

BEEMASTER

**Nottinghamshire
Beekeepers' Association**
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<http://www.nottsbees.org.uk>

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The Editor would like to thank the following members for their contributions:
Janet Bates Karen Burrow Stuart Ching Griff Dixon Alison Knox Anne & Rob Mason Alan Moulton
Other BKAs through the Bee Editors Exchange scheme
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DIARY DATES

Saturday 2 February **NBKA AGM, Village Hall, Lowdham NG14 7BD 2.15pm**
Monday 4 February **Nottingham Region, Arnold Hill Community Centre, Arnold NG5 6NZ**
7.30pm **The Orchard Year: Adrian Baggaley**
Monday 18 February **Newark Region, Ferry Inn, North Muskham NG23 6HB 8pm**
Monday 25 February Copy date for **March** newsletter
Monday 4 March **Nottingham Region, Arnold Hill Community Centre, Arnold NG65 6NZ**
7.30 pm **Disease and Pests presentation: Dhonn Atkinson APHA**
Saturday 9 March **Bee Tradex, Hall 3, Stoneleigh, Works. CV8 2LG www.beetradex.co.uk**
Monday 18 March **Newark Region, Ferry Inn, North Muskham NG23 6HB 8pm**

www.nbkaeducation.weebly.com

From the editor

February is here and parts of the country are blanketed with snow with more to come- winter has finally arrived. The snow has yet to reach us up here in the north of the county but the frost has us in an iron grip today and our bees are snug in their hives, although in recent days mine have been out foraging on hazel catkins and sniffing at the early snowdrops on the sheltered banks of the deep lane near my house. This cold snap doesn't please my geese- frozen pond and grass- but it may kill a few pests, most notably any hibernating Asian Hornet queens. We should all be reading up on monitoring traps and appropriate baits and familiarising ourselves with the characteristics of this formidable insect for it is clear that the main tool we have in monitoring and containing its establishment in our country is ourselves, the beekeepers. I'm sure you've noticed that the newsletter heading has changed colour from red to green? This is to reflect the queen-marking colour of the year: 2019 is a green year. There are various mnemonics to help remember the sequence: I use 'will you raise good bees?' viz **white, yellow, red, green, blue**.

In this issue Griff reports on the ADM; Alison rabble-rouses us to attend the AGM on Saturday; Bees Abroad offers courses; a local business seeks honey to sell; Alan Moulton's quinces almost get him into trouble; Dr. Ryad's smoker is a poignant reminder of his old life; we meet the British Dark Honey Bee, consider the perils of mild winters and ponder queens going off-lay; Stuart Ching brings us two curiosities. To keep the cold at bay we have a comforting fruit loaf from Wales and there's food for thought in Beelines with the prospect of over-wintering Asian Hornet queens emerging soon. The beekeeping press has plenty to keep us occupied if the winter weather keeps us indoors: hive types, honey bee viruses, the Spring build-up and Asian Hornet monitoring in BBKA News; centenary celebrations, pollination services, brood issues, whooping signals, Manuka honey, selecting an apiary site in Beecraft. Kettle on?

Hon. Sec. Report February 2019

This month I have attended the BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM) in Warwick and had my eyes opened on the whys and wherefores of OUR Main Association, which is paid for by our members' subscriptions and works for all the Regional Association Members throughout the country. Delegates from Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man and most of the other associations were represented – although Lincolnshire did not attend.

I was most honoured to represent the NBKA in Andrew Barber's absence and had the power to vote on many issues and, should a member vote have been required, had the power of 200 members to add to the decision making. Maurice Jordan accompanied me to guide me in the finer points of this style of meeting which included computerised voting pads with results shown on the big screen.

In my first year as Honorary Secretary there have been many things that I have not really been aware of with the ADM bringing home beekeeping organisational matters that we need to keep an eye on in 2019. BBKA has just had a revised constitution accepted by the Delegates which includes disciplinary items and school curriculum items, too, with one delegate reminding the audience that all Associations need to include schools in their constitution. Many associations had already had their own meetings on the new BBKA constitution and put forward word changes and new proposals to add to it. Nottinghamshire did not have any as I don't think it was raised at any of our Council meetings other than a review of our own constitution, which still needs to be completed.

I had an opportunity to meet Suzanne Bennett, our link trustee, and had a good chat with her on how we can help each other. I did mention at length the swarm collectors' issues and beekeepers not getting on the list and that we were not happy. The Chairman of the Delegates' meeting delivered at length a positive tick to the staff, how hard they worked and that they had got a lot of verbal abuse from Associations. Enough said! Suzanne would like to visit the NBKA when members are together and hopefully something can be organised at the next open day if one is organised this year.

