

BEEMASTER¹

**Nottinghamshire
Beekeepers' Association**
Founded 30th April 1884
Registered Charity No. 508171

August 2019 No. 364

<http://www.nottsbees.org.uk>

President: David Chambers sandraanddavid@greenbee.net

Honorary Vice-President: Alec Thomson MB alec.thomson3@ntlworld.com

Chairman: Andrew Barber andrewbarber891@hotmail.co.uk 01636 671844/07867 797812

Honorary Secretary: Griff Dixon griff@norwellapiary.co.uk 07500 876836/01636 636565

Treasurer: Chris Hutter chris.hutter@hotmail.co.uk 0115 983 0038

Membership Secretary: Janet Bates MB janet.bates@ntlworld.com 01623 794687

Education Secretary: Janet Bates MB janet.bates@ntlworld.com 01623 794687

Show Secretary: Alison Knox alisonnbka@btinternet.com 0115 9856878/07768 153526

Newsletter Editor: Penny Forsyth pennyforsyth16@gmail.com 01777 248842/07803939372

Archivist: Stuart Ching jsching37@yahoo.co.uk 0115 952 1859

Librarian: Karen Burrow kburrow3@gmail.com

Farm Liaison: David Chambers sandraanddavid@greenbee.net

Media and Publicity Contact: Alison Knox alisonnbka@btinternet.com 0115 985 6878/07768 153526

Regions: Newark Chair, Andrew Barber andrewbarber891@hotmail.co.uk

Nottingham Chair (acting), Alec Thomson MB alec.thomson3@ntlworld.com

Regional Bee Inspector: Dhonn Atkinson dhonn.atkinson@apha.gsi.gov.uk 07775 119437

Seasonal Bee Inspectors: Tim Roper timothy.roper@apha.gsi.gov.uk 07775 119441

Nick Mitchell nick.mitchell@apha.gsi.gov.uk 07796 548575

Adrian Wilford adrian.wilford@apha.gsi.gov.uk 07775 119444

In this issue

Editorial & Hon. Sec. Report: p2 This month in your apiary: p3 Nottingham Region meeting report: p4 Association equipment list & Newark Region report: p6 Beeston/Chilwell Bee Club report: p7 Donations received & Could it bee you?: p7 Eye catching new street art in Beeston: p8 Bees set up hive in cello: p8 Going to the heather: p9 Quince Honey farm: p10 Recipe of the month: p11 Beelines: p12 Clarification of current and new rules regarding EFB: p12 Photo Comp: p12 AHAT Team News: p14 And finally...p16

The Editor would like to thank the following members for their contributions:

Karen Burrow Stuart Ching Griff Dixon Alison Knox Anne & Rob Mason

Other BKAs through the Bee Editors Exchange scheme

Newsletter Archive jsching37@yahoo.co.uk

DIARY DATES

Monday 5 August **Nottingham Region**, Arnold Hill Community Centre, **Arnold NG5 6NZ** 7.30pm

Social Evening: Bee-tle Drive, cream tea and bee chat!

Monday 19 August **Newark Region**, Ferry Inn, **North Muskham NG23 6HB** 8pm

Saturday 25 August Copy date for **September** newsletter

Monday 2 September **Nottingham Region**, Arnold Hill Community Centre, **Arnold NG65 6NZ**

Cider Making: Ray Blockley, Torkard Cider 7.30 pm

Sunday 15 September **Annual Honey Show, Brackenhurst College, Southwell NG25 0QF**

Monday 16 September **Newark Region**, Ferry Inn, **North Muskham NG23 6HB** 8pm

www.nbkaeducation.weebly.com

From the editor

August is here, the equinox is past and this year's beekeeping season is beginning to wind down. And what a season it's been – a warm February, a cold and wet June, record-breaking heat in July followed by torrential rain and localised flooding. For those taking their bees to the heather the hope has to be for some stability in the weather during August and a good harvest to end the season. As the days shorten and the amount of forage available to our bees diminishes it's time to harvest the last of our honey, mindful as ever of the needs of our bees, and turn our thoughts to autumn varroa treatment and our plan for winter and next season. It's also time to plan your entries to our Annual Honey Show on Sunday 15 September at Brackenhurst College where you can show off your achievements and learn from the best: full details coming soon. In this issue Griff deals with contrary queens; equipment to borrow; troublesome times in Beeston and Chilwell but some cheery wall art brings a buzz; Chris details donations; Alison asks for assistance; good vibrations in a West Bridgford garden; going to the heather and a visit to Devon; cake; new EFB regulations; prizes for premium pictures; Asian Hornet news and a call for pioneer beekeepers for a new research project. Don't forget your regular beekeeping press to keep you up to date with the wider beekeeping world. BBKA News has very informative News and Highlights pages this month plus some useful articles on honey and honey processing, beeswax standards and comb spacing. Beecraft has a very timely article on late summer queen problems; an authoritative rejoinder to the agronomist-led report last month which questioned the effects of neonics on pollinating insects and the environment; varroa testing; queen rearing; more honey extracting; this season's reports from the regions; lab reports. Kettle on?

