

North Bucks Bee Keepers' Association

Newsletter September 2015

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Calendar at-a-glance

15 th September	Committee meeting
27 th September	Honey show
6 th October	NBBKA AGM
10 th October	<i>County-level Autumn Gathering, Wendover</i>
20 th October	Lecture
27 th October	<i>Chalfonts lecture from Dr Juliana Rangel</i>
17 th November	Lecture
5 th December	Christmas dinner
19 th January	Lecture
16 th February	Lecture

Honey show

Our honey show secretary Sue Lang requests that your details for your entries in the coming honey show, on 27th September, are given to her in advance. Details on our [website](#).

Education: BBKA modules

There are a couple of opportunities to learn more about bees and beekeeping through the BBKA module system.

Gill Brewer and Fiona Cook (Bedfordshire BKA) are proposing to run a Module 1 discussion group on Monday evenings in the run up to the exam date (already set by the BBKA for - Sat 14th November). The dates will be 28th September, 5th October, 12th October, 19th October, 26th October and 9th November. The venue will depend on the

number of interested people. Please contact Fiona Cook on peter.cook@hotmail.co.uk

In North Bucks Fiona Eelbeck and Andrew Eelbeck are proposing to run a Module 6 discussion group; please contact Andrew and Fiona at andrew@eelbeck.fsnet.co.uk or telephone 01908 551886 to express an interest. This will allow us to organise a study group schedule.

The BBKA modules are as follows and can be taken in any order (except 8 which has to be done last):

Module 1 - Honey bee Management

Module 2 - Honey bee Products and Forage

Module 3 - Honey bee Pests, Diseases and Poisoning

Module 5 - Honey bee Biology

Module 6 - Honey bee Behaviour

Module 7 - Selection & Breeding of Honey bees

Module 8 - Honey bee Management, Health and History

BCBKA Autumn Gathering – 10th October

Please come to the Bucks Country Autumn Gathering event at John Colet School in Wendover on Saturday 10th October. This will include a honey show (entries from 8:30am), workshops on woodworking and photography, art, talks on solitary bees and on beekeeping abroad, and lunch. Several details are still TBA, please contact Fiona Cook (peter.cook@hotmail.co.uk) for more information.

Benefits of and access to BBKA

Rod Pakes reminds us that membership of NBBKA grants us access to the benefits of BBKA membership. You may visit the [BBKA website](#) to see details of these benefits, plus Bee Disease Insurance information, using credentials that they have created for you and explained on their site. These are independent of your NBBKA website details.

Swarm Hotline

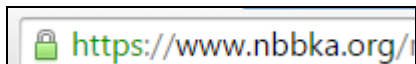
As it is the end of the swarming season, we have disconnected the 0845 hotline number. It will be reconnected next season, probably with a new number.

Website and Renewals Process

Members are reminded that all renewals of BBKA membership will be made online for the first time this year. A plea for help with testing this new feature goes out again to tech-savvy members. Please contact website@nbbka.org.

Access to the members' area of our site is now protected by encryption using SSL. You should notice a green padlock symbol in your browser when visiting restricted pages. This

is to ensure that the credentials you upload, and the data we show you, is protected.



BBKA Trustee vacancies

Howard Pool at BBKA writes:

At the Annual Delegates Meeting of the BBKA set for the 9th January 2016 there will be 5 vacancies for trustees opening on the Executive Committee of the BBKA, and open for election from the membership.

As members will be all too aware, there has been criticism over the past months that an unfortunate perceived rift in communication has arisen between membership and the Area Associations, and the Executive Committee. Here then is the perfect opportunity for interested members to offer themselves for election, - and make a real difference. The BBKA exists solely to further the interests of beekeepers and bees, so now is perhaps the time to put past problems behind us, and focus on moving the BBKA forward into the 21st Century. We are therefore interested in encouraging members who feel they can offer a positive contribution to the BBKA to think about putting themselves up for a position as trustee on the Executive Committee.

The prime requirement is for trustees who accept that we work solely for the benefit of beekeepers and their bees, - and are prepared to give time to the Association on a voluntary basis to further this central aim. Of course specialist experience in technical, legal, IT, accounting, fundraising, HR, or public relations is hugely desirable, but the willingness to play an active part in the future of our Association is perhaps even more important.

For those who might be interested in standing for election please contact Jane Moseley at the BBKA in Stoneleigh on jane.moseley@bbka.org.uk, or for a preliminary informal chat with Howard Pool (Bucks link trustee) on tel 01494 727687 or howardpool@hotmail.com. Please do think seriously about playing an active part in the running of our Association.

Seasonal Notes

I have just come back from the Bucks County Show which, despite almost incessant rain the previous day, was a marvellous event. Bucks County BKA, to whom NBBKA are affiliated, put on a display to which the Chalfonts Beekeeping Society, High Wycombe and Mid-Bucks BKA as well as NBBKA contributed. The display included honeys from across the county and the diversities of these was striking. The Bucks County BKA tent was filled to overflowing with interested public, perhaps especially the children for whom a number of bee games were arranged. The event was undeniably a success, and I am sure in future it will be an annual fixture. Certainly most pleasurable was the opportunity to work alongside members of the other county associations. Enormous thanks to David Warren and Pam Knibbs, a friend, for helping Elizabeth and me run the NB stall.

Christmas Dinner - Saturday 5th December at 7.30pm

I have discussed with our very good friends, The Shoulder of Mutton, Calverton, a suggestion that we have a Christmas Dinner there. Elizabeth and I are going, and we hope you will come and join us. This will not be an organised affair, rather a chance for a bit of fun together, to talk about the "swarms that got away" and to put us into fine beekeeping shape for 2016. So DO PLEASE COME! The cost is likely to be between £20 and £25 per person.

If you intend to come, simply email me at ae@thebeers.org and include your email address and telephone number. Later I will tell you the selected menu and price. Currently, "SOM" are holding 40 places for us and will do so until 30th September. At that date I need to go firm on numbers. Please come back to me as soon as you can, to be sure of your place.

Our Honey Show (with Buckingham BKA) on 27th September at Buckingham Nurseries.

You have received all the bumph from Sue Lang who has gone to phenomenal lengths to get the show going for two associations. It really will be a great coming together, and all we need is you (!) with your exhibits. Can I please especially appeal to this year's beginners – there cannot be a better way of ensuring your honey (indeed your wax, any exhibit for that matter) is top quality, than to have a judge, always invariably sympathetic, to assess it; and to receive the equally sympathetic views of more experienced beekeepers, because everyone wants you to do well; and no one really worries if they do not get a prize. Well, that is my view. However, it would be nice to get my first "First" since 1958 (judges to note!) and of course, there will be much to do at the Nursery including viewing the Apple Display and buying daffs and other garden 'goodies' for next year. We really do need a 101% turn-out for this please. If you happen to be away on the date, give a committee member or myself a call and we can transport your exhibits to the show. Really not to be missed and lovely to be with our Buckingham BKA friends.

Winter Talks

I hope to let you have soon details of the talks we have arranged following the formula of last year with two before Christmas and two in the New Year. If there is a particular subject you want covered, just let me know and we will try to arrange something at sometime.

Theft of Hives – and even Queen Bees

A subject very much in the news and quite horrid and almost certainly “Inside Jobs” i.e. beekeepers who know the ropes and just move the kit away. Going into hives and removing queens, as has apparently recently been happening at this time of the year when replacement are probably impossible to raise, is sickening. All equipment should, as far as possible, be kept out of sight of prying eyes and branded with the owner’s name and postcode; in which case, if you are being offered equipment so marked, it should be an easy matter, if you wish, to check with the local beekeeping association as to its authenticity. Talking about buying bees and equipment, may I be allowed to warn you to be particularly diligent if you propose to buy-in from a beekeeper who is ‘giving up’. The especial risk here is that the bees/equipment may have gone unchecked for some time and carry undetected diseases. A good general rule is never ‘buy-in’ unless you are buying from a respected source or an experienced beekeeper has first thoroughly checked the goods for you. We have been very fortunate in keeping AFB and the nasties away from our area, and one false move could lead to a different story....

Out in the apiaries

What a terrible year for wasps. My dedicated extraction room became a nightmare because the glass of my 5 lock wasp proof extraction room door slipped to allow easy access, and my joiner could not fix the slip until extraction was complete and all evidence of honey eliminated. Really for beginners to note.

- Unless you have reduced ALL hive entrances to be 1 space, your bees could now be robbed out
- Be terribly careful about feeding .Do late at night or at least when it is cold when the bees are NOT flying, and cover up/wash away all the evidence of any sweetness. A dash of bleach to a can of water over any stickiness outside hives is a useful deterrent. Get the feeding done by 20th September, 1st October at the latest – the bees need time to ‘order’ the feed within hives and if the weather turns cold and the job is not finished it will never be finished, and the food you have given your bees may well ferment or be ignored
- The bee year starts on 1st September. Colonies’ ‘minds’ are inextricably now ‘concentrating’ on getting through the winter until the spring of 2016 and so should yours. Read the well-known winter preparation steps set out in ‘Haynes Manual’ (or the like) because 2016 here we come!

Best Regards,
Andrew