I also had an opportunity to meet other Honorary secretaries ie Peterborough, Sheffield and Chesterfield and asked about their membership fees and beginners' courses fees. It appears we are the cheapest association both for membership fees and beginners course fees (which is not necessarily a good thing). Typical levels were £28 and £80. I have since contacted Suzanne about doing a bit of a cross association survey on fee levels to see how the NBKA fits in.

I have to admit I was a bit horrified at the power of some associations that appeared to want to drive forward their opinions and if they did not get their own way on a delegate vote insisted on a membership vote to sway the decision, which it often did. A case in point was a new group of beekeepers wanting to join the BBKA and were required to be voted in by the other associations. They won the delegate vote but then, on the insistence of one of the bigger associations, a membership vote was made and they lost! There is much to learn about how our Association fits within the BBKA and the flow of information that can be exchanged to make things better. Notwithstanding that BBKA will be contacting NBKA on the 4th February 2019 for our list of Swarm Collector Details!!!!

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BEEKEEPERS'
ASSOCIATION
133rd Annual General Meeting
LOWDHAM Village Hall NG14 7BD
2nd February 2019, 2.15 pm**

I hope you have all made a note of this date- see Alison's persuasive article on 6 reasons why we should attend the AGM. This is your opportunity to meet the people who work hard on your behalf behind the scenes, a chance to ask questions and put your point of view. There is also tea and coffee and a feast of home-baked goodies, a raffle and an interesting, entertaining and informative talk, film and discussion. See you there?

This month in your apiary: February

Penny Forsyth

February can be a difficult month for our bees: they are expecting the weather and forage availability to improve as the day length increases and the queen will already have started to increase her laying rate accordingly, but we often experience our most variable and extreme weather conditions in the shortest month of the year. The extreme weather of recent years- mild winters, the Beast from the East- have shown that we can no longer rely on the old seasonal regularities and routines. What will this February bring, I wonder? With the onset of more seasonal cold weather our bees should finally form their winter cluster but stores will be depleted and any unseasonal foraging activity may well have reduced the life expectancy of the winter bees- increased vigilance is needed now. As the brood nest expands the workers need to generate more heat and to maintain it, and this they do mostly by shivering their powerful wing muscles- a high-energy activity that requires a good level of stores to maintain it. The foraging bees will be out collecting pollen and nectar from early plants such as snowdrop, crocus, aconite, hellebore, mahonia- not forgetting those vital pollen providers hazel, willow, alder and blackthorn. These foragers are the winter bees, the workers that hatched in the previous autumn and remained in the hive conserving their strength until called on to provision and care for at least two brood cycles (at least six weeks of house bee work) when the queen starts to lay and the colony begins to expand. If these bees are not healthy they will be unable to complete their tasks before they die and the colony will have great difficulty surviving through to spring- good varroa management and feeding are the key here. If your hives are light, then feed fondant or candy- directly on top of the frames in an emergency. Examination of the varroa floor insert will show the rate of uncapping of stores and will also show you the position of the cluster. It is also important to make sure that hives are weather-tight: it is damp, not cold, that kills bees.

Jobs for February

- ~ check hives for damage from the weather, livestock or pests
- ~ make sure entrances are not blocked by dead bees, snow or debris
- ~ on mild days check if bees are flying- do they look ok? any streaks of dysentery on the woodwork? is pollen going in?
- ~ keep on hefting to check the weight of stores and feed candy if necessary
- ~ seal the entrances of any dead hives until you can take them away to investigate the cause- disease can be spread through robbing
- ~ if the weather is benign you may want to take the opportunity to remove and replace solid floors or brush clean open mesh floors- easier with help
- ~ check stored drawn comb for wax moth damage
- ~ check the state of your equipment- you'll soon be needing it! Make a shopping list for Bee Tradex
- ~ keep on reading and studying, maybe register for the Basic Assessment or Modules
- ~ overwintered Asian Hornet queens may be emerging from hibernation soon so think about setting up monitoring traps and putting up identification posters if your apiary is near a public right of way

Nottingham Region meeting report Monday 7 January 2019

Karen Burrow

Presentation by Jack Perks - **Diary of a wildlife Photographer**

Jack is a Nottingham based professional photographer. He focuses on wildlife and has done a lot of work for media outlets, primarily the BBC - Countryfile, Springwatch etc, along with newspapers and magazines.

