

Penrith and District Beekeepers Association
AGM Wednesday 1st February 2017.
Chairman's report.

Charitable status. 2016 was an important year in the history of Penrith Beekeepers. My report to the 2016 AGM noted that the Association's growth to nearly 70 full members reflected our higher profile and the range of services we provide. The 2016 AGM authorised the Committee to pursue the possibility of a change in the Association's status to one of a *Registered Charity as an Incorporated Organisation (CIO)*. This was felt to be desirable in part because of the growth in membership and services but also because all voluntary organisations are operating in an increasingly litigious climate. We achieved charitable status in November 2016, subject to ratification by the AGM 2017. This gives the Trustees of the new charity important protection. It also enables us to apply for grants and awards that are only available to registered charities. I must record the Association's debt to Clive Riches for his advice and Margaret for the huge amount of work in making a successful application to the Charities Commission.

Apiary. 2016 was a year of consolidation at the apiary. At open days the apiary managers, Richard Backhouse, Dennis Chambers and Rob McGarvie, provided essential hands-on practice and training for members new to beekeeping, as well as an opportunity for more experienced members to hone their skills. Dennis is retiring from his position as an apiary manager. From the arrival of the first colony he has played a pivotal role. I hope that Dennis will continue to take an active interest in the apiary and know that members will want to record their thanks for his time, hands-on expertise and enthusiasm.

In the 2017 season the Committee hopes that a larger number of experienced beekeepers will play a part in running the apiary. The colonies need to be monitored on a weekly basis and some tasks require more frequent visits, for example queen rearing. Volunteers will be very welcome!

Summer and winter programs. Copies of the summer program 2017 and the winter program 2016/7 are attached to this report. Apiary open days were well attended, as have been the winter meetings to date.

Education and publicity. With charitable status, education in beekeeping for non-beekeepers will continue to be important. The Association's involvement in short courses in primary schools and children's clubs has been successful and the Trustees are exploring the possibility of collaboration with lecturers and students at Newton Rigg College. An important educational priority is to develop skills in identifying bee diseases. The Trustees and apiary managers are considering how best to increase knowledge and understanding of bee diseases, together with skills in recognition and prevention.

Social program. We plan to repeat last year's experiment with a post-Christmas dinner. It is already clear that this will be well attended – a good opportunity to meet informally and discuss plans for the coming season.

And finally, the Association could not continue without the time that Trustees have put into making a success of Penrith and District Beekeepers Association, and the energy and commitment they have shown. Everyone has played their part but I want to thank in particular John Innerdale as Vice Chair, Secretaries Rebecca Ivinson (Minutes) and Terry Phillips (Communications,) the three Apiary managers mentioned above, Maire McGuinness for generously making space available at Greystoke Castle for Association equipment, and Margaret Riches. Margaret's meticulous attention to detail, combined with her entrepreneurial energy in winning grants for new equipment at the apiary have been inspirational.

Happy New year to everyone and best wishes for a successful season in 2017.

David Galloway

Chair.

11th January 2017.

Summer Programme 2016

Sunday 7th May 1:30-3:30pm	Branch Meeting Training Apiary, Acorn Bank, Temple Sowerby, CA10 1SP
Sunday 5th June 1:30-3:30pm	Branch Meeting Training Apiary, Acorn Bank, Temple Sowerby, CA10 1SP
Sunday 31 st July 1:30-3:30pm	Open Apiary Visit: Maire Maguinness Stone Barn Greystoke Castle CA11 0TF Tel: 017684 80940
Sunday 14 th August 1:30-3:30pm	Branch Meeting Training Apiary, Acorn Bank, Temple Sowerby, CA10 1SP
Sunday 4 th Sept. 1:30-3:30pm	Branch Meeting Training Apiary, Acorn Bank, Temple Sowerby, CA10 1SP
Sunday 11 th Sept. 1:30-3:30pm	' Taking a Closer Look at Pollen': Microscopy Course at Memorial Toppin Hall 9.30. – 4.30
9 th October	Apple Day & Tidying up at the Apiary – Details to follow. Acorn Bank, Temple Sowerby, CA10 1SP

Winter Programme 2016-2017

<p>Saturday 5th November</p>	<p>CBKA Honey Show : Newbiggin Village Hall Entrance fee £10 in advance £12 on the day : Times to be confirmed.</p>
<p>Sunday 27th November 2016</p>	<p>Presentation by Margaret Murdin. : Pollen and Beekeeping Margaret has been keeping bees for about 12 years and is a practical beekeeper who learnt her skills as a member of the Ormskirk and Croston Branch of the Lancashire Association. Margaret is a Master Beekeeper and holds the National Diploma in Beekeeping. She enjoys teaching all levels of beekeeping and gives talks and workshops all over the UK. She holds a degree in biological sciences and was principal of a Further and Higher Education College before retirement..Margaret is an examiner and assessor for the British Beekeepers Association and is currently Chair of the BBKA Trustees. 2.00.p.m. Langwathby Village Hall</p>
<p>Sunday 15th January 2017</p>	<p>New Year Lunch : £15 for 2 courses £18 for 3 courses <i>Menus have been circulated. E mail Margaret if you still need one:mr4cnr@gmail.com Closing date for booking: 6th Jan.</i> 12.30 for 1.00. The Queens Head, Tirrel CA10 2JF</p>
<p>Wednesday 1st February 2017</p>	<p>AGM : Followed by a presentation by Julia Hoggard, the recently appointed Seasonal Bee Inspector “An Inspector Calls” 7.00.p.m. Lowther Castle Inn. Hackthorpe CA10 2HX</p>
<p>Sunday 5th March 2017</p>	<p>Preparing for the new season: a demonstration and practical workshop focusing on strategies to reduce the risk of disease in your hives this season. Led by Dominic Rhodes 2.00p.m. Lazonby Village Hall CA10 1AQ</p>
<p>Sunday 19th March 9.00.-5.00.</p>	<p>Improver course: suitable for beekeepers with at least one season’s experience led by Julia Pigott Toppin Memorial Hall, Skelton Village , nr. Penrith £45 (£40 PBKA Members)</p>
<p>Sunday 2nd April 2017</p>	<p>The pros and cons of different bee hive designs. ‘ Presentation by Dominic Rhodes 2.00. p.m. Toppin Memorial Hall,, Skelton Village, nr Penrith.</p>
<p>Friday 7th April – Sunday 9th April 2017</p>	<p>Spring Convention at Harper Adams University, Newport Shropshire. Group transport will not be arranged for this event as some members now prefer to attend for the weekend. However, if you would like to go and would be prepared . or would prefer to share the transport with someone else, please let me know and I will try to co-ordinate it for you.</p>

