

NEWSLETTER 33

AUTUMN 2011

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2



Spring inspection at the
Association Apiary



FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 7th November Inter Association Quiz 7.00 p.m. at The Bull Pen Cwmoarnant Farm, Reservoir Road, Tanerdy, Carmarthen. SA31 2EU Bring something for the buffet.

Monday 28th November 7.30 p.m. **Film about Bumble Bees.** New Stags Head.

Saturday 3rd December 6.00 p.m. **HONEY SHOW** Followed at 8.00p.m. by a **Buffet Barn Dance and Fancy Dress** The Big Barn, Cwmoarnant Farm, Reservoir Road, Tanerdy, Carmarthen. SA31 2EU Bring something for the buffet (Food and/or Drinks)

Letter from our President Maureen Macleod

Swarm Co-ordination, its ups and downs and another perspective on beekeeping.

Many years ago when I was involved with The Countryside Council For Wales, they asked me if I would advise them on the habits and habitats of wild bees wasps and insects and if necessary about honey bees. Carmarthen Council and various other Public bodies followed and I was glad to oblige. None of this had anything to do with the Carmarthen Beekeepers Association, but I did ask them if members would be interested in collecting swarms should they land near them thus I became the Association swarm co-ordinator, and many members have gained from this.

So should a swarm of bees land near you, and I know you have nuc boxes ready to go, and the knowledge of how to collect swarms in public places and on other people's property, I will phone and ask you to collect it. There is a general misunderstanding that I race about the countryside collecting swarms and making money from selling them. The truth is, as happened a few years ago, there were a lot of swarms about, I was able to give them to beginners free, to get them started. There are a few essential DO's and DON'T's of collecting swarms away from home. They must be put into the nuc box in the daylight, and collected after dark, so that every last bee is inside the box, leaving half the bees behind to cause trouble is not an option. Two trips to the site, not as easy as it sounds is it? Or as cheap, petrol being the price that it is now.

There is a responsibility to the public, after all you have a bee-suit and they don't. Some bees have to be destroyed if in an inaccessible place. And nearly 90% of calls are not bees at all but wasps which the caller will swear blind are bees to avoid the Council charge of £60 or more to come and destroy them. Until recently the Association had a fully qualified pest control officer and all council calls I passed on to him as he could charge accordingly, as amateurs we cannot do that. He was very good and taught me a lot about pest control, in return I helped him with his bees

When the phone call comes, you need to be there to answer, with time to talk and ask questions and find out quite carefully what the problem is. A time waster, an elderly person, someone you could persuade to be a conservationist and protect the garden invaders. There are a lot of different situations, and occasionally a swarm!

Each year has a different perspective and that's what makes it all so interesting. This year only two call outs for honey bees, but six calls from members having swarms arrive in their garden from elsewhere. That is great fun and all of these have been successfully boxed. Penny from the apiary sent me to near Tesco's in the rain, this was a small cast and has not progressed much in six weeks. The other via British Rail has done better, late at night but luckily quite low.

We have a younger member to take over when I'm done for, in training and very keen. A young farmer with huge experience in dealing with the public. That is very important and she has already been on one wild goose chase with me, and out to remove an advanced wasps nest in a boiler house.

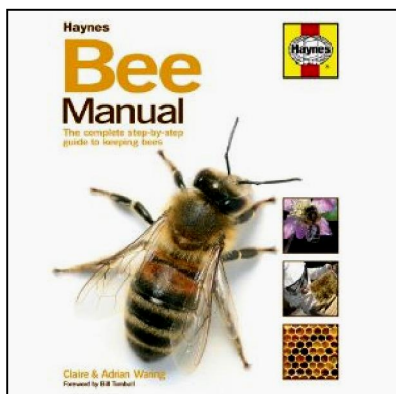
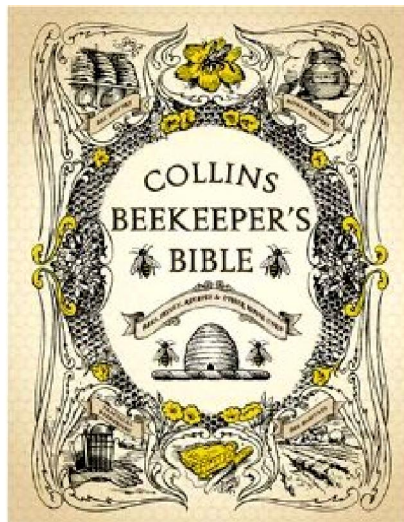
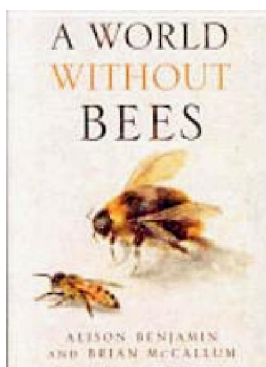
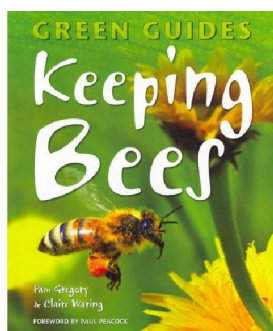
To those members who have phoned to ask if I will be able to teach again, not unless there is a cure for my Poly Myalgia which makes standing so difficult. But one member has asked if I would do the microscopy day, pollen identification in flowers and honey at their house sitting down, and I won't even have to drive. Later in the summer perhaps when we all have some honey.