Jack presented photographs and video clips covering some of his trips in the UK. He started with the Shetlands, looking at Puffins. His journey took him into mainland Scotland with photos and videos of Gannets, Seals, Orcas and Dolphins. Then onto Skye with Eagles. In the borders we saw Buzzards, Pine Martins and Red Squirrels, and his favourite duck (Eider) on the Farne Islands.

Closer to home, Jack showed pictures of Salmon in the River Trent, along with Fieldfares and Water Voles.

Jack's website is <http://www.jackperksphotography.com>

Other Items: Penny mentioned the set up of 'Asian Hornet Action Teams' to learn more about and provide education on the risks associated with Asian Hornet. BKAs are to share contact details.

Bob brought up the new Tesco Bags of Help Hucknall store bid for an Apiary set-up in Hucknall.

Results for the November modules

Janet Bates, Education Secretary

There were only 2 candidates although Karen took 1 and 5.

Karen Burrow- Module 5 Distinction

Karen Burrow- Module 1 Credit

Sue Ford - Module 5 Credit

Newark Region

Penny Forsyth

Newark group members met at their regular watering hole, the Ferry Inn, North Muskham, and were joined by Scott Miller, Volunteer Development Coordinator for The Canal and River Trust, which is launching an initiative to make the surroundings of the waterways in their care more pollinator-friendly. Scott was looking for advice on how best to create and manage wildlife areas and was keen to encourage local beekeepers to put hives at any appropriate locations. He had approached BKA's throughout his area of operation- North Notts to Peterborough- and we had been the first to respond. Scott left well-satisfied with the advice he had been given and a member who lives close to Cromwell Lock has agreed to site at least one hive on Trust land there. The rest of the evening was given over to general debate and discussion including stingless bees in Costa Rica; the Asian Hornet (inevitable and up to beekeepers to manage); the upcoming ADM (Maurice going to mentor new Hon. Sec. Griff as Andrew away); Bee Tradex (most of us going and why no BBKA presence there?); the AGM- hope you're all coming!

6 REASONS TO ATTEND THE AGM!

~ Alison Knox Show Secretary

I posted this "rabble rousing" article last year, and it did the trick. . . so I am going to let it work its magic again !

Having observed the vast and negative difference in attendance between our regular monthly Regional meetings at Arnold Leisure Centre (up to 70+) and our annual AGM (25 if we are lucky!), I feel inspired to offer some positive encouragement to those who have never attended. Here are my own 6 reasons "why?"

- This is OUR Association and OUR opportunity to **vote** for Council representatives who will do a good job for us as Nottinghamshire Beekeepers' Association. NBKA are constitutionally obliged to fulfil certain posts, without which we cannot function as an Association. Some of our Council Members need to retire . . . they have been doing this since "God were a lad" and it is time to hand over the reins.
- An opportunity to **raise and discuss** matters which affect our Members and Association activities.
- Time to **celebrate** the previous years CUP WINNERS when the silverware is awarded. We have a **NEW TROPHY** to be awarded for **Heather Honey** in memory of **Alan Lewis**. Anyone who takes home a silver cup has worked really hard for it and deserves recognition and a round of warm applause!
- To listen to a **KEY SPEAKER** who will inspire and educate on some bee related topic. (*see special article on our speaker **Laney Birkhead** in last month's Beemaster*). A great speaker deserves a great audience. They have often travelled far to get to us and have been as elusive as Unicorns to get hold of and to book.
- Enjoy home made **cakes and a cuppa** from the cake ladies.

- Win a **splendid prize** in the raffle!

There are so many great skills out there within our Membership, I am sure that some of you have something to offer, maybe you are just a bit shy! I know there are a few worries about accidentally being nominated to a role. To put minds at rest, no one is going to “Shanghai” anyone into a role on Council if you are not genuinely up for doing it. This is not like an auction when one false move or a badly timed twitch of the eye has bought you a stuffed elephant! No, this is far more civilised.

For most Members, the AGM need be nothing more than an extra gathering, with a slightly more formalised agenda, having turned up and enjoyed an interesting afternoon immersed in bee talk. For a few, it may mean an opportunity to really contribute to something that really matters and makes a difference.

It doesn't matter which group you fall into: **as long as you show up** you have made your contribution.

