



# BURTON and District BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## *The Training Apiary is open! Dave Coates*

Good news about the training apiary!

As you all know, we have been talking for the last three years about creating a teaching apiary and all the trials and tribulations we have encountered along the way.

We now physically have an apiary on the ground that we can start to use. There are a couple of hives on site too.

The groundworks are complete as far as the roadway. Site levelling and compacted hardcore has been laid for the container and the building. The concrete for the building foundation and the slabbing will come later when we finalise its size.

We had the container delivered and it is now in place on site. The fence is completed and ensures the security of the apiary. (see photograph).

We held an Open Day at the Training Apiary on Saturday 1st August and around 23 members turned up to view what we have achieved.



*Visitors to the Training Apiary Open Day viewed the completed groundworks, fencing and storage container*

With the construction of the apiary well under way we need to think about the running of the site. Learning from the organisation of other apiaries in the Midlands that we have looked at, it would appear that the best system, and one that works, is to have different groups of people to look after the various tasks that need to be undertaken.

I am suggesting the following groups as an initial starting point:

# *The Training Apiary is Open! (continued)*

## 1. GROUNDWORKS

This group will look after the mowing and maintenance of the grass; any beds that we decide to plant that will need maintaining; planting with suitable flowers for forage or wild flower seeding.

## 2. THE SHOP

This group will open the shop twice a week, which has been suggested, and man it for these periods, more if we decide it is needed.

## 3. HIVE AND COLONY MAINTENANCE

This group will be responsible for all the hives and colonies on site; ensuring accurate records are kept and any manipulations that need to be carried out are undertaken. This will include any cleaning and sterilisation of hives or equipment that may be used. This group will also work alongside the education group to prepare hives and/or colonies so that the courses can be carried out.

## 4. EDUCATION GROUP

This group will be responsible for the organisation and planning of all courses or inspections that will take place in the apiary and work alongside the hive and colony maintenance group.

## 5. MAINTENANCE GROUP

This group will look after the general maintenance of the site, carrying out any repairs, painting, refurbishment or alterations that may be needed.

This is where you all come in. The teaching apiary is for the benefit of all our members. If you feel that you would like to get involved with this project, please let me know which of these groups you would like to be part of.

Remember, the idea of having groups is to spread the workload so that nobody will be expected to do more than they want to. This will make your involvement enjoyable and not a burden.



## ***Beekeeping Blogs***

There are many hundreds of beekeeping blogs on the internet. How do you know which ones are worth following, and which ones are not?

My suggestion would be that ones maintained by beginners are not so useful as those written by experienced beekeepers. Here are two of my favourites:

### ***honeybeesuite.com***

This is written by Rusty Burlew, who lives in the United States. Some of the methods are very different from ours here in the UK, but her enthusiasm for all types of bees shines through.

### ***theapiarist.org***

This blog is written by David Evans, a professor of virology who maintains apiaries connected with his research.

Both blogs are free to subscribe to. You receive emails at regular intervals which have links to the latest blog.

All previous articles are archived and you can search for them using the Search box.

They are invaluable tools to increase our understanding of these fascinating insects.



*Are you seeing grey bees? The lower of these two bees has grey pollen on her thorax. This is because she has visited the flowers of Himalayan balsam. She is sharing her nectar load with the upper receiving bee which has a normal black thorax.*

## ***To Do List for August***

- Remove surplus honey when capped and ready for extraction.
- Continue to monitor varroa mites and treat.
- Return emptied supers in the evenings for the bees to lick dry.
- If you have Himalayan balsam or heather moors nearby, plan how you will benefit from this late nectar flow.
- Think about how you are going to store empty supers over the winter, safe from vermin, bees and wax moths.
- Keep an eye out for Asian hornets.

# Who's Who

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