I have also been asked if I would like to resign as President, I find this very strange as a president is a non working member, and its only just a title, a mark of respect perhaps to an older beekeeper usually not often seen at meetings. My remit was never a fancy title but to promote and teach a higher standard of beekeeping and thus improve the welfare and treatment of bees. And it is great that the Association is continuing along these lines. These offices are usually voted upon at the AGM and I think it would be best left until then, when things can be handled in a democratic manner. But when you consider the human condition it is strange and not very democratic overall, politicians worldwide are usually driven by kudos, ultra egos, power and other hidden agendas unlike the organization within a beehive, now that's democracy! I have just been given a book by T. D. Seeley called Honeybee Democracy. Read it if you can, there's a lot to be learned from bees.

A BEESWAX POLISH RECIPE

Beeswax polish is made by putting equal amounts of beeswax and turpentine in a container, with a lid to stop evaporation, and leaving it in a warm area where the wax will dissolve into the turpentine. It may take a few days to do this and can be speeded up by melting the wax in a metal container (perhaps a smaller saucepan) as described above and then moving it well away from the heat source and pouring in the turpentine and stirring. Pour it into the final container or tins and leave it to cool and set. Use only pure turpentine not turpentine substitute. Also take care as turpentine is flammable. Use a water bath, a container in another container with water. Wear protective clothing and ideally some gloves. Goggles or safety glasses are also a good idea in these days of health and safety legislation. Common sense and take care. Good Luck.

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY



The books above are available from the Association Library. Kathy Start brings the library to most meetings. Where you can sign in and have the book to read at your leisure. All we ask is that you return any borrowed books as soon as possible to allow other members the use of the service.

You can contact Kathy on 01267 237734

WANTED

For the Association's exhibitions at various venues a GAZEBO the type that you can put up quickly. Mine has developed serious material failure and looks a bit tatty on display to the public.

Also any spare books you may have on bees, wasps and beekeeping for the Association Library.

WATCH OUT FOR OLD YELLOW LEGS

You are requested to keep a look out for the Asian Hornet *Vespa velutina* now established in Northern France and possibly only a matter of time before crossing the channel to the UK

More information from

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm?pageid=208>



Swarm co-ordination update. Maureen Macleod.

Linda and Ricky Christie collected a swarm from Cwm pen graig.

Lloyd Thomas brought down a large swarm in Meidrim and the householders where Maureen sent him decided they wanted to keep it. That's never happened before!

Peter Kendall caught a swarm in a cardboard box and got Gillian Birdsall started with her Warre hive.

Maureen rescued a swarm from between a boarded up bedroom window and the frame on the inside in Meidrim.

Marie Gardiner rescued a cast that landed on the pavement in Travelers Rest.

Martin Hooper caught 12 swarms in the Burry Port area using bait hives charged with lemon grass oil.

Tom and Kelly caught a swarm in the wardrobe of their mobile home.

Hillary Baker got herself and others started by catching 7 swarms in St Clears.

Cathy Tansley rescued a swarm from a compost bin in Pembrey.

Many members had swarms arrive in their gardens, there were loads of swarms in the Kidwelly, Burry Port area also the St Clears and Meidrim areas, but none reported at all in the Brechfa area. There is a shortage of bees up there altogether.

Phone calls to the Secretary

Bees in a chimney in Burry Port, another one in a chimney in the Cross Hands area.

Katy Smith has bees in a barn in Whitland. Rachel Tarling had Bumble bees in a stable.

Emma Hipkiss had honeybees in a summer house.

Brenda Smith had bees in a hedge Llandyssul area.

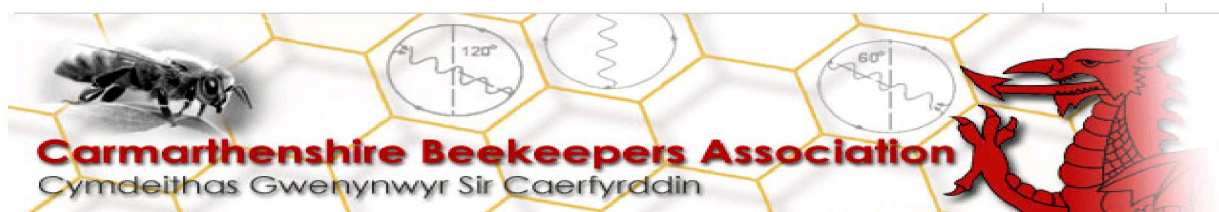
Petra Ann Corbett was given Maureen's Telephone number.

Sarah Collins had a client who had honey coming through the ceiling but she did not reply to my message at her office.

There were other calls mainly about Bumble Bees.

I collected a cast from Trevaughan from a water board inspection chamber but it was queen-less and was united with another small cast.

I only had four swarms this year. So I must be doing something right. Made quite a few Nucs and reared many queens but mating was very poor due to the bad summer weather again.



CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS WEBSITE www.carmarthenshirebeekeepers.org.uk
NEWS, CALENDER OF EVENTS, PHOTO GALLERY, LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES.

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association's committee. Whilst every effort is taken in compiling the contents to ensure they are correct and accurate the club assumes no responsibility for any effect from errors or omissions.

Editor / Hon. Sec. Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association **BRIAN JONES**. CWMBURY HONEY FARM
FERRYSIDE, CARMARTHENSHIRE TEL: 01267 267318 Email: beegeejay2003@yahoo.co.uk



John Greenleaf Whittier

Essex County's Famous Son

Whittier in Haverhill

A remarkable custom, brought from the Old Country, formerly prevailed in the rural districts of New England.

On the death of a member of the family, the bees were at once informed of the event, and their hives Dressed in mourning. This ceremonial was supposed to be necessary to prevent the swarms from leaving their hives and seeking a new home.

HERE is the place; right over the hill
Runs the path I took;
You can see the gap in the old wall still,
And the stepping-stones in the shallow brook.
There is the house, with the gate red-barred,
And the poplars tall;
And the barn's brown length, and the cattle-yard,
And the white horns tossing above the wall.
There are the beehives ranged in the sun;
And down by the brink
Of the brook are her poor flowers, weed-o'errun,
Pansy and daffodil, rose and pink.
A year has gone, as the tortoise goes,
Heavy and slow;
And the same rose blooms, and the same sun glows,
And the same brook sings of a year ago.
There's the same sweet clover-smell in the breeze;
And the June sun warm
Tangles his wings of fire in the trees,
Setting, as then, over Fernside farm.
I mind me how with a lover's care
From my Sunday coat
I brushed off the burrs, and smoothed my hair,
And cooled at the brookside my brow and throat.
Since we parted, a month had passed,--
To love, a year;
Down through the beeches I looked at last
On the little red gate and the well-sweep near.
I can see it all now,--the slantwise rain
Of light through the leaves,
The sundown's blaze on her window-pane,
The bloom of her roses under the eaves.
Just the same as a month before,--
The house and the trees,
The barn's brown gable, the vine by the door,--
Nothing changed but the hives of bees.
Before them, under the garden wall,

Forward and back,
Went drearily singing the chore-girl small,
Draping each hive with a shred of black.
Trembling, I listened: the summer sun
Had the chill of snow;
For I knew she was telling the bees of one
Gone on the journey we all must go.
Then I said to myself, "My Mary weeps
For the dead to-day;
Haply her blind old grandsire sleeps
The fret and the pain of his age away."
But her dog whined low; on the doorway sill,
With his cane to his chin,
The old man sat; and the chore-girl still
Sung to the bees stealing out and in.
And the song she was singing ever since
In my ear sounds on:--
"Stay at home, pretty bees, fly not hence!
Mistress Mary is dead and gone!"



