



# BURTON and District BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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May 2018

Issue: No 7

## It Ain't Half Hot Mum!!

It has been, what some consider, one of the best summers on record, and for sun worshippers that may be true, Many beekeepers too have had a bumper spring harvest. Wasps have also had a good year and reports of large numbers of nests have been received, (although it seems that for now, the wasps are not being too much of a problem to our bees). However, with the long cold spring and now the dry heat, fruit trees have struggled to produce much fruit so there will be a considerable lack of it for wasps his autumn, our hives may soon come under threat from hungry, robbing wasps so be vigilant in the apiary, a wasp trap situated a little way away and time spent sitting and watching your bees will let you know if they are under threat.

With the dry weather, gardens, hedgerows and wastelands have struggled to produce their usual abundance of flowers. Willowherb has wilted, clover has quickly turned brown, thank goodness the Himalayan balsam, growing in damp areas as it does, seems to have survived the drought fairly well. The lack of water has also taken it's toll on ponds and wetland areas, do make sure your bees still have their water supplies and can keep their hives cool in the hot weather. I myself had planned to take my bees to the Heather, but 3 large wildfires on our local moors has made me rethink my plans for this year.

The lack of flowers also means a lack of nectar, and the dry weather has compromised the summer flow. Usually at this time of year bees can happily harvest enough to keep a colony going and make a good start towards winter stores, so please do check your colonies and be sure they have enough as hungry bees now will mean weak colonies going into winter.

**And when you know your bees are happy,  
sit back and enjoy the sunshine too!**

## Committee Members and contact details:-

<b>Club President :</b>	<b>Ken Logue</b>
<b>Vice President :</b>	<b>Bob Hurd pat_bob@talktalk.net</b>
<b>Chairperson:</b>	<b>Richard Matkin 01283 812958</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>David Coates 01283 713603</b>
<b>Membership &amp; Honey Show Secretary:</b>	<b>Cath Ambler 07973 369888 cath.ambler @gmail.com</b>
<b>Treasurer :</b>	<b>Sam Hampton sam.hampton@btinternet.com</b>
<b>Education /Training :</b>	<b>Suzanne King suzanne.king21@btinternet.com</b>
<b>Website Manager :</b>	<b>Alan Ambler <a href="http://burtonbka.org.uk">http://burtonbka.org.uk</a> susan_coates@talktalk.net smpirie@hotmail.co.uk</b>
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### Club Meeting Dates for your Diary 2018

**Henhurst & District Recreational Club**

**Henhurst Hill,  
Burton-On-Trent,  
Staffordshire,  
DE13 9TB**



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### Events Programme : August 2018 - October 2018

#### **DATE                          TOPIC**

**20th August - Different Kinds of Honey**

**17th September - Topic to be decided**

**15th October - Topic to be decided**



## NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

Our last Committee Meeting was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July and was very kindly hosted by Sheila Pirie at her home in Stapenhill. We had almost a full turn out of Members in spite of the problems caused by the Trent Bridge! The main items we discussed were as follows:-

Treasurer. Sam reported that Association finances remain in good order with certain funds 'ring fenced' for the proposed Training Apiary

There were reports on Farm Sunday and Barton Show where we had a stall and display. Arrangements were discussed in detail for Alrewas, Ashby and Ashbourne Shows and Winshill Fete. It was agreed that we should encourage as many members as possible to help out at these events.

Henhurst Club. Dave explained that the Club, where of course we hold our monthly meeting, was in some difficulties. As one of the 'users' of the Club we had agreed to help out with a clean up and at an Open Day.

Teaching Apiary. Legal discussions are on-going with Byrkley Park but we are also in discussion with Paget School where they have a 'community farm' which may prove to be a better option. There is also a possibility of an isolation apiary site at the RSPCA in Stretton. A Safeguarding Policy will be needed.

Cath Ambler stated that she wished to stand down as Membership Secretary after the next AGM. All agreed that Cath has done an excellent job and that efforts would be made to find someone to replace her-not necessarily from the committee-as soon as possible so that they could work alongside Cath in a handover period.

Cooking Night was discussed in detail

Sheila was thanked for her hospitality and the excellent cakes and tea which rounded off the meeting.

Richard Matkin-Chairman



## Henhurst Recreation Club Open Day - 22nd July 2018



All groups and organisations who used the Henhurst Recreation club were invited to take part in their open day event. Burton Beekeepers supported this event, with a stall selling jars of honey, bees wax polish, and candles. We also provided both the display hive, and a full comb of capped honey which proved to be major attractions. Alongside this we displayed posters and leaflets on bees, beekeeping and the Asian Hornet threat.

