

North Bucks Bee Keepers' Association

Newsletter Jan-Feb 2018

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Calendar at-a-glance

31 st January	Subscription renewal deadline
10 th February	Bucks County Seminar
21 st February	Short talks
27 th February	Committee meeting
6 th March	Beginners course commences
20 th March 2018	Celia Davies talk "World of the honeybee queen", Monkston Park
23 rd September	NBBKA honey show

Editorial

Committee News

Next committee meeting: Tuesday 27th February 2018, Venue TBC.

Subscriptions

These are now due, reminder emails have been sent this week with a link to the website. 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. **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. Although the course is currently oversubscribed, it's possible that places will become available again if anyone can't attend. If you would like to go on the waiting list, please register on our website.

If you did the beginners course a couple of years ago, do you feel that you need a refresher? You are welcome to come along for this years course – the deal is that you will need to assist the lecturers getting kit in/out of the venue, and making the tea! Not a bad deal as you can observe the sessions again for free. Please let Sue Lang know if you would like to come along: honeyShow@nbbka.org

Summer/Autumn 2018 Talks and Events

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.

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.

Interesting Article

There's a very inspiring radio program about Dr Ryad Alsous who is a refugee from Syria now here in the UK (Huddersfield), and has started a beekeeping training programme for fellow refugees. He was Head of the Syrian Bee Department from 1998 to 2013.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09lwdr8>

Events

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 her second talk of the winter to us in March.

World of the Honey Bee Queen

Celia Davis talks on Tuesday 20th March 2018 about the 'World of the Honey Bee Queen'. Venue Monkston Park Community Centre.

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>

Short Talks

Evening of short talks. Wednesday 21st February 2018, Monkston Park Community Centre. 7.30 pm. We are planning an evening of 3 short talks, the subjects planned are: How to Catch a Swarm; Processing Wax (from hive to Candle); Feeding Bees (what with, what in, when). We are also planning a Q&A session, so if you have any burning beekeeping questions that you would like to ask, bring them along!

Bucks County Spring Seminar

Saturday 10th February. This is open to all members of North Bucks BKA, there are talks by Professor Steve Martin (Chair in Entomology Salford University), Keith Pierce (County Dublin Beekeepers Association), Mark Patterson (Forage Officer: London Beekeeper's Association). There are stalls (Secondhand, Northern Bee Books, NBU, Bumblebee Conservation), plus the Bucks County AGM. More details including how to book yourself a ticket are via this link. Tickets are £15 and include a Ploughmans Lunch.

<http://nbbka.org/members/ProtectedFile.aspx?F=MjAxOCBTcHJpbmVtaW5hcnBhbmQgQUdNLnBkZg==&X=D>

NBBKA Honey Show

North Bucks BKA Honey Show. Sunday 23rd September 2018. Buckingham Nurseries. Please put this date in your diary, and have a think about which classes you would like to enter.

Cosgrove Apiary

Thanks to everyone who helped to lay the new base for the shed before Christmas. Regular sessions at the apiary will continue around Easter – weather depending.

Improvers Group

Fiona sends her apologies – the Improvers Group planned for Spring 2018 has had to be postponed until later in 2018.

Bucks County Beekeepers Training

Practical Skills Training 2018

Each year the Bucks County Beekeepers Association sponsors the Practical Skills Training Course for Buckinghamshire Beekeepers. The course is ideal for members who have been keeping bees for at least 3 years and would like to consolidate their knowledge as well as taking their beekeeping to the next level. The training in 2018 is split into two parts and involves three days of immersion in various aspects of beekeeping. The course will cover queen rearing, manipulations, honey processing, disease recognition and management. This is very much a hands on course. Attendees must have attained their Basic Assessment Certificate to qualify to attend. The course fee of £45 for Bucks County Members and £75 for non-County Members is payable to Bucks County Beekeepers Association. Part One: Saturday, 21st April 9.30-16.00 Format : Classroom study, Butlers Cross Village Hall

Part Two: 9th and 10th June 9.30-16:00 Format: Practical activities in the apiary including queen rearing Tutor: Sean Stephenson.

Sean Stephenson can be contacted via email at sean@wendover.co.uk or telephone on 01296 623318 Deadline for receipt of application forms and payment is Feb 28th 2018, this is a very popular course so please apply early.

Microscopy Skills Study Group

The Bucks County BKA Microscopy Group meet monthly from February through October. The sessions cover all the aspects of the BBKA Microscopy Assessment Syllabus plus a lot more.