See you on FEB 2nd at Lowdham Village Hall from 2.00 until around 4.00(ish)

Bees Abroad News

Anne and Rob Mason

Top Bar hive building course

On Sunday, 24th March Bees Abroad are running a course in Top Bar Hive building at Fell Edge Farm, Skipton, West Yorks. The one day course will cover how to get started in top bar hive beekeeping in the UK plus hints and tips and how to get information, guidance and support. There will be a discussion about the practice of beekeeping in both East and West Africa based on various styles of hive plus the opportunity to build your own fully functional top bar hive. The course fee is £50 plus £70 for the materials if you choose to build your own hive. For further information see the poster on p16



Bees Abroad at the 2019 BBKA Spring Convention

The annual BBKA Spring Convention will be held once again at Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB on 12th, 13th and 14th April, providing a range of workshops, courses and lectures spread over the three days with a large trade show on the Saturday. This year **Bees Abroad** is running a seminar **African Beekeeping- How it works** on the Saturday 13.30-15.30 led by Richard and Jane Ridler, who have been involved in beekeeping in Uganda since 2012. The seminar will compare beekeeping practices in the UK and Africa and highlight the cultural and sustainability issues which explain why beekeeping is so successful in helping people help themselves out of poverty. Inspiring and heartwarming. Admittance for non BBKA members for the full Convention is £26 (booked in advance) or £30 on the day. Entry to the trade show on the Saturday is £5. The full programme can be downloaded from: www.bbka.org.uk/news_and_events/spring_convention.php

The Small Food Bakery - Honey for Sale? World Bee Day event?

Anne & Rob Mason

The Small Food Bakery is an artisan bakery, based within Primary Studios, Nottingham. The bakery occupies the kitchen of the former Seely Rd Primary School and the team led by Kimberley Bell works to build short food chains - buying directly from farmers and then making everything from scratch before selling directly to customers. The Small Food Bakery won the 2018 Radio 4 Food and Farming Award for Best Food Producer! Rob and I visited recently to see the bakery and its produce such as their naturally leavened bread and pastries (delicious, we've tried some!) as well as their own jam and marmalade plus other locally sourced foods but no honey as yet . . .!

Kim would like to offer her growing number of customers a wide range of local honey, from up to 30 different apiaries in Nottinghamshire, with the aim of smallish quantities initially. To launch their range of honey, Rob and I suggested using a date around World Bee Day, Monday 20th May for the Small Food Bakery to host a special bee/honey themed event for customers, local families and anyone interested!

If you would like to sell your honey through the Small Food Bakery please could you email myself (anne.mason3@btinternet.com) before Friday 15th February so that I can get back to the bakery as soon as possible. Kim is happy to deal with different sized jars and prices but your initial express of interest will help us gauge whether this idea is a goer or not.

If you decide you would like to be involved please can you give me an idea of where your apiary is situated, if you have any jars of honey left over from the 2018 season and when you would expect to have this year's honey available from.

I will keep you informed as to developments in the March edition of Beemaster and if you would like to help with a 'Honey launch event' watch this space!

A story and recipe of honey and quince (conge), a personal experience

Alan Moulton

We had a huge crop of quinces in France, so what was I to do with them? I came across a recipe in "Figs and Olives" which gave the solution. I was on Ryanair from Luton and so after my sojourn in France I emptied my cabin bag of everything and loaded it up to the limit with quinces (15 kg), so far so good ! No problem at the French airport (Bezier) with customs and we arrived on time in Luton. The bag had been placed in the hold for Ryanair weight distribution and so I picked it off the carousel and walked towards the exit, and the next thing a gentleman in uniform spoke to me asking if this was my bag and requesting that I came with him as the customs sniffer dog had identified my bag as suspicious. Of what? The official said he wanted to open the case but before he did, he asked me what was in it. I replied 'Quinces only, like big pears'. He obviously was not convinced, opened the bag and said 'Big pears!' and off I went. Apparently the smell (scent) is similar to cannabis!

So what did I do with my fruit? Well, I found a fantastic recipe in " The Realm of Fig and Quince" by Ria Loohuizen- simple, viz, in effect boil the quinces (cored and peeled) until soft- then strain and add 600 gm of honey/ 1 kg of the pulp and boil for 45 minutes- then put aside until set and either leave it to skim over or put it in jars- so simple " Marmalade de Marmelo." So I sold my confection alongside my honey at the next food fayre!

If you wish to go further you can cut the skimmed, now virtually solid, jam into something resembling Turkish Delight!



An exhibition of photographs and personal stories curated by Frances Stonor Saunders in collaboration with Kaupo Kikkas ~ 12 December 2018 ~ 5 January 2019 at 12 Star Gallery Europe House 32 Smith Square London SW1P 3EU

I was so sorry to have missed this stunning exhibition which included a profile of (*my now dear friend and*) fellow beekeeper **Dr Ryad al Sous** who came to the UK as a refugee from Damascus in Syria and has now set up the Buzz Project in Huddersfield.