Dave Coates and volunteers who were happy to talk about bees and bee keeping to the general public manned the stall for the day.



## Events Feed back

### Julys Meeting - Cooking with Honey.



This was a fun evening enjoyed by all who were present and thanks must go to Dave, Cath, Suzanne, Pam and Shelia, our in house cooks, for making the evening a great success with cooking demonstrations, tips and advice and most popular of all, the tasting session at the end of the demonstrations. Recipes were handed out on the night to those present, but for anyone who was unable to attend and would like the recipes used, please see pages 10 & 11 of this newsletter for a copy of our first 3 recipes used during the evening.

(More recipes to be included in our next newsletter.)

### Winshill Fete - 5th August 2018

Members of the committee attended Winshill Fete with a display stand, display hive and information boards for members of the public to discuss and learn more about beekeeping. They also had a clear display board detailing the dangers from the Asian hornet to our indigenous pollinators. The day was quite, but as an association we were paid £100 for our attendance at the event.



## Summer talks and displays



The club now owns it's own gazebo which will be used for our stalls and displays at fetes, fayres and shows around and about during the summer months. It is easy to put up and has already been used at Farm Sunday, Ashby show and Barton show.

The next planned event is :-    Ashbourne Show 18th August 2018  
*If you are happy to volunteer to support and help man stalls at any events please contact any member of the committee.*

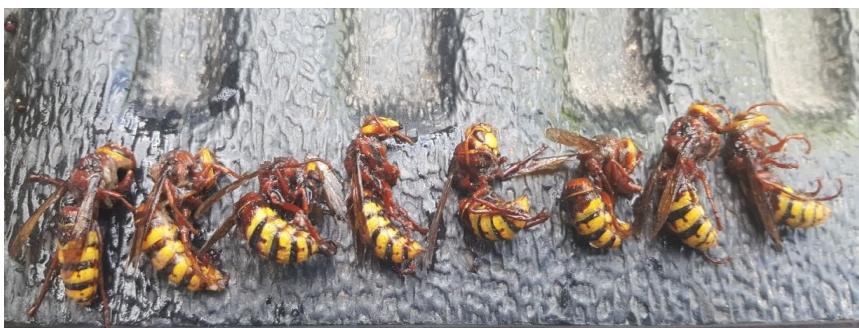
### SUGAR for SYRUP

We have now banked £530.00p towards the training apiary funds from our sugar "collect & supply" service. Dave Coates and Alan Ambler currently have approx. 1200 kilos in stock and are always happy to take orders. If you would like to buy some sugar for autumn feeding, please supply a 10 kilo food grade bucket , which they will be happy fill and arrange return of for just £3.

## Being an NBU Sentinel Apiary

I have now agreed to my JCB Apiary becoming a full sentinel apiary for the NBU due to it's close proximity to Alton Towers. My role involves monitoring for signs of Hive Beetle, using traps and regularly checking the hive . I will also submit a twice yearly collection of 2 weeks worth of all hive debris and forward it to the NBU for examination purposes. In addition to this, I have been issued a hornet trap and bait for the Asian Hornet. No signs of this unwelcome pest yet, however, it has proved very effective in capturing and reducing the numbers of both wasps and European hornets at the apiary.

First 2 days of use it captured 8 hornets!.



## Education

# **Skep Making Course**

**Saturday 29th September 2018**

**9.30am - 4.00pm**

**At**

**Hilton Green, Hilton Lane, Essington. WV11 2BG**

**£60 per person**

**Lunch Included**

**Free Car parking**

**This one day course, run by experienced tutor Dave Knowles, who will cover everything needed to create your own traditional straw skep. The skep will either have a flat or curved top and will be created out of traditional materials and tools (with a modern twist!). Book your place now to avoid disappointment.**

**Skep Making Course Hilton Green is as accessible as possible. We welcome assistance dogs and well behaved dogs on leads. Parking is available on site.**

**For more information:-**

**01922 417770 07525 120117 / [forestofmercia@mail.com](mailto:forestofmercia@mail.com)**



## Education

### Update on BBKA Modules



**Module 3** is being run by Suzanne King and approximately half way through the syllabus there is still time to join the study group and plenty of time to catch up.

**Module 2** is being run by Dave Coates and will be starting a more intensive group meeting probably fortnightly - again not too late to join.

Alan Ambler, our webmaster, has put lots of brilliant resources on the module study pages of our association website to help those studying. Please contact Alan for a pass code to access the Study pages on our website.