"Went drearily singing the chore-girl small,"

From <http://sageparnassus.blogspot.com>

**SCHEDULE FOR THE HONEY SHOW 6.00 p.m. SATURDAY DECEMBER 4TH 2011
TO BE HELD AT THE BIG BARN THE APIARY CWMOARNANT FARM CAR-
MARTHEN SA31 2EU Map ref. SN 421215**

**There will be a Buffet and Barn Dance with Live music, after the honey show.
You are invited to attend in FANCY DRESS Bring the Kids. Please bring some-
thing to eat and drink for the buffet.**

A honey show just for fun. Everyone will be a judge. Give each entry a mark out of TEN Then work out who came first, second or third in each class.

Judge the honey on presentation, clarity taste etc. Any container will be allowed. Wines can be Red or White sweet or dry. Mead can also be sweet or dry.

Please hand in your judging sheet as soon as possible for the adjudicators to add up the marks.

ENTRY FEE 25p per entry You can enter more than one exhibit in each class.

Certificates for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Highly Recommended. Some cups for certain classes also the odd prize for special effort made with some exhibits..

There will also be a collection of foreign honey for you to taste. If you have any left over from holidays or find something unusual in the supermarket bring it along.

Class 11 LB JAR OF LIQUID HONEY DARK

Class 21 LB JAR OF LIQUID HONEY MEDIUM

Class 31 LB JAR OF LIQUID HONEY LIGHT

Class 41 LB JAR OF CREAMED HONEY

Class 5.....1 LB JAR OF GRANULATED HONEY

Class 6.....A CONTAINER OF CUT COMB

Class 7.....BEGINNERS HONEY CLASS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT
ENTERED A HONEY SHOW BEFORE

Class 8.....HONEY CAKE AS RECIPE BELOW (NOTE THIS IS A NEW RECIPE)

Class 9A BLOCK OF WAX. ANY SIZE (8oz is the usual standard)

Class 10.....FRAME SUITABLE FOR EXTRACTION

Class 11.....ANY ITEM FROM BEESWAX (CRAFT ITEM SUCH AS CANDLE ETC)

Class 12.....BOTTLE WINE RED, WHITE OR BOTTLE OF MEAD OR BEER
(CLEAR BOTTLE LABELLED with easily removed stoppers.)

Class 13.....PHOTOGRAPH BLACK AND WHITE OR COLOUR (Beekeeping
Theme)

Class 14.....CRAFT ITEM (A MODEL, A TOY, ETC, Beekeeping Theme)

Class 15.....ARTWORK (A PAINTING, DRAWING, ETC. BEEKEEPING THEME)

HONEY CAKE BBC JAMES MARTIN'S RECIPE FOR A RICH, MOIST HONEY CAKE.**INGREDIENTS**

170g/6oz clear honey
140g/5oz butter
85g/3oz light muscovado sugar
2 eggs, beaten
200g/7oz self raising flour, sieved
water

FOR THE ICING

55g/2oz icing sugar
1 tbsp clear honey
hot water

PREPARATION METHOD

Preheat oven to 180C/350F/Gas 3 and butter and line the bottom of a 7in/18cm cake tin. Measure the honey, butter and sugar into a large pan. Add a tablespoon of water and heat gently until melted.

Remove from the heat and mix in the eggs and flour.

Spoon into the cake tin and bake for 40-45 minutes until the cake is springy to the touch and shrinking slightly from the sides of the tin.

Cool slightly in the tin before turning out onto a wire rack.

While the cake is still warm, make the icing by mixing the sugar and honey together with 2-3 teaspoons of hot water. Trickle over the cake in whatever design takes your fancy.
GOOD LUCK.

ARTIFICIAL SWARM WITHOUT FINDING THE QUEEN

This article seems to be on many Associations newsletters and websites.

So many thanks to the original writer. Let me know who you are and we will acknowledge your valued information.

STEP 1 Move the parent stock with the queen cells to one side. In its place put a floor, then a queen excluder, a clean brood box with frames of drawn out comb or foundation. We will call this Box A.

STEP 2 Take out four of these combs and place them on one side so as to leave room for the shaken bees to go in.

STEP 3 Shake and brush all the bees from the parent stock into Box A with the exception of any combs containing Queen cells. These should be carefully brushed clear of bees. The shaken frames should be placed into another clean brood box (Which we will call Box B) in the order that they were removed from the parent stock, at the same time destroying queen cells as you go but retaining two good looking unsealed cells that we are going to use to raise into queens, If we can select two cells on two separate frames, so much the better, as it will save the bother of cutting out queen cells at a later time.

