



BURTON and District BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Developments at our Training Apiary

Suzanne King reports:

Whilst Covid19 has been raging around the world preventing us all from living our usual lives, members have been busy at the new training apiary.

We are fortunate that the RSPCA have been so welcoming, and generous in allowing us to plant to our hearts' content.

At the end of September we prepared part of the field adjacent to the apiary in order to sow wildflower meadow seeds.

As a test piece, we set out a 600 m² area of the field, which is currently mostly rough grass. We are lucky that Sam, our association treasurer, has some very useful machinery. (see photo right). Not only that, he is only too happy to help out when he can. Sam cut the area twice, then scarified. All the grass cuttings were removed in order to reduce the fertility of the area.

Those of you on Facebook may have seen posts from Flowerscapes, and in particular Karin Alton. Their company produces gorgeous mixes of flower seeds including a native wildflower meadow mix.



The owners have a good background in bees and seeds, Karin being a lecturer in entomology at Sussex University and Steve Alton having previously worked at Kew on the millennium seed bank and as a deputy editor of *Bee Craft*. This was the company we wanted to use for our meadow.

We spent a beautiful afternoon mowing again, rescarifying, and then sowing our precious seed. Now we wait! Hopefully the result will be something like the photo overleaf!

Recently we have been excited at frosty mornings which will help our seed to germinate in the spring.

It is emphasised that meadows aren't made in one season. Natural wildflower meadows have established over hundreds of years, so please don't expect too much in the first year - it will improve

year on year. We hope to expand the wildflower meadow to the whole field for our apiary bees, other pollinators, insects and other wildlife to utilise and all of us humans to enjoy. We plan to cut walk ways through the meadow so that all users can enjoy being in the thick of it.

This project has been enabled by a generous grant from South Staffordshire Water's Pebble Fund. This will also help fund some fruit trees for the apiary and some of the hives.

Alongside this we have been preparing flower beds in the apiary itself, sowing more seed and putting in a few plants.

I was cheeky and lucky enough to purloin an old tennis windbreak from my tennis club (Church Broughton – I feel I should give them a plug for their generosity) to screen the hives from the nearby footpath. This means the bees will fly up, rather than into nearby walkers.

Currently we are sourcing fruit trees to plant in the apiary this autumn and are also planning a dry composting toilet! I feel I've learnt a lot this year, not just about honey bees or Covid19.

We hope that come next season our training apiary will be well on the way to being an excellent resource for the association.



For Sale:

- New unused transparent polycarbonate crownboard with feed hole for a WBC hive. £15 collect from Quarndon, Derby. 01332 556227

To Do List for November

- Protect your beehives against strong winds and large mammals.
- Make sure mice cannot get into over-wintering hives by using mouseguards or entrance blocks with shallow openings eg, 8 mm high.
- Protect your hives against green woodpeckers with chicken wire or greenhouse shading.
- Check that there are sufficient stores during this mild weather. Provide fondant if needed.

Items available to buy from the association shop:

HIVE PARTS:	
NATIONAL SUPER FLAT PACK	£19.50
NATIONAL BROOD FLAT PACK	£24
14 X 12 BROOD FLAT PACK	£35
4" ROOF FLAT PACK	£36
CROWN BOARD	£13.50
FRAMED WIRE QUEEN EXCLUDER	£18
MESH FLOOR	£32
BUDGET OPEN MESH FLOOR	£16
SLOPING HIVE STAND	£27
PLASTIC NARROW ENDS	£6.50
NUCLEUS HIVE	£82.85
FLAT PACK HIVE, STAND & ONE SUPER	£235
10 SPACE CASTELLATIONS (PAIR)	£3.44
11 SPACE CASTELLATIONS (PAIR)	£3.44
STEEL FRAME RUNNERS – PAIR	£1.60

FRAMES & WAX:

SN4 SUPER FRAMES 10 PACK	£10
SN4 SUPER FRAMES 50 PACK	£33.00
DN4 BROOD FRAMES 10 PACK	£10.00
DN4 BROOD FRAMES 50 PACK	£33.00
14 X 12 BROOD FRAMES 10 PACK	£16.24
SUPER WAX FOUNDATION 10 PACK	£8.00
BROOD WAX FOUNDATION 10 PACK	£11.50
14 X 12 BROOD WAX 10 PACK	£18.00
NATIONAL DUMMY BOARD (PLASTIC)	£7.50
NATIONAL DUMMY BOARD (WOOD)	£7.00

QUEEN MARKING:

CROWN OF THORNS	£6.00
QUEEN CLIP	£4.50
MARKER PENS - ASSORTED COLOURS	£5.00
BEE BRUSH	£4.00

FEEDERS & FEEDING:

ENGLISH FEEDER	£9.50
RAPID FEEDER	£4.50

NUC FEEDER	£6
SMALL MILLER TYPE FEEDER	£1.00
FEEDER EKE	£7.00

HONEY & WAX EXTRACTING:

STAINLESS STEEL DOUBLE STRAINER	£21.00
STRAINING CLOTH	£3.50
30 LB PLASTIC BUCKET	£3.50
BAIN MARIE	£14
NYLON HONEY BUCKET VALVE	£8.50
30LB PLASTIC TAP BUCKET	£15.00

GENERAL BEEKEEPING:

SMOKER	£35.80
HIVE STRAPS	£6.50
HIVE TOOL	£7.00
PIN HAMMER	£3.50
BEE DISEASE ID CHARTS	£6.00
FRAME NAILS 500G	£2.88
POLLEN ID CHARTS	£6.00

Shop Update

Shop News

Many thanks to all those members who have visited the shop at the training apiary to purchase equipment.

We have been open regularly on Saturday mornings but as winter draws ever nearer and the rush for equipment has diminished, we have moved to a more flexible approach. The shop will now be open on Saturdays 10am-12 noon by request until early next year.

If you would like to purchase equipment, please contact Dave who will arrange for the shop to be open. It would be much appreciated if advance notice could be given.

Dave's email : dave.coates32@gmail.com

Phone number : 01283 713603

Sugar

Every few weeks, Dave continues to collect sugar from the supplier. The sugar is available for members to purchase.

Who's Who

<i>vacancy</i>	<i>Club Secretary</i>		
Sam Hampton (temporary)	Membership Secretary	<i>sam.hampton@btinternet.com</i>	
Bob Hurd	President	<i>pat90bob@gmail.com</i>	
David Coates	Chair Education Secretary	<i>dave.coates32@gmail.com</i>	01283 713603
Suzanne King	Education and Training Honey Show Secretary	<i>suzanne.king21@btinternet.com</i>	
Sam Hampton	Treasurer	<i>sam.hampton@btinternet.com</i>	
Sue Coates	Librarian	<i>susan_coates@talktalk.net</i>	
Hamish Low	Asian Hornet Team (AHT) leader	<i>hamish51151@gmail.com</i>	
Sheila Pirie	Committee member	<i>smpirie@hotmail.co.uk</i>	
Jane Ratcliffe	Committee member		
M Baker	Committee member		
Richard Matkin	Committee member	<i>richjomatkin@btinternet.com</i>	01283 812958
Sarah Winfield	Minutes Secretary		
Chris Ring	Website/Facebook		
Margaret Cowley	Newsletter Editor	<i>newsletter@honeybee.org.uk</i>	
Trustees	Bob Hurd David Coates S Hampton F Oldfield S King H Low R Matkin C Ambler	Volunteers	C Ring P Yates R Wykes R Harrison I McMillen