In 2018 we will be looking further into the anatomy of the Honeybee as well as investigating other insects such as Bumblebees, Moths and Butterflies. We will also be matching pollens to wild flowers and discovering the flowers upon which our bees are foraging.

The Study Group is open to all members of Bucks County BKA and no previous experience in Microscopy is required.

There will be a free introductory session on Saturday 24th February for those who would like to find out more about the topic and the activities of the group. There is an annual fee to cover the cost of materials provided and hire of the hall for the meetings of £30 for Bucks members and £60 for non-county members.

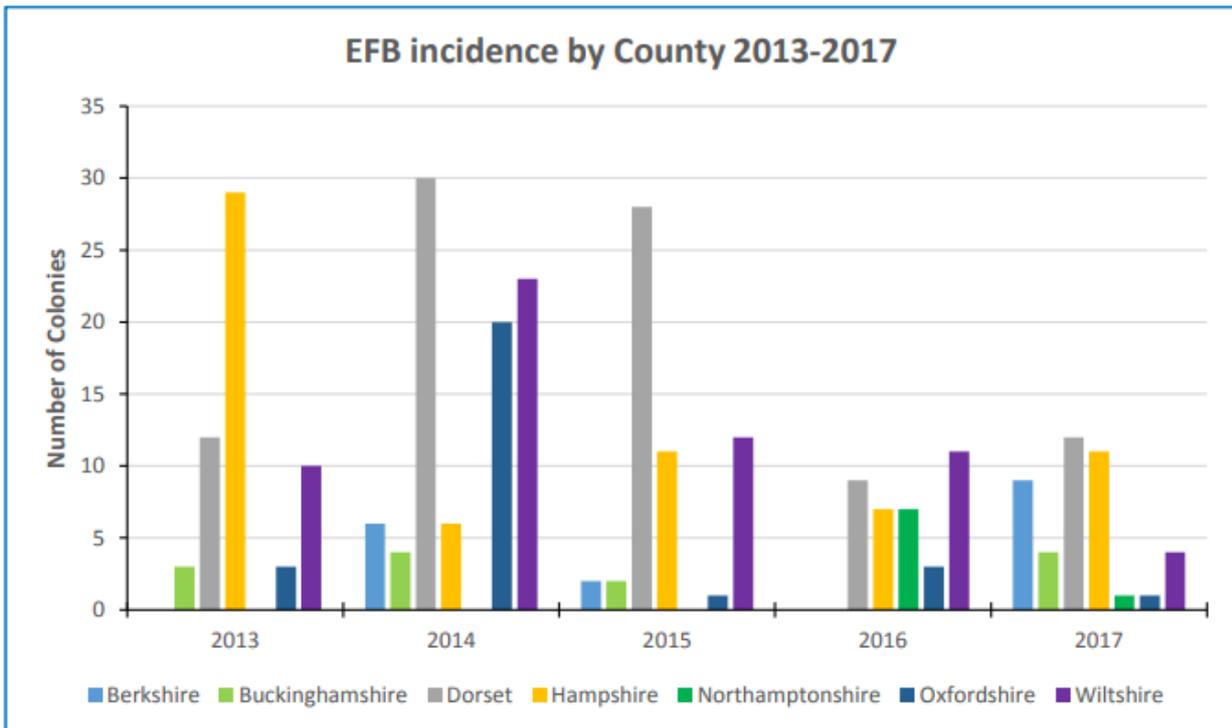
Attendees do not have to purchase their own equipment as our branch Associations generously provide some microscopes and tools. We meet on the third Saturday of each month from February through till October in Butlers Cross Village Hall, additionally there are practice sessions on a Monday evening. For those planning on taking the BBKA Microscopy Assessment there are extra study sessions. For more information please contact: Sean Stephenson via email at sean@wendover.co.uk or telephone on 01296 623318