Exams are to be held in November 2018 and March 2019 , all exams for modules will be held the same day.



## BEES IN A COMPOST BIN

### Part TWO

Having successfully transferred that amazing nest out of a compost bin in Willington into a hive at home, (as reported in the last Newsletter,) I could not wait to see how they would settle in and if they would produce a crop of honey. Well I am happy to report that the supers I mentioned have been well filled, and the frame I am pictured with is just one of many from this colony.

I am not the greatest at keeping records of the weight of honey from each hive, but I reckon I have had at least 40/50 lbs from this hive alone!

What a season this has been. One of the best for some time, and speaking to other members I know I am not alone.

Although the gardens and lawns have suffered in this heat, it has surely been a great season for Solar Wax Extractors. Mine has worked overtime!





## HONEY SHOW

Well I think that for most people it has been an exceptional season for honey. With all that lovely honey (and wax) you have collected this season don't forget we have the Honey Show in September. It is by request of you, the members, that the Honey Show will be a little later this year, and is to be held on Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd of September, so you have plenty of time to prepare for it.

THIS YEAR I'M HOPING THAT A LOT MORE OF YOU WILL  
ENTER AND MAKE IT A RECORD ENTRY YEAR!!

It's fun! There is nothing to be afraid of. Everyone can enter, there are novice classes for beginners, but **beginners** can also enter any of the other classes too. Don't make the mistake of not entering because you think your Honey is not as good as so 'n' so's it is every bit as good as the next persons, there are lots of classes you can enter, from baking a cake, making candles, Novelty class, something to catch the Imagination. Look at the schedule it gives more detail. If you have any questions regarding the show, please ask me I will help you all I can.

Also, regarding the Honey Show I'm looking for someone to "Steward" at the Show, it involves following the judge around, cleaning his honey dippers etc, informing him of duplicate entries in a class, keeping me informed of class winners (which are numerical rather than names) it's fun and you can learn an awful lot from listening to the judge. if you are interested please email me at [cath.ambler@gmail.com](mailto:cath.ambler@gmail.com)

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

As a lot of you are aware I'm giving up the post of Membership Secretary at the next AGM (January 2019). So, the club is looking for a new membership secretary, if anyone in the membership is interested in taking on the post I'm more than willing to work with them between now and the AGM to ease them into the position.

What does it entail I hear you ask....? Well ideally it would suit someone who understands Excel and is comfortable using it. (I manage and don't really understand Excel that well).

Basically, it entails keeping a record of the membership on a data base of which each member also has access and control over their own personal details, as Membership Secretary you have access to all areas. The information is used to keep an Excel spread sheet of information needed for BDI (Bee Disease Insurance) which must be submitted twice a year to the BDI who then issue an invoice for the Treasurer to pay. Similarly, an Excel Spread sheet is kept with information needed by the BBKA for capitation, again this is submitted twice yearly.

If anyone is interested and would like to ask questions, please get in touch with me via email at [cath.ambler@gmail.com](mailto:cath.ambler@gmail.com)





## Barton Show Report by Suzanne King

Back in June when the hot weather was still a novelty, Shella Pirie and I represented Burton and District Beekeepers with a stall at the Barton Show.

It opened at 1pm, so we had the morning to set up the excellent new gazebo and display the wares and various aspects of beekeeping and bees. One of my hives (sentimentally named hive 3) had a rude awakening, when I stole in at 8am to remove a brood frame with stores and bees and the queen to be transported in Richard Matkins' observation hive. This is the third time I have attended, and our now, hopefully established site, in the church yard is ideally situated. Sounds morbid? Not at all. It is the heart of the action, where there is a steady stream of families who invariably stop to have a look at the bees.

The Barton show is a delightful day for families as they run special 'teddy bear' activities including getting a passport, (much more efficient than in real life!), a health check and then all sorts of sporting activities - a trebuchet, rocketing up the church tower, boat races, all great fun. If only I'd discovered the show 15 years ago.



At the stall we are amongst all the activities and the queue for the passport office (for real authenticity only) comes right in front of our stall.

Sheila and I spent virtually the whole afternoon talking to all sorts of children and adults about bees, honey, wax, stings, and the environment. We had a display board about the dreaded Asian hornet and had many discussions about this too. I was a little surprised to find that the majority of

the general public were not aware of the Asian hornet threat. But hopefully a few more people are now informed, and may spread the word, and importantly be on the lookout.

