

Margaret Wilson's Positive Thinking October 2019

September was the month of Apimondia, this time in Montreal, Canada a lovely location> The city was clean, airy and the traffic so quiet it seemed a miracle, no speeding vehicles everything nice and calm, a pleasure to be there.

There were talks and lectures daily, in fact sometimes we were spoilt for choice. The best speaker was of course Tom Seeley, with the arena holding over 5000 seated members plus those standing at the back of hall.

His talk was on the Darwinian Theory, which is leave the bees alone do not treat for Varroa, the bees will learn to cope with the pest. He did give statistics, a loss at first then a good recovery. I guess it is up to us, which way we go but nature is a wonderful thing and I am sure that evolution would prove this to be the case, long before mankind took an interest.

The countries who attended were well represented, we could taste honeys from all parts of the world and their taste was certainly unique, had I been blindfolded, I would not have guessed some were honey at all, their taste was so different.

It was good to see that BB Wear won a prize for the most innovative item, their new bee suit which is impervious to stings from bees and Asian hornets and is ventilated so that the beekeeper does not get over heated on sunny days. It looks good and you can see the depth of the aero fabrics, it is ventilated so much that it would be easy to wear even on the hottest day.

Now, back to home territory whilst we were in Canada we received verification that we are now a CIO. (Charity Incorporated Organisation) this was timely, just before the end of our financial year which is great, but it also means that the accounts department are really pushed to get all the new bank accounts opened and all the stock transferred and the leases reassigned. I wish them luck with all they are having to face to get this in order before our year end.

The BBKA attends two major public shows each year and we know that there are other public shows across the country, some where they are organised by local associations and some where

there is no representative from the BBKA. In those areas would any of the local associations wish to be involved in showing how important our bees are to the world? We would welcome any application for assistance, these have to be for public shows, not just honey shows, as they are already attended by mainly beekeepers. What we want to do is to get through to the public in general the importance of bees and the need to control pesticides which are killing our pollinators. Would your association want to get involved, perhaps with the Gardeners World events or similar shows, I know that Tatton Park is covered very well by Cheshire and they win prizes each year for their displays, they do a marvellous job on their own account. I believe that Bath have a similar show which they cover to a high level would you like some help to do the same? I would welcome your call if this is something you would like to get involved in, please use my e mail address margaret.wilson@bbka.org.uk and let me have your details.

Office Telephones

We have had a move round in the office which means some extension numbers for staff have changed:

If you want to call the office the telephone number is 02476 696679

2001 - Sarah Laidler, management accounts,
sarah.laidler@bbka.org.uk

2002- Liz Leddy, general admin, liz.leddy@bbka.org.uk

2003- Sarah Snelson, exams, sarah.snelson@bbka.org.uk

2004, Michelle Walsh, sales accounts,
michelle.walsh@bbka.org.uk

2005, Leigh Sidaway, General Manager,
gen.manager@bbka.org.uk

2006, Claire Hartry, schools and website,
claire.hartry@bbka.org.uk

2007, Hema Simmonds, purchase accounts,
hema.simmonds@bbka.org.uk

We will be at the National Honey Show at Sandown Park Racecourse from 24th -26th October and will have several new educational publications including our new, spiral bound, waterproofed Healthy Hive Guide and a Special Issue - Making Mead. We will have a stand there where all of our publications will be available to browse or buy. The Exam Board will also be there to talk about the BBKA exams and the Correspondence Course. We look forward to meeting and talking to our members. And good luck to all those who are entering

I am sure that I do not need to remind members to make sure that their bees have enough stores for the winter, I leave mine with their own honey and this year it has been a good gravest but in other parts of the country I know this has not been the case, so please make sure that your little darlings have enough to get through the winter. The next time I will go into mine will be for the Varroa Treatment in December/January, but meanwhile I will of course check the weight of the hives to make sure that they still have stores.

We have not had as many sightings of the Asian Hornet this year, just four to date and we are all hoping that we are at least keeping the creature at bay, Jersey of course has been inundated but their volunteer searchers have managed to discover very many hives and they have all been destroyed. Last year they destroyed 55 hives, this year I believe the number is over 70 and with all the strong winds at the moment, it would not take much for others to drift across to our shores. We must continue to be vigilant to make sure that we do not get an influx of the hornets.

The 18th October is the last day for any propositions to be received at Stoneleigh, so if you have any excellent suggestions please get them in for discussion at the ADM in January, we will have some current trustees applying once again to continue their good work and of course some new trustees to get us back to the required number of twelve. We have managed this past year with only nine trustees and for some of us we have had the extra workload to cope with, so here is hoping that we get some excellent new applications to join us for 2020.

Our final Executive meeting before the ADM will be held on the 28th October, 2019, this is where we try to make sure that we have done all that was needed in the year and clear our desks for a very busy 2020.

Kind regards

Margaret Wilson.