Hon. Sec. Report & Notes from Norwell August 2019

Griff Dixon

Its been a strange month all round. Torrential rain, blistering heat with bees not knowing which way to swarm and I learnt a new term "Soft Supersedure".

I put two new clipped mated queens into new poly nuc's and within a short number of days supersedure cells appeared. I quizzed the supplier and was offered this term and he suggested I whip the queens out quick before they get killed. The queen was still in one of them so I nipped out the cells and she has been merrily going about her business ever since. The other one was not quite so lucky – I eventually moved eggs across from the happy queen one and they duly made some more queen cells. The cells (two) hatched but can't find any sign of queen activity – I will need to be more patient and leave it a bit longer.

I picked up my first external swarm from Sutton on Trent of all places. I managed to flick it into the skep by bending the tree whip (It was only a dwarf pine) getting most of them and some residual onto the white floor sheet. They duly marched into the skep and I took them back to Winkburn and put them into a 6 frame poly nuc with a block of fondant to get them going. I put a small extension on so I could close the box up with the fondant in. I checked yesterday – fondant totally gone and they have made new comb in the extension space – not on the 6 empty frames below. I can't see any eggs although they have put pollen in on one side – not convinced there is a queen yet – patience again.

The heather now beckons so I have been getting hives ready for the migration. I am a bit behind time wise as the day job has been extremely busy again and I have not taken any of the summer crop off yet. I was putting porter escapes on yesterday as I have quite a few supers to collect.

My own swarms are up to two supers as are some of the splits I did. It always seems that when I think the bees are not as strong as they should be they seem to recover and expand rapidly. My early May swarmed hives all appear to have recovered with new mated virgin queens of their own. I am not sure how many I will be taking this year – really I should have done the heather run yesterday.

We should be thinking about varroa treatment soon once the supers are off. Apivar is not temperature dependent unlike Apiguard. I regret not being on top of varroa treatment with some of my older hives (4 years), they have deteriorated, and I am convinced some signs of withering on the vine is down to this. The bees appear to behave differently. I will probably have to re hive them and get some treatment in and destroy the combs – a three year comb change is strongly recommended although Danish beekeepers do it annually to keep disease at bay!

On NBKA matters we are going down the route of internet banking or at least making a start with that with statements so we can monitor new membership payments. The Council is endeavouring to improve its administration all round. The Autumn capitation is due in September and I have had the National Honey Show notification arrive so we can send 4 delegates to this, which is at Sandown Park Racecourse again.

The Next Council meeting is September 19th 2019 and has been confirmed by our new booking Clerk Martin Bencsik.

Griff Dixon NBKA Hon Sec & Norwell Apiary.

This month in your apiary: August

Penny Forsyth

August is a quieter month for the bees as in many areas the summer flowers are coming to an end and the nectar flow is finishing- unless you have Himalayan balsam nearby or are taking your bees to the heather. There's still forage about: sunshine will encourage willowherb, blackberry, red clover, borage, golden rod and garden flowers and the bees will work them enthusiastically while they last but as the forage decreases, so will the laying rate of the queen and the brood area will decrease and fill up with winter stores. Drones are no longer needed and the workers throw them unceremoniously out of the entrance to starve: the focus now is on the winter bees. These bees are different for they stay within the hive all winter and do not pass beyond the nurse bee stage, meaning that their hypopharyngeal glands remain full of brood food ready for the spring rush of brood. The survival of the hive during that critical time in early spring is entirely dependent on these winter bees: for them to survive they must be well fed, healthy and free from varroa mites and the viruses they bring. This means that, for the beekeeper, there's plenty to do in August. This is the month to take off your last honey crop, treat for varroa and start autumn feeding. It's a time to take steps to prevent robbing by other colonies and wasps-reducing entrances, setting up wasp traps. It's also a time for preparing equipment and comb for storage, for cleaning and repairing everything that needs it and for making a list of what you need to buy at Thorne's sale in October.