Last time I saw Ryad in November 2018 (*when we delivered the donated goodies from NBKA Members to his apiary*) he had casually mentioned this project, and was in his typically modest way fretting about the correct grammar of his statement, (*which was perfect*) and almost oblivious to the deep impact of the message of his story, told in so few and such eloquent words. ~

" I sat on the balcony of my apartment and looked out at Damascus. There were clouds of smoke in every direction, explosions coming from the east, the roads empty of pedestrians and cars. A bomb had already fallen into the top of the building, and a mortar had been fired into an apartment a few floors below mine, but everything in my home was still intact, except that my family had all gone, everyone escaping by different routes. Now there was just me.

Should I stay and die in the home I had struggled to make over many years, or should I leave for an unknown fate? I didn't even know if I would get more than a few yards, as ISIS and Wahhabi militia were just one street away.

I was Professor of Agriculture at Damascus University, I presented a weekly television show about rural matters, so my face was known to many and I had already been kidnapped once.

Go now, my friends said. Go now.

I drank a last cup of herbal tea and went inside.

As I was sliding closed the door to the balcony, I remembered the birds who came to drink water from a little bowl set out there. I left the door slightly open, turned the tap on in the kitchen sink – just a drop, drop, drop – and placed the bowl in the sink next to a small house plant. Maybe I would be able to come back and find the plant still living.

I grabbed my jacket, my laptop and my beesmoker, and I left.

The bee-smoker is all that remains of my honey business: my hives and my factory have been burned down by ISIS. I used to produce ten metric tons of honey a year, but most of the bees in Syria are dead now and probably the beekeepers, too.

It's been five years, and a neighbour who managed to get into the apartment recently tells me it is full of birds nesting. I have found safety with my family in Huddersfield. I have new hives and am producing honey from native British black bees. People say they are aggressive, but I don't agree, and I'm encouraging others to set up hives with them. When I'm with my bees, I listen for their advice on how to make a home.~

I wonder how many of us would think to leave a door open and a tap dripping for the birds as we took our life in our own hands, and prepared to leave all we knew behind?

The other stories in the exhibition are as touching and profound, but I know this man, and his story brings home to me the truth of so many others who I do not know, and like him, had to choose what to take.

If you would like to see the images this exhibition will be showing again in May 2019 at Egret Studio West, a design studio in Clerkenwell, London, but exact dates are yet to be confirmed.

British native dark honey bees

Over the past 30 years there has been a huge increase in queen bee imports to the detriment of our British native dark bee. Although stocks of 100% pure native dark bees are extremely low, there are a number of initiatives around the UK to save existing native dark bee stocks and help improve the population throughout the country. Archaeological, biological and historical evidence shows that honey bees in the UK from around 4,000 years ago up until the 19th century were genetically the dark European honey bee - *Apis mellifera mellifera*.



From the early 1800s, a small number of Italian bee imports took place, mainly for experimental reasons, and this continued sporadically with very little effect upon the native bee population. However, between 1916 and 1925 the British black bee, as it was then known, was rendered virtually extinct in England and Wales by *Acarapis woodi* (acarine mite), the outbreak being called the 'Isle of Wight disease'. Parts of Scotland and Ireland though, were less severely affected by this outbreak.

From this time onwards, major imports of Dutch and Italian bees occurred, mainly from Holland. This importation has continued, mainly from Australia and New Zealand, and despite the recent import restrictions, the bee population is still being topped up by major imports of largely Italian style queen bees. The direct result of these imports is that the genetic mix of our honey bee is broad, and although natural selection still favours dark bees, many of the major genetic advantages of our original native dark bee have been lost. Even in Scotland where *Apis mellifera mellifera* numbers were still significant up to the late 1960s, these imports have had a severe and adverse effect.

However, small pockets of pure *Apis mellifera mellifera* remain in remote parts of the country, and handled very carefully, there is a real possibility of re-introducing these on a major scale to save this exceedingly valuable species.

