@hotmail.co.uk) ) or any committee member.**

### Self Help Training for 2022

Please note that we now have a new Education Officer – Clare Midgley. Clare will help coordinate the training which Chris Barker will still be involved in. He will once again help you prepare for the BASIC and any Modules you are taking: groups will start to meet under his guidance shortly. Please contact Clare if you are interested in taking any of the BBKA exams or modules this year.

**Contact : Email: [training.aycliffebka@gmail.com](mailto:training.aycliffebka@gmail.com) Tel: 07515 644194**

## BEE COLONIES

Members who haven't yet acquired a colony of bees should indicate their interest as soon as possible...if they haven't already done so. Also, if you have bees for sale, please let us know. Members should be aware that creating new colonies requires skill, patience and an investment in terms of equipment and time. This means that there is a cost and the main reason why members are asked to make a contribution usually of about £120 for a 5-frame nuc with young queen. Unfortunately, it does take time to achieve.....we are in the process of creating colonies from scratch...that is we force the bees to create Queen cells which take about 16 days to hatch then there is a further period of 1 to 3 weeks ensuring the Queen mates ok.....followed by another 2 to 3 weeks waiting for her to lay. Members therefore have to be patient as we don't want to rush the process and we need to be as sure as we can that the colony is viable and developing well. We are probably around 2 weeks into this now so the colonies won't be ready to pass on for another month or so. For those members who want bees earlier there may be a possibility that full colonies are available (i.e. bees with young queen on 8 - 10 frames) but these would come at a higher cost of around £200. Please ask if you wish to consider this option. Alternatively, our own beekeepers in the club often have spare colonies so you may be able to negotiate terms with them....please ask for further information.

### 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](http://www.aycliffebees.com).

### ST. OSWALD'S APIARY

Regular sessions have already started from 6pm on every Monday evening subject to acceptable weather conditions. These sessions will take place throughout the summer. As you are all aware, Great Aycliffe Council has agreed to allow us the use of a second plot which has now been set up with 3 – 4 hives and a shed which enables us to keep spare equipment. Some of the conditions which the council imposed included our commitment to ensure the plot was maintained properly which involves weeding, tidying and the construction of a wooden fence to the rear of the plot. Neighbouring allotment plot holders have also asked if we can post a timetable showing the days and times when we are intending to work with the bees...this to enable them to avoid working on their plots when the bees are likely to be disturbed. Any members available to help with this maintenance should contact the secretary so that we can comply more effectively with the requirements.

## ABKA COMMITTEE (2022)

<b>Chair/Advice/News</b>			
<b>Roger Chappel</b>	01325 315741	07905 190701	chair.aycliffbka@gmail.com
<b>Vice-Chair</b>			
<b>Ian Midgley</b>	01325 308283	07921 239603	icemidge52@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>			
<b>Steve Jenkins</b>	01325 352108	07825 980692	secretary.aycliffbka@gmail.com
<b>Membership Secretary</b>			
<b>Rev. Nick Barker</b>	01388 819487	07912 269364	membership.aycliffbka@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>			
<b>Michele Barker</b>	01740 621259	07973 223275	<a href="mailto:treasurer.aycliffbka@gmail.com">treasurer.aycliffbka@gmail.com</a>
<b>Education</b>			
<b>Clare Midgley</b>	01325 308283	07515 644194	training.aycliffbka@gmail.com
<b>Equipment/Resources</b>			
<b>Stuart Fawcett</b>	01325 320236	07980 757426	stuartfawcett62@gmail.com
<b>Ian Sanderson</b>		07592 750402	ian.sanderson02@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Roger Chappel</b>	01325 315741	07905 190701	rogerchappel21@gmail.com
<b>Librarian</b>			
<b>Kim Templeton</b>		07732 786248	huggingtrees@live.co.uk
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>			
<b>Viv Williams</b>		07791 378222	viv.williams133@gmail.com
<b>Show Coordinator</b>			
<b>Cheryl Blakey</b>	01325 310811	07747 731202	cherylblakey@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Show Committee</b>			
<b>Ian Jones</b>	01325 311863	07961 755311	jones.ian17@sky.com
<b>Chris Barker</b>	01740 621259	07421 471581	<a href="mailto:Chrisjp.barker@gmail.com">Chrisjp.barker@gmail.com</a>
<b>Paul Grundy</b>		07745 746788	paulgrundy932@gmail.com

### SWARM COLLECTION

We have a number of members who have 'volunteered' to collect swarms but collectors should all be aware that swarms don't often hang about very long. For that reason it's important that collectors be easily contacted...if you are on the list please keep your phones active at all times during the swarming season.....May to July. If, for any reason, you aren't available (due to holidays etc.) please let Roger know. If anyone else would like to put their name down then that would be very much appreciated.....Many thanks