Jobs for August

- ~ finish taking off the honey harvest, clean extractor & equipment and put away
- ~ check the bees have sufficient stores, clean & prepare feeders, buy sugar/syrup
- ~ carry out a thorough disease inspection, ask for help if worried
- ~ decide on your varroa treatment plan, buy in what you need, start if necessary
- ~ keep a treatment record: you can download a treatment record card from Beebase
- ~ unite small colonies

- ~ start reducing the number of supers on each hive- consolidate or put over the crownboard for the bees to move stores down
- ~ put empty supers and drawn comb into storage protected from wax moth
- ~ maintain vigilance for Asian hornet activity: although the queens are confined to the nest at this time of the season, workers will be out looking for food around your hives. Baits should be protein- cat food/tuna- and changed regularly
- ~ clean and repair equipment before storing and make a list of needs & wants
- ~ look back and take stock- what could you have done differently? better?

Nottingham Region meeting report Monday 1 July 2019 **Karen Burrow**
 Gerry Collins gave an entertaining talk entitled 'What do I do about this? A few problems in beekeeping and their solutions'.

He started with **swarms** and suggestion on collecting them in awkward places (including photos of some locations Gerry has collected from)

Example comments: if multiple swarms, use one box

place comb by the swarm and move it to the box as the bees go onto it

He covered a number of other areas including:

Woodpeckers - Green only

They are usually only interested in hives after several days of sub zero temperatures (so they can't get at their staple food of ants).

Protect hives with chicken wire, veg or fruit netting; tack plastic sheets to boxes. Can use unwanted CDs tied up near the hives or bird repellent ribbon as scarers.

Wax moth - Greater and Lesser

Lesser wax moth usually only on stored frames.

Strong colonies don't usually have a problem

To kill in volume, use Sulphur Dioxide or acetic acid - as for Nosema.

Do not store 'wet' frames.

Put frames in freezer, or outside in freezing temps.

Aggressive behaviour considerations:

- do you have meeters and greeters, or followers?
- can the children play in the garden?
- are they too swarmy?

Reasons for behaviour

- could be something you are doing
- rough handling
- odours
- wrong time of day

Why they become aggressive

- queenless
- after honey flow stopped
- weather conditions i.e. thunderstorms

When doing inspections know what you are planning to do and follow basic 'rules'

- dressed
- smoker lit
- use gentle movement
- keep away from flight path
- don't crush bees
- open aggressive colonies last
- locate and cage the queen
- have a separate manipulation cloth per hive (or use dummy board)

Association Equipment**Karen Burrow**

The following equipment is owned by the Association: it is held in a number of locations. If you wish to loan the equipment please contact the person who has it to make arrangements to pick it up at a mutually convenient time.

Alec Thomson Alec.Thomson3@ntlworld.com

Virtual Hive
Projector
Compound Microscope
Vapourisers (for oxalic acid, Car battery required to use)
Eazisteamer
1 frame observation hive
3 frame observation hive

Bob Logan bob.logan@ntlworld.com

Gazebo
Pictures and Banners
Virtual Hive

Anne Mason anne.mason3@btinternet.com

Extractor

Penny Forsyth pennyforsyth16@gmail.com

Virtual Hive
6 frame observation hive
Projector

Janet Bates janet.bates@ntlworld.com

Virtual Hive
Flip Board
Overhead Projector
Dissecting Microscope

Glenis Swift Ronson123@ntlworld.com

Extractor

Newark Region**Penny Forsyth**

The usual dozen or so beekeepers and aspiring beekeepers congregated at the Ferry Inn on the evening of Monday, 15 July to take the riverside air, partake of a beverage or two and to talk of bees and honey- and generally put the world to rights. Members were happy to report good honey crops this year, although oilseed rape acreages were down in places, and a spectacular flow from the lime- very welcome after two poor years. Preparations for going to the heather are well in hand and there are hopes of good yields. There have been some queen problems this season and a lot of swarming- calls were still coming in and some collectors have been running out of equipment. Various varroa treatments were discussed with most members stating a preference for thymol-based treatments over MAQS- very strong, instances of bees deserting the hive, queens being killed, corrosion of metal frame runners.

Beeston and Chilwell Bee Club News

Anne Mason

Troublesome times!

Beekeeping this year seems to be increasingly challenging for quite a few of the Beeston/Chilwell Bee Club members who met on Friday, 26th July. Amongst our grievances were drone-laying queens, the woes of queenlessness, Chronic Bee Paralysis, wasps and a colony who have re-homed themselves in a blackberry bush on an allotment that were causing grief! With a combination of experienced beekeepers and those with quite a few hives as well as beginners and beekeepers with just a couple of colonies there was plenty of discussion and encouragement on how to tackle each concern aired but no magic answer- bees will be bees! Advice was shared on combining colonies, how to add on super frames, use of Varromed for treating varroa and Lidl cider for baiting wasp traps. With forthcoming honey extraction activity in mind we are also looking at the possibility of buying honey jars in bulk but it's not easy when we have several jar size and shape preferences!

Mention was made of the current Module 1 study group meeting for those interested and the next NBKA meeting for the Nottingham region will be a social including a cream tea on Monday 5th August.

A beekeeper in a million is one of our members, Janet Barnes, who is currently on a marathon bike ride from London to Paris raising funds for the Parkinson's UK charity. The distance itself is challenging enough but the excessive heat (enough to melt a bag of jelly babies to a large blob!) and then torrential rain is making things even more difficult for the group taking part as they near the latter stages of their ride. If you would like to make Janet's efforts even more worthwhile please go to Janet Barnes' Just Giving page online.

Donations received

Chris Hutter, Honorary Treasurer

We are very grateful for the donation of £200 to the Nottinghamshire Beekeepers' Association in memory of Barrie Ellis, who died on 19 Feb. We would like to thank his family. Barrie had been a very long standing member of the association.

The Association also thanks Jorja and Norma Clarke for a £20 donation for a swarm collection from their garden by Conrad Gray. They were most impressed by his skill and knowledge!

COULD IT BEE YOU?

Alison Knox, Show Secretary

It is with genuine regret, that I have now tendered my resignation as **SHOW SECRETARY** to NBKA, due to a change in my own professional circumstances since taking on the role 3 years ago. Sadly, I no longer have the time or flexibility to commit to what was a fascinating, educative and inspiring experience. As of the AGM in February 2020 we will be needing a successor. Could it bee you?

The "**big black briefcase**" holds all the secrets of the role, and I will be happy to go through everything personally, leaving a full and comprehensive "*how to do it*" file for my successor. In the meantime, I will be reviewing the current role, splitting it into two more manageable roles. . . **SHOW SECRETARY** and **SHOW STEWARD**. It is very possible that if someone is willing to take up 1 of the roles, I can continue for a short "*handover period*" with the other. If you would like to consider this opportunity, please contact me directly in the first instance (*no obligation or coercion!*) by mobile on **07768 153526** or by email alisonnbka@btinternet.com Thank you

Eye catching new Street Art brightens up Beeston with a buzz!

Anne Mason



This week a new piece of Street Art has almost magically appeared alongside work depicting Beeston icons completed last October – Sir Paul Smith, Richard Beckinsale and Edwin Starr, all former local residents.

The new design commissioned by Broxtowe Borough Council using an art fund inherited from Henry Boot Plc was spray painted by Mural Life (also known as Russ Meehan) and depicts the origins of the word Beeston – derived from the Saxon word *Beos* meaning long grass and *Tun* meaning settlement.

As you can see above Russ' design shows reeds, long grasses, flowers and several honeybees encompass Beeston's true origins with those popularly associated with the area including 'The Beekeeper' a bee-themed sculpture by Siobhan Coppinger, which was created in 1987 and is situated on Beeston's main shopping pedestrian thoroughfare.

So if you fancy a look or are passing through Beeston, keep an eye out on Station Rd between Tescos and the Beeston Square traffic lights, the murals are very large and spray painted on the shop buildings on your left – don't miss them!

Bees set up hive in cello in West Bridgford garden

Radio Nottingham 28 June 2019

A professor has given a colony of honey bees a cello in which to set up their hive. Martin Bencsik, from Nottingham Trent University, is researching the vibrations and sounds made by the bees using the instrument in his West Bridgford garden. He also hopes to raise awareness about the decline of the species.

Dr Bencsik said: "We hope people will find it beautiful and convey the message they need to be looked after."



