



## **January NEWSLETTER 2017**

### **Ormskirk & Croston Beekeepers Branch**

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### **Schedule of Events for the Year**

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm	Church House, Church Street, Ormskirk L39 3RD	Graham Royle talking about the Asian Hornet
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm	Church House, Church Street, Ormskirk L39 3RD	John Goodwin talking about Wax
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm	Church House, Church Street, Ormskirk L39 3RD	Margaret Murdin talking about Communication in the Hive

### **Meetings**

**First of all, may I wish each and every one a very Happy New Year, may all your bees survive the winter and produce lots of honey without an Asian Hornet or other pest in sight.**

Last year whilst visiting a BKA branch in Cleveland, I read their latest newsletter which was quite good and covered quite a few topics, one was that they were to have a meeting where Cake Judging was the second item. This sounded interesting so I investigated further.

Like us they have a honey show each year, with sections for cakes, scones and biscuits, but every year they have a competition among members to determine which recipe they will use for the Honey Cake and Biscuits.

This 'tasting' usually follows on from a meeting, and everyone there has to judge which cake they like best, so the members have to come with an 'appetite' for all the goodies they are going to eat. When Cakes are judged in a show, a lot more than tasting takes place. There are marking sheets which would make your eyes water! We are just interested in the taste, so I thought it would be good if we could try that this year,



We have Graham Royle in January talking about the Asian Hornet with a question and answer session afterwards.

In February we have John Goodwin who will talk about Wax and will also give a session on showing your products at Honey Shows, (including cakes).



In March we have Margaret Murdin talking about Bee Behavior and it is at this meeting that we will have the Honey Cake and Biscuit Judging. I left this item to the last winter meeting, so that you could practice on your family to get the perfect cake recipe ready.

So if you are going to enter, please contact Barbara Roderick on [beebarb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:beebarb@hotmail.co.uk) as she has agreed to coordinate the entries. You will of course need whatever you have baked plus a printed recipe. We will provide serviettes and cutting implements and if your confection wins then your name will go with the recipe onto the Honey Show literature.

So get the family involved, it means a lot of cake tasting between now and March.

Margaret Wilson  
Chairman.

## Beebase and the Bee Inspector



Paul Barnes and I have been registered on Beebase for a number of years. The main communication from Beebase is an email now and again on advice, such as when bees are starving due to bad weather and lack of forage or a warning, as occurred when the Asian Hornet was discovered in September.

This year we received notification that our apiary was to be visited by a Seasonal Bee Inspector. We exchanged details by email and we were offered a day and time at our convenience. At the start of the visit the Inspector put us at ease and explained how the inspection would proceed and that particular emphasis would be on detecting for the Small Hive Beetle. He then proceeded to explain the background and details of the beetle and that it had been found in Italy in 2014 and each year since. Unfortunately although they treated and set up quarantine areas the last outbreak was 100km north of the initial protection zone. Contingency plans are in place, which include enhanced monitoring.

We started at the first hive and the Inspector removed the lid and checked to see if beetles could be seen running for cover under the lid or across the crown board. On removing the crown board he also checked the sides of the box and lugs. He then looked at the bees on the top of the frames to ascertain if they had any deformity or were behaving abnormally. Smoke was applied to the bees to see if they moved down between the frames. He mentioned that if they stayed at the top of the frames this may be an indication of Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus. Happily the bee obliged and moved down. Each frame was removed, the bees observed and then shaken off (holding the frame partly out of the hive and then with a quick downward movement coming to a sudden halt) so a brood inspection could be carried out. The Inspector explained how he was looking for any signs that this was not healthy brood. This involved checking to see if the larva were white and segmented, lying normal in the bottom of the cell. Capped brood was checked to see if any were sunken or had perforations and if the capping was removed the pupa was again healthy and with no varroa mites. Obviously American and European foul broods would be the main concern. Empty cells were also inspected for scale (associated with AFB and EFB) and varroa excrement. Varroa excrement was detected on the side wall. The Inspector also took the opportunity to view the floor to check any debris. All hives were similarly inspected.

All in all it was a very thorough inspection and it was delivered in a very relaxed and educational manner, which felt like a personal session on honey bee diseases and pests by a knowledgeable expert.

In conclusion, we would urge all members to register on Beebase and to welcome an inspection if you are contacted.

*If any member needs information on bee health, pests and diseases, please access the Animal and Plant Health Agency website Beebase on <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm>.*

*The web site has a number of leaflets and documents which can be accessed by the following link <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?pageid=167>.*

Paul Roberts  
Training.

## The Ninth Reindeer

Rudolph, “the most famous reindeer of all,” was born over a hundred years ago just after his eight flying counterparts. The red-nosed wonder was the creation of Robert L. May, a copywriter at the Montgomery Ward department store.



In 1939, May wrote a Christmas-themed story-poem to help bring holiday traffic into his store. Using a similar rhyme pattern to Moore's “'Twas the Night Before Christmas,” May told the story of Rudolph, a young reindeer who was teased by the other deer because of his large, glowing, red nose. But, When Christmas Eve turned foggy and Santa worried that he wouldn't be able to deliver gifts that night, the former outcast saved Christmas by leading the sleigh by the light of his red nose. Rudolph's message—that given the

opportunity, a liability can be turned into an asset—proved popular. Montgomery Ward sold almost two and a half million copies of the story in 1939. When it was reissued in 1946, the book sold over three and half million copies. Several years later, one of May's friends, Johnny Marks, wrote a short song based on Rudolph's story (1949). It was recorded by Gene Autry and sold over two million copies. Since then, the story has been translated into 25 languages and been

made into a television movie, narrated by Burl Ives, which has charmed audiences every year since 1964.

Rose Phillips, Country Member.