



# Support Lancaster's Honey Bees

Lancaster Beekeepers Leaflet No 20



Lancaster Beekeepers is a friendly and growing group of people dedicated to ensuring the survival of honey bees and other pollinator insects throughout North Lancashire.

Although Defra (*Department for the environment, food and rural affairs*) states that honey bees contribute some £600m annually to the economy through the pollination of crops, honey bee populations have been declining year on year for the last 25 years.

There are a number of reasons contributing to this situation. Changes in agricultural practices have eliminated many of the wild flowers and hedgerows that provide pollen and nectar, the essential foods for bees. The extensive use of pesticides, especially neonicotinoids, has killed off many colonies. The importation of foreign diseases and parasites, such as the *Varroa* mite which is now endemic, has caused large scale losses as has a succession of cold and wet Springs which has prevented many new queen bees from successfully mating.

## **We are fighting back!**

### **Training apiary**



We have created, and continue to develop, a purpose designed and built apiary on a 2.5 acre site, where we can breed honey bees which are healthy, docile and well suited to the local environment. This enables us to help local beekeepers improve their breeding stock and also supply new beekeepers with stocks of bees to avoid them having to import bees from outside of the area with the ever inherent risks of bringing in diseases and parasites.

Notwithstanding their importance to the economy, over 90% of all the UK's honey bees are maintained by some 45,000 hobbyist beekeepers. Our apiary provides us with an ideal venue for training new beekeepers. Throughout the year we provide a range of practical courses for new and developing beekeepers. We even have an annual Open Day where members of the public can come along, put on a bee suit and see inside an active hive.



## Pollinator patches

There is a desperate need to increase the amount of forage, that is pollen and nectar from wildflowers, if the numbers of honey bees are to start to increase. Our Pollinator Patch initiative sets out to do just that.

We actively encourage local communities and groups to identify patches of unkempt ground, including roadside verges, and provide them with advice on how to prepare it and what varieties of wildflowers would be most suitable to grow there.



Working with local business, Councils and landowners by 2015 we had created 20 Pollinator Patches and your contribution will enable us to continue this valuable work.



## **We would welcome your support!**

Help us by becoming a Supporter of Lancaster Beekeepers.

Supporter of Lancaster Beekeepers is open to anyone interested in supporting the survival of honey bees and other pollinators throughout North Lancashire. For a donation of £10.00 you will be able to attend our full programme of meetings with many excellent speakers and receive the Club's monthly newsletter. Supporter status does not confer voting rights.

As a Supporter of Lancaster Beekeepers you would also be entitled to join BBKA (British Beekeepers Association) as a Country Member at the discounted rate of £9.50. You would receive monthly copies of BBKA News which would ensure that you are kept up to date with all the national beekeeping news.

Lancaster Beekeepers Ltd is a registered Charity (No 1128919) and can reclaim the tax that you have paid on any subscriptions and donations if you are a tax payer. If you pay tax, please sign the Gift Aid declaration. It's worth at least an extra £2.50 for every Supporter.

Lancaster Beekeepers is a company limited by guarantee,  
registered in England No: 6845424 and  
a registered charity Registration No: 1128919  
Registered Office: High Tarn, Aughton, Lancaster, LA2 8LU

Lancaster Beekeepers is an Area Association  
of the British Beekeepers' Association

**[www.lancaster-beekeepers.org](http://www.lancaster-beekeepers.org)**

**SUPPORTER APPLICATION FORM**

I wish to become a Supporter of Lancaster Beekeepers.

Name:

Title:

Address

Post Code:

Telephone No

Email address:

**Class of memberships required: (please tick)**

Supporter of Lancaster beekeepers

10.00

BBKA Country Membership @£9.50

**Total**

Method of payment

Cheque/BACS/Cash  
(Please delete as appropriate)***Please quote your name as the  
payment reference to help us  
identify the payments.*****Bank details for BACS payment**Lancaster Beekeepers  
Account number – 00018416  
Sort code 40-52-40**Gift Aid** - Please treat my subscription past, present and future donations as a Gift Aid donation. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year as needed to pay the same amount or more of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax as all charities and CASCs will claim on my gifts in the current tax year and that I accept responsible for any tax shortfall

Signed:

Date:

I agree that my details may be included with those of other Club members in the Club Directories (please tick box)

Signed:

Date: