

North Bucks Bee Keepers' Association

Newsletter Nov-Dec 2017

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Calendar at-a-glance

Saturdays	Apiary sessions, Cosgrove Apiary, 12.30 - but check first with Terry
18 th November	Working party at Cosgrove
21 st November	Celia Davies talk “into spring”, Monkston Park Community Centre.
2 nd December	Christmas meal, Flying Fox pub
9 th January	Committee meeting at The Barge, Woolstone
20 th March 2018	Celia Davies talk “World of the honeybee queen”, Monkston Park

Editorial

Committee News

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM on 13/10/17. It was an informative meeting, at which our 2017 honey show trophies were awarded, and a light supper was enjoyed by all afterwards. The following roles were filled:

Chairman: Nick Hinson

Treasurer: Ted Kirby

Secretary/Webmaster/Membership: Daniel Clarke

Events/Honey Show: Sue Lang

Apiary Manager: Terry Lock

Education: Vacant

Swarm Control: Andy Fenner

There are spaces on the committee for 'members without portfolio', please consider volunteering for this role – we meet once every 2 months, usually in a pub!

The minutes of the AGM are now available on our website in the documents area.

Photo of Andrew Eelbeck being presented with his many trophies by Sue Lang:



Subscriptions

These are now due. To pay, please go online and follow the procedure set up by Daniel Clarke. In brief: log in to our website, click the “renew membership” link at the bottom-left corner of the navigation menu, follow the prompts, then pay by bank transfer. This year a member may easily renew on behalf of his or her partner or child members in a single click – if your account is linked to a partner or junior member our system will prompt you to additionally renew for them after you’ve made your own renewal.

All subscriptions must be renewed by 31st January 2018 to ensure continued BBKA membership and BDI Cover. Thank you to those who have already renewed.

Beginners Course 2018

This is currently being planned with a start date of Tuesday 6th March 2018. The link on our website is now open, so people can register their interest online.

Social

We are thinking ahead to better weather of spring/summer 2018. Resurrection of 'Noggin & Natter' nights and a BBQ are in our plans. If you have any requests for events/talks from April onwards please let any of the committee know.

Data Protection

The Data Protection law is changing, and the committee are preparing a Data Protection Statement. This will be circulated with the next newsletter.

Constitution Review

A working party of 3-5 members is being set up to review the NBBKA Constitution, we committed to do this every 5 years. Please consider volunteering for this, it will entail one meeting (probably in Far Bletchley), and then email correspondence to approve amendments made. Your help will be appreciated.

Events

Christmas meal

We're holding a Christmas meal for North Bucks BKA Members and partners. It will be at the Flying Fox PH, by Heath & Reach roundabout on A5. Saturday 2nd December 2017, 7 for 7.30pm.

We ask you to please choose your meal from the enclosed menu in advance; email your menu choices to Daniel Clarke at secretary@nbbka.org by the end of *Saturday 18th November*. Please post payment (full amount) by cheque to Daniel – his address is within the body of the email sent to you, or bring along to Celia Davis talk on 21st November.

Winter talks

Celia Davies is a renowned Beekeeper, Author and BBKA Examiner. Her talks are always informative, challenging and very practical. We are very pleased that she will be delivering two talks this winter.

Celia Davis talk 21st November 2017.

Subject: "Into Spring". Venue Monkston Park Community Centre. Please note this is MONKSTON PARK, not MONKSTON. Time 7:30pm.

Monkston Park Community Centre, 10 Pimlico Court, off Plaistow Crescent, Monkston Park, Milton Keynes, MK10 9PN.

We are opening this talk up to Bucks County BKA members and also Beds BKA members. As we have a limit of 100 people in the hall, please reserve your FREE TICKET via this link.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celia-davies-talk-to-north-bucks-beekeepers-into-spring-tickets-37663949888?aff=erelpanelorg>

Celia Davis talk 20th March 2018.

'World of the Honey Bee Queen'. Venue TBC

We are opening this talk up to Bucks County BKA members and also Beds BKA members. As we have a limit of 100 people in the hall, please reserve your FREE TICKET via this link.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celia-davies-talk-to-north-bucks-beekeepers-the-world-of-the-honeybee-queen-tickets-37664322001?aff=erelpanelorg>

Evening of short talks

We are planning an evening of 3 short talks in late January/early February. The subjects planned are: How to Catch a Swarm; Processing Wax (from hive to Candle); Feeding Bees (what with, what in, when). Date and venue TBC.

Cosgrove Apiary

A working party is planned for this Saturday – 17th November, 12:30pm, Cosgrove Apiary. This is to lay a base for a new shed. Please come to help us with the work – bring protective clothing such as gloves and boots.

Beekeeping News

National Bee Unit – Hive Census

The National Bee Unit are performing a Hive Census, for the number of hives you are taking into winter. This helps them gather valuable data on the number of hives in each area amongst other things.

If you haven't already registered on BeeBase (it is voluntary, but highly recommended), please follow the link and create an account. It is quite straightforward to identify your apiary sites. The data is kept confidential, only seen by you and the Bee Inspectors. Having your apiaries logged means that you will be notified automatically if there are notifiable diseases in your area. It is also an excellent resource for Pest and Diseases, their identification and treatment.

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/>

Apiary Notes

At this time of the year (but the choice is yours) I like to put an eke directly over the brood chamber (queen excluded removed) and a cover board above the eke. This vastly simplifies later varroa treatments, fondant feeding and the passage of the cluster of bees over the tops of brood frames. As soon as robbing season is over it should be safe to remove entrance blocks and put mouse guards in place. Personally, I think mouse guards are a waste of time and if colonies are fitted with wire floors will have sufficient ventilation. My colonies happily live with entrance blocks in place, the blocks having 1" wide 3/8th" high entrances cut into them from 1 August to at least 15 April. Note, the provision of a wire floor should obviate any need for any top ventilation.

Do any "housework" around the hive; trim down grass, check for leaks, hive stability, etc. Remember whilst you are having your Christmas lunch, your bees will be going through the greatest battle of their short lives and by doing anything you can to keep a bee living until say 15th April rather than 1 March may make all the difference to a colony pulling successfully through the winter. Get on with the winter jobs. Think what you did wrong in 2017. When a swarm got away on 18th April, don't blame the bees, it is probably because you failed to get yourself organized in time. Read some bee books, and plan what you want to achieve with your bees in 2018. Happy Christmas!