National Bee Unit Report

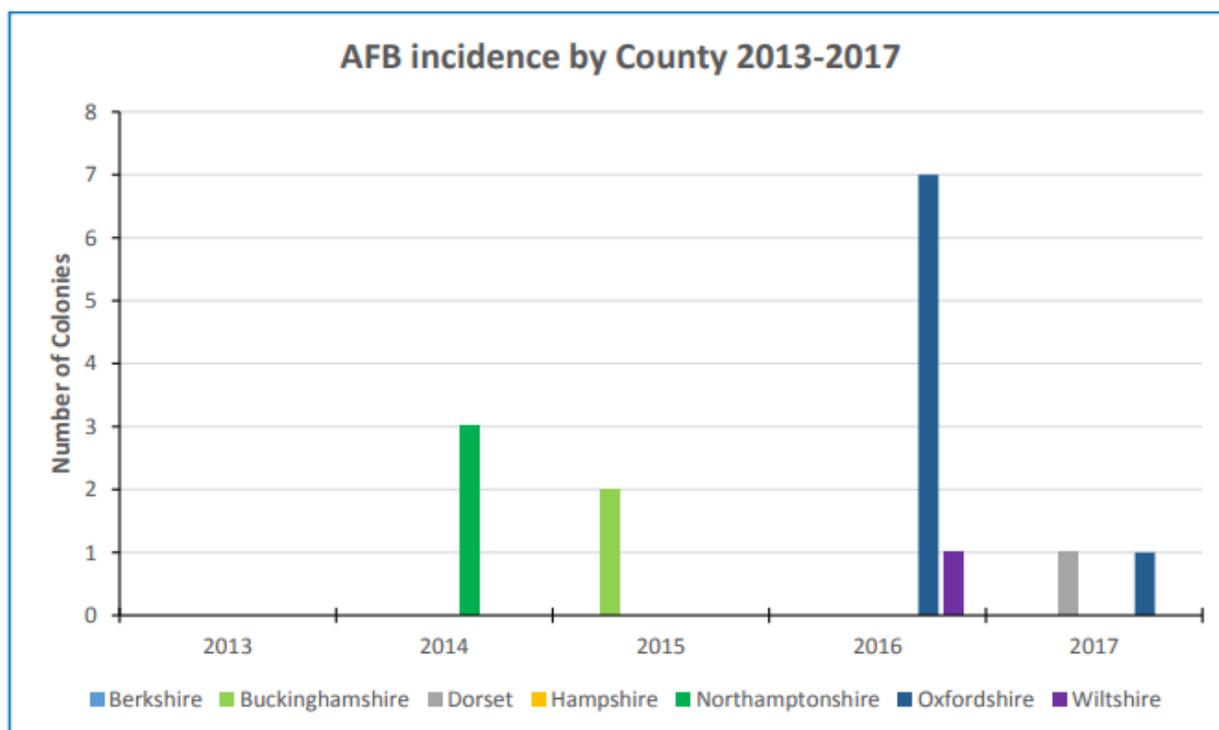
The full report can be found on our website, <http://nbbka.org/members/ProtectedFile.aspx?F=MjAxNyBSZWdpb25hbF9Bbm51YWxfUmVwb3J0IFNvdXRoZXJlLnBkZg==&X=D> however it it's interesting to note the low occurrence of Foul Brood disease in Buckinghamshire. We must all be vigilant to these diseases. Having your apiary site registered on Beebase means that you can be notified if there is an outbreak in your area, and your hives can be inspected as a priority.

Foulbrood Disease 2017

The number of colonies found to be infected with EFB in the Southern Region during the 2017 season was 42, up from 37 in 2016 but still lower than the 2013-2015 seasons (56-89). The Southern numbers for EFB were reflective of those for England which saw 364 cases in 2017 and 342 in 2016. The split by county for Southern over the period 2013-2017 is shown below:



AFB infection was, as in previous years, somewhat unpredictable with just two colonies affected in Southern in 2017, one in Oxfordshire and one in Dorset. This compares to 8 in 2016, although this was driven by a spike in Oxfordshire. The countrywide figures for AFB in England were 43 in 2017 and 45 in 2016.



Further details and mapping can be found on the disease incidence pages of BeeBase at www.nationalbeeunit.com

Apiary Notes/Tasks

Tasks for January and February include:

- Ensure hives are secure in wind and heavy rain. Use bricks on top, or strap down if they are susceptible to wind damage.
- Remove Mouseguards during February, so that any early pollen being gathered is not knocked off and lost.
- Heft the hives regularly, and feed with solid food, such as Ambrosia. Consider using a Nectar substitute such as Nektapol in February/March.
- Observe your hives – watch for early signs that the queen has started to lay. Only open your hive on warm days.
- Read your bee books, and plan what you would like to achieve with your bees in 2018.
- Make repairs to equipment, and ensure you have clean brood boxes etc for a spring changeover.