We were able to sell honey and wax and I now feel fully trained in product placement thanks to Sheila! It was interesting to see which honey people would select to buy. Often they are looking for honey local to them and told US about it helping hay fever. We don't mind. I did notice that the half pound jars sold very well. Partly because it doesn't seem to be such a big investment, but I'm sure also so that they don't have to carry such a heavy weight around the rest of the day. Note to self to order some half pound jars next year!

You'd never make a huge profit by honey and wax sales at the shows, but the interactions and information exchange is invaluable. Indeed it was lovely giving out bee themed word searches and bee postcards for the children to colour in, and the various information leaflets on supporting pollinators, and beekeeping to the adults!

My bees performed well, the queen continuing to lay all day - 'ooh! she's at it again!'. I was like the proud mother! But my first job when I got home was to pull on my bee suit and put those bees and that hardworking queen back into hive 3. I can report she is still doing well.

There are several more shows that the Burton and District Beekeepers will attend this summer. If you happen to go, come and say hello, or even better come the other side of the display and chat to the general public for a while!

## Recipes from Julys Cookery meeting.

### Honey Carrot Bars.

**Ingredients:**

Brown Sugar	5.08 oz /163g
Honey	2fl oz /60ml
Vegetable Oil	4 fl oz/120ml
Flour	1tsp/5ml
Salt	1/4 tsp / 1.25ml
Cinnamon	3tsp/15ml
Nutmeg	1tsp/5ml
Grated Carrots	6oz/ 173g
Chopped walnuts	2.3oz/65g
Desiccated Coconut	1.5oz/43g
Eggs	2 medium

**Method:**

- Preheat oven to 350F 180C. Grease a 9" X 13" baking tin/pan.
- Beat eggs in a large bowl until light and fluffy.
- Slowly add brown sugar and honey to the eggs and continue to beat mixture.
- In a separate bowl, mix the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon & nutmeg together
- Alternate the addition of flour mixture and vegetable oil to the wet ingredients mixing after each addition. To create a batter.
- Fold the carrots, walnuts and coconut into the batter
- Pour the batter into the baking tin, spread the mixture evenly
- Bake for approx. 20 minutes
- When cool, spread with cream cheese frosting. ( as below)

### Cream Cheese Frosting.

**Ingredients:**

Cream Cheese	70z/189g
Butter	40z/114g
Honey	2 tbs/30ml
Icing Sugar	5.3oz/150g
Vanilla	2tsp/10ml
Salt	1/4tsp/1.25ml

**Method:**

- Soften cream cheese and butter by bringing to room temperature and beat together in a large bowl
- Add honey, salt and vanilla to the mixture and blend in
- Slowly mix in the icing sugar a little at a time
- Adjust the consistency of the frosting by adding more icing sugar to thicken the mixture or little milk to make it thinner. Chill in fridge to set.

## Recipes from Julys Cookery meeting.

### Honey Barbecue Meatloaf Recipe

**Ingredients:**

1lb	lean minced beef
1/2 cup / 125g	bread crumbs
1tbs	Worcestershire sauce (plus 2 tsp for BBQ sauce)
1tbs	Dijon Mustard
2tbs	Smoky BBQ sauce
1tbs	Honey
1/2 tsp	Salt
1/2 tsp	Black pepper

**Method: Serves 4**

- Preheat oven to 350F / 180C
- In a large bowl, use your hands to mix together 1lb mince beef, breadcrumbs, mustard, salt, pepper BBQ sauce and 1 tbs. Worcestershire sauce. Do not over work the meat.
- Shape the mixture into a long, thick log shape and place on an oiled baking dish , be careful not to pack the meat too tightly or you'll end up with a very dense, tough loaf.
- In a small bowl, whisk together the remaining 1 tbs BBQ sauce, the 2 tsp of Worcestershire sauce and the honey,.
- Spread evenly over the meatloaf and bake for 45 mins. Slice and Serve.

### Demerara Biscuits

**Ingredients:**

225g	Plain flour
175 g	Butter
150 g	Demerara Sugar
Pinch of Salt.	

**Method:**

- Preheat oven to 325F/ 160C ( 140C for fan oven)
- Sieve flour and salt into a bowl
- Cream the butter till soft, then add 100g of the sugar and beat until light and fluffy
- Blend in the flour and work until smooth
- Divide mixture into 2 equal pieces and roll out into 2 dough sausage shapes 15cm long,
- Roll sausages in the remaining sugar , then wrap in clingfilm and chill until firm.
- Grease 2 baking sheets, cut dough rolls into 16 slices each to make biscuits and bake for 20 min or until sugar on edges is a pale golden colour
- Leave to cool on a wire rack