



BURTON and District BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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May 2018

Issue: No 7

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BURTON and District BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Asian Hornet Suspected but no clear evidence?



Call our AH co-ordinator

Hamish Low

Mob: 07770 281942 Landline: 01530481101

Hamish will organise a small team of Association members to come out immediately and to assist in firm identification and collection of evidence to present to NNS

Newsletter Editor: Penny Ward

E-mail: badbkanewsletter@gmail.com

Committee Members and contact details:-

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Vice President :	Bob Hurd pat_bob@talktalk.net
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Club Meeting Dates for your Diary 2018

Henhurst & District Recreational Club
Henhurst Hill,
Burton-On-Trent,
Staffordshire,
DE13 9TB



Events Programme : June 2018 - ~ August 2018

DATE	TOPIC
18th June	- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Talk
16th July	- Cooking Night
20th August	- Different Kinds of Honey



NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

At the last committee meeting it was suggested that I do a report for the Newsletter to let the Membership know what goes on at these meetings. After all we have been elected to look after the affairs of the Association.

First, a bit of background.

We meet about four times a year and certain members take it in turn to host the meeting. This has become a little difficult of late as, if there is a full turn-out, we number 13 plus Sarah Winfield who does a splendid job of taking the Minutes. But we manage, and the meeting is always rounded off with tea, coffee, biscuits and usually home made cake. The last meeting was hosted by Kathy & Kevin Shaw and as well as the usual preliminary items there was plenty to discuss - but the main items are as follows:-

- Our Treasurer, Sam Hampton, was able to report that our finances are in good order with almost £9K in the bank, of which just over half has been 'ring-fenced' for the Training Apiary Fund. He also reported the Association is now a Registered Charity (No. 1178268). This will be beneficial in fundraising in the future and Sam was thanked for his efforts in bringing this about.
- We have purchased a new gazebo complete with the Burton & District logo as the old one was 'past its sell-by date'.
- We also discuss in detail future Association Events - Farm Sunday, Alrewas Show etc. and how these events will be staffed and organised. (Please remember that you, as members, are always welcome to give a hand at these events).
- The proposed Training Apiary was discussed in detail and rightly so, as this is a big step forward for the Association. Basically we have agreed to go with Byrkley Park. They have welcomed us with open arms and, of course, prior to Cooper's Square, we held our Honey Show there for many years. We will enter into a Legal Agreement with them – necessary to protect our position. Dave Coates has already sketched-out his ideas of the layout of the Apiary and a sub-committee will now follow this up, with the aim of coming up with some budget costs.
- Swarm Control Day – It was agreed that this was a great success – and raised money for the Association. We plan to do something similar next year.
- It was agreed that Bob Hurd would be offered the position of Vice-President of the Association in recognition of his services to the Association of many years.

So that is a glimpse into the workings of your committee. Please remember that we are not a 'Secret Society', but there to serve the Association and if you as Members have any points to make – or items for discussion – please shout up.

Richard Matkin - Chairman



Events Feed back



April Meeting - Talk by Celia Davis

Not for the first time, Celia Davis came to share with our members her knowledge and considerable experience as a teacher and lecturer on Bees and Bee Keeping. Having kept bees since 1980, Celia has had a life-long interest in insects, and has written two books on the biology and behaviour of the honey bee . This time her chosen subject was an illustrated talk on the interactions between bees and flowering plants, and the importance of these to the environment as a whole, the talk ended with questions and answers feedback. Everyone who attended enjoyed her presentation and she was thanked by the committee in the usual way.

Mays Meeting - In house presentation by

Hamish Low on Hornet Traps , plus Video.

Hamish Low , who is now our Asian Hornet Action Coordinator, gave a demonstration on the construction of a home made hornet trap. As many of us are aware, the potential damage that can be caused by the Asian Hornet to not only our Honey bee population, but to all our pollinators, could be devastating. Vigilance and awareness in quick identification and removal of this pest is a priority in controlling it's spread across Britain. A detailed sheet of how to make a hornet trap can be found at:-

www.nationalbeeunit.com/downloadDocument.cfm?id=1056

Sams' presentation was followed by a short and interesting Video, on general bee keeping, honey harvesting and the importance of bees as pollinators.