Lune Valley Community Beekeepers via ebees

Mild winters

As we know, over winter our bees cluster and produce heat, eating stores to provide them with the energy to generate the heat. While it might be reasonable to assume that a milder winter might increase the bees' chance of making it through the winter because lower temperatures mean they need to generate less heat, they also eat more when the temperatures are higher- meaning they are more likely to run out of stores. Larger, healthier colonies do better over winter as the larger colony is able to maintain the correct temperature with greater ease. The ideal temperature to keep the bees from getting too cold or eating too much is between -1 and 4.5C. It is not unusual for smaller colonies to die in the winter even though they had plenty of honey- the cluster could not maintain a survivable temperature. As the temperature gets colder, the tighter and smaller the cluster becomes. This can be another explanation as to why bees die in close proximity to frames full of honey because the cluster cannot break away to move

to other frames of stores. As the temperature drops more the cluster compresses, eating all the stores in the area of the cluster but unable to break away, and the colony starves. It's possible to avoid this kind of isolation starvation by opening the hive. Frames of stores can be moved to be next to the bee cluster but it's important that you don't divide the brood nest. Or in extreme cases a colony can be saved by spraying them in a thin syrup mist and pouring sugar syrup into empty comb using a squeezey or washing up bottle.
Reigate BKA via ebees

Queens Off Lay

Roger Patterson, Vice Chairman WSBKA

Queens, especially the less prolific ones usually go off lay in the autumn for about 4 weeks. Prolific queens don't usually go off lay, although they may reduce laying. This may be complicated by the use of thymol-based Varroa treatments, where some queens go off lay during treatment. Last autumn I noticed that many queens had gone off lay for a much longer time than normal, often 8-10 weeks. I have emailed and spoken to beekeepers in other parts of the country and I have recently spoken at beekeeping events in Hampshire, Warwickshire and Yorkshire where beekeepers have told me the same.

This lengthy break will mean there is a large age gap in workers, so fewer young bees to go through the winter, which is aggravated by their shortened life-span if heavy virus loads are present. Worker bees may die off earlier in the spring and weaken colonies, possibly leading to losses in the early spring.

I hope I am wrong, but I fear the possibility of heavy losses in February, March and April. I suggest that beekeepers check their colonies every week or two from the turn of the year onwards. You need to take into account the temperature. The colder it is the tighter the cluster will be, giving the impression to a beginner the colony is getting smaller. You won't do any damage by quickly removing the crownboard as it will only take a few seconds.

It is difficult to advise what to do if you see a colony declining. Although it may be frowned upon by some all I can suggest is uniting.

West Sussex BKA via ebees

Book Review: The Singing Masons by Francis Vivian (1950)

Arthur Ernest Ashley (1906 East Retford-1979) wrote ten Inspector Knollis crime novels under this nom-de-plume from 1932 onwards.

He started his working life as a collector from gas meters (what has happened to this job?) and then spent a decade as a painter and decorator. After WW2 he became Assistant Editor of the 'Nottingham Free Press' based in Sutton-in-Ashfield.

"What Old Heatherington doesn't know about beekeeping isn't worth knowing. But the behaviour of the bees that day was extraordinary- they swarmed to a new hive where no hive should have been, and which was damp to boot. There was the smell of cyanide; and, in an abandoned well below the hive, was discovered the dead body of local philanderer, Gerald Batwell, a canister of the poison in his pocket."

His novels have recently been re-issued. I wonder if any members remember him and his beekeeping activities!

The Bee Brain

Stuart Ching

We all know that bees are impressive creatures. But how impressive are they? If you search for 'Tony Buzan - Bee Skills' the mindmap he has produced will blow YOUR mind. You will never look at a bee again without wondering - "are MY actions dumbing down our relationship?"

Recipe of the month

Mandy Cadge, Warwickshire BKA

Honey Bara Brith (Welsh Speckled Cake)

Ingredients:

- 350g mixed dried fruit (or just raisins/sultanas)
- 225g honey (bakers honey is fine for this)
- 200ml hot strong tea (Earl Grey is nice)
- 275 self-raising flour
- 1 egg
- 2 lb loaf tin, greased and lined with baking parchment

The night before you want to bake (and at 2 days before you want to eat) mix the fruit, tea and honey in a lidded container, seal and leave somewhere warm overnight so the fruit can absorb all the liquid and flavours

Next day:

Preheat the oven to 150°C / 300°F

Stir first the egg and then the flour into the fruit.

Pour the wet mix into the tin and level off the top.

Bake for 1 ½ to 1 ¾ hours until a skewer comes out clean

Allow to cool in the tin for 10 minutes to firm up, then turn out and leave to cool on a rack.

Once absolutely cool, wrap tightly in a fresh layer of parchment and a layer of foil and hide it away

The following day slice and add a thick layer of salted butter. Delicious with a cup of tea! *(and your copy of Beemaster, perhaps?)*

BeeLines: notices, news and views

From Suzanne Bennett, BBKA Link Trustee

As your BBKA link trustee I wanted to let you know that the BBKA Executive met to discuss Asian Hornet strategy. This is to be discussed at the ADM. I hope to see some of you at the ADM- do come and say hello. In the meantime, please can you ask your members the need to register all hives-and any Asian Hornet traps on Bee Base, which is the National Bee Unit register. Find the link here: www.nationalbeeunit.com

NBKA Asian Hornet Action Team

The NBKA Asian Hornet Action Team is now registered on the AHAT website and with the BBKA. I am currently registered as Coordinator with Pete Bull as North Notts contact and Alec Thomson the City and South Notts contact. We have a further five team members, providing a county-wide contact network ready to react to reports of possible Asian Hornet incursions into our region and to coordinate with the National Bee Unit, the Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) and other BKA's. There is no limit to the number of members an AHAT may have so if you would like to be involved please contact me at pennyforsyth16@mail.com for information or if you wish to join the contacts register. There is excellent information and a set of guidelines on the AHAT website <https://ahat.org.uk>

Volunteer Stewards required for the 2019 Spring Convention

Detailed planning for the Spring Convention continues...can you volunteer your time on Friday, Saturday or Sunday 12, 13 or 14 April at the 2019 Spring Convention as a steward? You would have three days' free entry to the Convention. You would also have some free time each day depending on your rota and you'll be recompensed to the value of a lunch voucher and £20 each day. Tasks could include activities like stewarding parking, reception, trade show or lecture buildings. If you are interested please contact conventionstewards@gmail.com by 15 February.

And finally.....

Asian Hornet queens may be coming out of hibernation soon- time to take action!

Download the identification pdfs, laminate them and put them up in your apiary
<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>

Get the Asian Hornet Watch app for smart phone and tablet

Read up about traps and baits and be ready to deploy them- visit <https://ahat.org.uk>



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 2ND FEBRUARY 2019 – Lowdham Village Hall – 2:15pm

AGENDA

- Apologies for Absence
- Minutes of the 2018 AGM (Enclosed)
- Matters Arising
- Chairman's Report
- Accounts for 2018 and Auditor appointment
- Subscriptions for 2020
- Election of Honorary Treasurer
- Election of Beemaster Editor
- Election of Spray Secretary
- Election of Education Secretary
- Election of Two Council members
- Presentation of Cups and Awards
- Any Other Business
- Date and Time of the next AGM

After the meeting the guest speaker will be artist Laney Birkhead who will present a talk, film and discussion titled "Swarm; A Creation of Many Hands" based on her exhibition "Swarm". Refreshments will be made available by Nottingham Region. There will be a raffle proceeds in aid of Association funds suitable prizes are very welcome. Nominations are required for the election of officers shown in 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 above.

I Nominate _____

For the Office _____ Signature _____

Please note that the nominee's permission must be obtained before a nomination is made. All Nominations must be in the hand of the Chairman before 2:15pm on the day of the AGM

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Nottinghamshire Beekeepers Association
Lowdham Village Hall NG14 7BD
Saturday February 3rd 2018**

The Meeting was Chaired by David Chambers (President) with Council Members Andrew Barber (Chairman), Maurice Jordan (Hon Sec), Chris Hutter (Hon Treasurer), Alison Knox (Show secretary) and Janet Bates (Education) also in attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Alec Thomson, David Chase, Glenis Swift and Brian Penrose

Over 50 members were in attendance

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Minutes of the AGM for 2017 had already been circulated and were accepted as a true record.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The Chairman's report had already been circulated and was accepted as a true record.

The accounts for 2017 were presented by the Honorary Treasurer who informed the membership that the Association had made a £860.94 profit. The Honorary Treasurer was thanked for all his hard work with the members showing their appreciation in the normal way.

The President announced that Membership Subscriptions would be maintained at the same level as last year at £25.

Robert Logan raised the question concerning the BBKA capitation fee level at £19 and BDI Insurance fees and the residual remaining for the Association to operate its business requiring the beginner's courses and auction to fund the yearly running costs.

Maurice Jordan retired as Honorary Secretary with Griff Dixon being elected as the new Honorary Secretary. Maurice Jordan was presented with a token of appreciation from the Association for his years of service by Pete Bull.

The election for a new Librarian was made with Karen Burrow accepting the position.

The election for a new Council Member was made with Andrew Barber being elected.

The Presentation of Cups and Awards was made and introduced by Alison Knox.

The following awards were made:-

Photography Cup	Joint Winners	Gary Mitchell and Alec Thomson
NBKA Display Trophy		Jane Simpson
Bartle Memorial Trophy		Martin Bowker
Albert Scoffins Cup		Jane Simpson
William Marshall Cup		Mary Carey Allwood
Herod Hemsall Cup		Martin Bowker
Fred Richardson Tankard		Maurice Jordan
Moorgreen Cup		Mary Carey Allwood

The President congratulated all the winners and Alison Knox for all her hard work.

Penny Forsyth presented an award to Alison Knox for being the most prolific contributor to the Beemaster Monthly Journal.

Penny Forsyth introduced Stuart Ching, the Associations Archivist, who gave an oration to the members on the first part of his publication on the Associations early history from 1884 which the Association has financially contributed. He made a request for photographs to support the intended second publication.

Any other business provided the opportunity for the monies raised from the teas and cakes to be donated to Bees Abroad, who had a stand at the AGM.

BBKA Module Certificates were awarded by Janet Bates for those successful members passing the Basic Certificate, Module 1 and the Master Beekeeper award.

The President Closed the meeting at 2:15pm

The date and time for the next meeting would be Saturday February 2nd 2:15pm at Lowdham Village Hall.

Tea and refreshments were provided which was followed by Hattie Ellis the Guest Speaker providing an insight into her books with her talk entitled "Spoonsful of Honey".

COURSES for BEEKEEPERS



Our course tutors are experts in beekeeping in both UK and Africa. They are volunteers; they do not receive a payment for running courses. Course fees go to support the work of Bees Abroad in the relief of poverty through beekeeping. Dawn Williamson and Paul Bloch will lead this course. They keep top bar hives in UK and have experience of projects in both East and West Africa.

An Introduction to Top Bar Hives - includes make your own hive or make your own moisturising lotion bars - Sunday 24th March

This course was a sell out in 2018 so by popular demand we are repeating it but with the option of making a moisturising lotion bar.....

This thought provoking and practical course aims to introduce participants to top bar hive beekeeping and its application in Africa and the UK. The course will include:

- A discussion about the practice of beekeeping in both East and West Africa based on various styles of hive.
- How to get started with top bar hive beekeeping in UK.
- Where to obtain bees.
- Hints and tips on top bar beekeeping in UK.
- Where to get further information, guidance and support.
- Tasting a selection of African honeys.
- Help and guidance in making a fully functional top bar hive suitable for use in UK. You may help someone else make theirs. Wood must be paid for in addition to the course fee.
- For those not making a top bar hive there will be an option to make a moisturising lotion bar using hive products.
- A discussion about beekeeping in the context of sustainable social enterprises for the relief of poverty.

Suitable for those with and without beekeeping experience.

This course is run in conjunction with the Fell Edge Farm Centre who are generously providing the venue.

Date Saturday 14th March
Start/Finish 10.00 - 17.00
Venue Fell Edge Farm, Skipton, West Yorks. LS299JX

Course Fee (includes lunch and refreshments): £50
Cost of materials to make one hive: £70
Please book via Bees Abroad on-line shop at www.beesabroad.org.uk

B&B accommodation is available at Fell Edge Farm, email info@beesabroad.org.uk

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**BEEMASTER** is published monthly. Contributions by 25th of previous month please to the Editor. Copy received after this date may have to be held over to the next **BEEMASTER**.

**The Editor retains the right to amend submitted articles or to reject articles which appear, in her opinion, to be unsuitable. Items which do appear may not reflect the opinions of the Council of the NBKA.**

### EXTRACTORS

Members may borrow the NBKA extractors - 4-frame, hand driven kept at Brackenhurst and hired from Maurice Jordan. An electric one (with settling tank) is held by Glenis Swift 0115 9538617. The EasyBee extractor which is useful for extracting frames that hold honey that has granulated is held by Frank Chambers in Calverton (0115 965 2128).

### ADVERTISEMENTS

NBKA accepts no responsibility for advertisements appearing in this newsletter. Please mention **BEEMASTER** when replying to advertisements.

### ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Advertisements free to paid-up members but 10p per word – minimum charge £1 to non-members. Circulation approx 300 throughout the UK and abroad.

Short adverts may be paid for in First and Second Class postage stamps which should be sent directly to the Editor. Cheques should be made out to NBKA and sent to the Treasurer.

## CASH AND CARRY BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT at discount prices



See our website (Products/Cash and Carry) for new beekeeping equipment being introduced continuously throughout out the year.

Major cards accepted.

Normal opening times: Wed, Thu, Fri and Sun 12.00 – 5pm

The Honey Pot, Unit 73, Trent Business Centre, Canal Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 4HN.

0115 9726585

Mobile/text numbers 07703 711009

Email [localhoney@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:localhoney@hotmail.co.uk)