STEP 4 Mark the queen cells by placing drawing pins in the top bars directly above the cells.

STEP 5 Brush all the bees out of the old brood box so the old hive is now completely empty.

STEP 6 Fill up the Box A with the four frames of comb or foundation previously put to one side. On top of this new shaken swarm fit another queen excluder, then the supers.

STEP 7 Finally add Box B which contains the frames of brood from the parent stock from which we have just brushed the bees. Fit the cover board, add a feeder with sugar syrup and fit the roof.

What happens next ?

The nurse bees will go up to the brood in Box B within minutes and re-form the parent stock complete with the two Queen cells but no Queen. As this stock is isolated from the swarm and the old Queen by the supers and a queen excluder, the nurse bees are certain to take good care of the Queen cells.

In the bottom box, Box A, is the shaken swarm on new foundation with the old Queen and a queen excluder to prevent any attempt by the Queen and bees to abscond. We have food for the bees in the top and bottom boxes.

STEP 8 In four days time, we need to get to the shaken swarm in Box A. There is probably too much all at once but we have to put on one side the following:

The roof, the feeder, the cover board, Box B, the supers and the queen excluder which will then leave us with access to Box A.

STEP 9 Go through the shaken swarm in Box A to see if we can find the queen or signs of a queen (eggs) If we do, then we can remove the queen excluder we placed between the floor and the brood Box A. The bees will not now abscond having brood to take care of. If no queen or sign of a queen (eggs) is found in the swarm in Box A then give it one of the queen cells from the parent stock in Box B

STEP 10 Replace the queen excluder and supers.

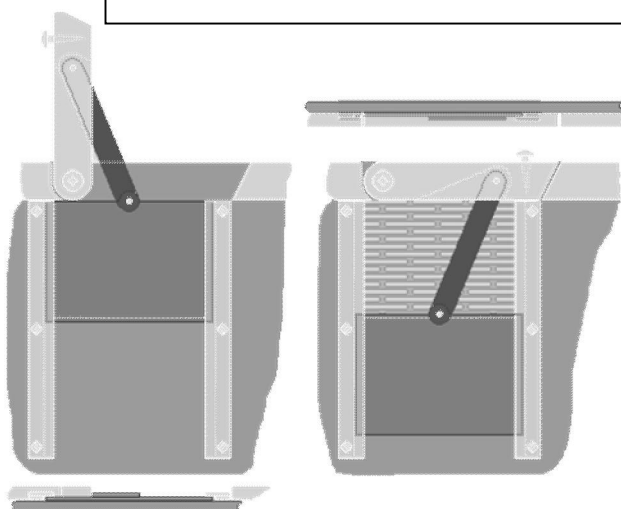
STEP 11 Now go into the parent stock, Box B (the one that was on top), and destroy one of the queen cells unless you are going to use it as in STEP 9. At the same time check the parent stock for new queen cells started in the last four days and destroy them. (Or you could use them to create other nucs). Only one Queen cell should be left in Box B.

STEP 12 The parent stock can now be separated from the swarm, with a ventilated board (Hoarsely board or Curry board) with the entrance to the rear, or moved to some other part of the apiary as another stock. Keep feeding the parent stock.

We should now have one swarm nicely secure and ready to get some honey as well as a nucleus that should produce a new Queen and make a good stock for next year.

THE HORSLEY BOARD MECHANISM

From Dave Cushman Website.



THE CURRY BOARD by T I Curry, Penrith.

Double Skin Screen Board with a flight entrance of 2". The gap between to 2 skins should be 0.5inch and a 9 inch square hole square should be cut should be cut out of the centre of each skin with the holes covered with perforated zinc. The gap is to prevent communication between the colony above the screen board and the colony below (described later) and the perforated zinc is to enable both colonies to have the same odour which facilitates the direct uniting as referred to in 3 above.

NAME THAT HIVE

As part of the John Hall legacy provided by the Welsh Beekeepers Association we are purchasing three beginners kits. The hives will be adopted by teams of beginners and run throughout the year by them. Rather than number the hives we thought it would be an idea to give them names, possibly Welsh and female, as the main occupants of the hives are female. We are therefore looking for names for at least six hives. Please send your nominations to Brian email beegeejay2003@yahoo.co.uk.

P.S. What about the welsh names for some of the bee forage in the county.

E.g. Clover—Mellion, Gorse— Eithin, Willow—Helygen. Etc.