Swarm Day - Day Training by Tony Harris

This was an interactive day event hosted by Burton & District Beekeepers Association and lead by Tony Harris, NDB. The Day was spilt between slide show presentation, open discussion, hands on activity and group learning. Tony covered topics such as selective breeding, recognising the stages of Queen and colony preparation for swarming and methods of swarm control. The day was well attended and over 6 different Associations were represented.



Useful websites:-

DAVE CUSHMAN

www.dave-cushman.net

ROGER PATTERSON

Honey recipes

www.honeyrecipes.org.uk

<https://bibba.com>

BEE CONNECTED

beeconnected.org.au

BEE BASE/NBU

www.nationalbeeunit.com

[https://
secure.fera.defra.gov.uk](https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk)

www.bee-craft.com

BURTON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

burtonbka.weebly.com

BBKA website

www.bbka.org.uk



Training Apiary Fundraising : Monthly Raffle.



As part of our ongoing fund raising we will now be holding a monthly raffle at our meetings. If you feel you are able to donate any items to the Raffle please bring them along to the meetings and pass them on to a member of the committee.

Tickets will be drawn at the end of each meeting.

Congratulations

Congratulations to
Victor Bridgett BBKA M1
and
Nigel Collier BBKA M3
for passing their modules in March



SUGAR for SYRUP

If anyone is needing Sugar for Syrup, please remember to contact Dave or bring food grade buckets, with lids and labelled with your name to the next meeting. Dave will fill them for you and let you know when and where to collect them from. The cost is £3 per bucket, all monies raised go towards Association Funds.



National Bee Inspector.

At the Spring convention, after speaking with Noel Parker, I volunteered my JCB Apiary as a Hive Beetle monitoring site for NBU. Noel came out to check all was currently clear and introduced me to the new Bee Inspector for our area, Mr Benjamin Bowen. Ben is based at Rodbaston and although not fully in post yet will be by the end of 2018. We wish him every success in his new post.

Education

BBKA Modules and Opportunities 2018

The Courses for this Novembers Exams have now started, if you are interested in attending any of the courses outlined below please contact Suzanne King or David Coates.

The basic assessment is purely practical with a question and answer section. With modules you will be asked to sit a one and a half hour written examination. If you wish you can just join the group course and not sit the examination, using the course purely as a learning tool to increase your beekeeping skills.

To take the basic assessment you will need to have kept bees for 12 Months, you will be given a date when to attend for assessment which will be carried out with an independent assessor and will last for approximately 1 hour.

The BBKA modules consist of the following subjects .

Module 1 Honeybee Management.

Module 2 Products and Forage

Module 3 Pests Diseases and poisoning

The courses are offered free, but if you wish to sit the exam there is a £30 fee to do so. Contact details for Suzanne and Dave are on page 2 of every newsletter. Or have a chat at the next meeting.



Education

Beekeeping Courses Course

Tutor: Margaret Cowley Margaret has been a beekeeper for over 30 years.

She has a Master of Science in entomology, is a qualified teacher and holds the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) Advanced Theory Certificate in Apiculture and the General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry. Margaret is also a Qualified Beekeeper, a BBKA examiner and for 12 years was Deputy Editor of Bee Craft journal.

Spring 2018 Saturday Mornings.

There are five places remaining on this course

Details: A 15-hour course running over five Saturday mornings.

Dates for 2018 : 1). 2nd June. 2). 9th June. 3). 16th June.
4) 23rd June. 5). 30th June.

Autumn 2018 Wednesday Mornings.

There are six places remaining on this course

Details: A 15-hour course running over five Wednesday mornings.

Dates for 2018 : 1) 1st August. 2) 8th August. 3) 15th August.
4) 22nd August. 5) 29th August.

Course Details Each course runs from 9:15am to 12:15 pm and the course fee is £120. The maximum group size is 8.

Venue: Three Roofs Apiary, Quarndon, Derbyshire.

The course includes both theory and practical work and follows the syllabus for the BBKA Basic Assessment in Apiculture. It will suit people who are thinking of taking up beekeeping or have already started. A set of course notes is provided and students will receive follow-up practical and email support.

Protective suits and veils will be provided.

**For more information and a booking form,
email bees@honeybee.org.uk**



The Spring Convention 2018



This year was my first visit to the spring convention. Not knowing quite what to expect, we booked our caravan in for an over night stay at Harpur Adams, purchased our day entry tickets and perused the wide variety of talks, classes, and lectures being advertised. These ranged from Quilt making and Hedge laying to Queen rearing and Entomology. It



seemed no stone in beekeeping had been left unturned! I settled for Queen rearing and First Time to the Heather, both subjects as I was keen to explore in the coming season. Upon arrival in the foyer we were immediately met with a hive of activity (pardon the pun) the convention was in full swing with the wax conversion stand trading old for new, people booking on courses & lectures etc. I did wonder if we should have taken time off work to

come earlier The one thing that did stand out was how friendly and helpful everyone was. We soon found our way round, everything was well sign posted and the complex was not as big as I had imagined. The next step was the Trade & Exhibition hall. Again, there was little the beekeeper could not want, that wasn't displayed somewhere! As a hobby bee keeper, there seems so much you can buy, the question I had to keep asking myself was ...

“Do I **really** need to buy this”?

I kept this in mind through out the day or I think my purse strings would certainly have been stretched!

Purchases made (essential ones only of course!)

I went on to enjoy the two courses I had booked and soak up the event atmosphere. People catching up, some engaged in serious deep and meaningful conversations, adverts for everything bee related, free samples, new ideas, bargain offers, all punctuated with a cuppa & cake in the café. It was a packed full weekend, where everyone was more than happy to talk bees! Shall I go again next year? Most definitely,only I'll be saving up and choosing carefully what my weekend will hold.





BEES IN A COMPOST BIN



Some time in the Autumn last year I was called out by a gentleman in Willington who suspected that he had a bees nest in his compost bin.

There was no doubt that he had, as honey bees were going in-and-out of the bin through a small ventilation hole. I explained that there was nothing we could do at that time of year, but if they survived the winter, I would return in the Spring to have a go at removing them.

So, a few weeks ago, assisted by Bob Hurd – a good man for a difficult job – we set out to remove them.

It was obviously a very busy colony, bees coming-and-going loaded with pollen, and thankfully, as it turned out, they were very good tempered in spite of what we put them through.

After emptying the compost out of the bottom of the bin, we very gently removed the lid to reveal a superb nest hanging from the underside of the lid.

We placed a floor and an empty brood box on top of the bin, placed the lid on top with the comb hanging down into the box and covered the whole lot in polythene as it had started to rain.



By the following evening the bees had got used to the new situation and I was able to bring the brood box and lid back home.

We let them settle for a few days and then-again assisted by Bob- we very gently cut out sheets of comb, some of which were full of sealed brood and larvae, and fastened the comb into empty frames with string and placed them into the brood box. Gradually this was repeated until the brood box was full, but we also put in a frame of food and some foundation.

The question was, had the queen survived?

Well I am happy to report that at the time of writing not only have I seen eggs and larvae but there are two supers on what has turned out to be a very good colony. One amusing thing was that they did not like the string, which they chewed into pieces and threw out!

So, will I get a crop of honey from this colony? Watch this space.

By Richard Matkin



Training Apiary Update

Development and planning for our Association Training Apiary is underway by the committee. Now that our application for Charitable status has been approved, many avenues of funding support through grants will become available and members of the committee are looking at securing match funding through grants to boost the funds raised by ourselves. As an Association we need a training apiary that, where possible, meet the needs of all our members and the planning stage is where to find out what you, our members, feel would make it the valuable asset we are wanting it to become. For this we need your feed back, opinions and suggestions both for and against what we should plan for.

How many hives should we have? What facilities for exams? What hands on beekeeping sessions would be useful for example:- Grafting days. Apidae work shops, hands on Varroa management, Hornet trap making etc. Knowing what our members would like to help support them to get the most out of their beekeeping will enable us to provide an apiary that will be both useful and well used.

One of the newest members of your committee, Nigel Collier is on both the Training Apiary subcommittee and the Funding Team. He has been tasked with gathering membership feedback and would like to ask you what you want from a training apiary. What would you want to be included and what the committee can do to help you with your beekeeping once the training apiary is set up.

As Nigel says...

“It's alright for the committee to have ideas but this training apiary is for the members when all said and done.”

This is your chance to have your voice heard and to make sure the Training Apiary is beneficial for everyone. Please, don't leave giving feedback to others members, we want as many members as possible to be a part of this project to ensure, where possible, everyone's needs are met.

Please send any suggestions to ncollier@templebees.co.uk.