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-48803596>

Going to the heather

Heather honey is considered by many to be the queen of honeys and a good heather honey crop the crowning glory of the beekeeping season. The glorious colour and texture, gel-like and speckled by minute bubbles from the pressing, the intoxicatingly floral nose and the wonderful layered richness on the tongue make for a honey like no other and one that is greatly prized. Many hobby beekeepers take the chance to shift a couple of hives up to higher ground in August to tap in to this late season resource. If you are thinking about doing the same, here are some ideas that you might want to consider.

Your ideal site will be amongst the heather, sheltered, with suitable access for dropping off, visiting and removing your hives. You should always have permission from the landowner and provide clear information of where your hives will be sited, making sure that you will have good access at all times. The traditional ground rent is one pound of heather honey per hive.

Towards the end of July, pick out two or three of your strongest colonies- aim for around eight frames of brood and three of stores. If necessary, you could unite two weaker stocks to make up a strong one. A couple of days before you intend to move the hives (which will be dependent upon the timing of the ling coming into flower in your area) put a clearer board under your supers and remove them. The goal is to have a congested, single brood box, 'boiling over' with bees. The next step is to arrange the brood nest as follows: Frames with mainly sealed brood should go in the centre; those with open brood and eggs should go on either side of these.

Frames of stores will be on the flanks of the brood nest. This arrangement will ensure that the outer frames of the brood nest will be unavailable to the bees for storing incoming nectar for the next three weeks, meaning that more will go in the heather supers. Over that time, the cells containing the sealed brood in the central frames will become available to the queen to continue laying.

On each of your heather-bound hives, place a super, complete with frames fitted with thin, unwired foundation. Alternatively, save some money and cut two-inch deep 'starter strips' from your foundation and fit one of these to the top of each frame, the bees will easily draw this out to fill the frame. Some beekeepers maintain that bees won't draw foundation when working the heather and always supply drawn comb; some don't bother with queen excluders under the heather supers- take advice or try it either way and see what results you get.

Lifting these jam-packed hives, with supers in place, is a heavy job; get someone to help you. If you have carrying handles that hook under either side of the hive floor, all the better. Take along some form of light-weight stand to lift your hives off the damp ground; small pallets are useful for this. Take care as you carry the hives over rough terrain from your vehicle to their site, then set them down on even ground, facing south to make the most of the sunshine.

That's it. You've done all you can do. Now it's up to the bees.

For many of us, going to the heather is one of the highlights of the season. These short notes just scratch the surface of the subject, which is so rich you could write a book about it. And that's exactly what Michael Badger has done. You'll find his unsurpassed work, HEATHER HONEY: A Comprehensive Guide, on the [Bee Craft website](#) and in stock at Northern Bee Books.

Adapted from the Beecraft Timely Reminder of 24 July

Quince Honey Farm and nectar gardens, South Molton, North Devon Anne & Rob Mason

Almost 5 years ago I wrote an article for Beemaster extolling the virtues of a visit to Quince Honey farm and I know several people who have subsequently called in to this unique venue about bees and beekeeping.

In April of this year the Wallace family opened their new 'improved version' just outside South Molton off the A361 claiming the new Quince Honey Farm and nectar gardens set in 40 acres is now bigger and better than ever! A few weeks ago Rob and I went to see for ourselves.

It certainly is a hive of activity with guided tours in the Honey Factory, honey tasting and candle rolling sessions. Whilst in the Bee Shed you can see a number of hives used for interactive beekeeping demonstrations alongside some more unusual homes for honeybees. Visitors can see clearly through a screen within the shelter of a building that refers to beekeeping in other parts of the world and beekeeping in past times. There are even some beekeeper gloves that members of the public can use laboratory-style to take part in demos themselves!



The new Farm Shop/Restaurant building has plenty of bee themed items for sale including plants and a wide range of honey and wax products. The restaurant facilities are much improved serving a range of homemade dishes made with locally sourced ingredients and is a larger and lighter area with access to an outdoor eating area.

There are garden tours as well as beekeeping ones onboard a tractor and a very full calendar of activities for all the family throughout the year, especially during school holidays, plus special events and talks. Beekeeping experience days are offered during the months of May, June and July.

One of the most successful and enjoyable parts of the site we thought was the hexagonal nectar garden situated in the centre of the site with the buildings housing the Honey Factory, Farm Shop/Restaurant and the Play Hive (an indoor play area) set around it. Designed and planted specifically for bees, the gardens, including the Nectar gardens, have been planted with over 80,000 plants and more than 3,000 trees including an orchard of 500 fruiting trees.



It is early days yet but we could both see the potential that the new Quince Honey Farm has for both the casual visitor looking for an enjoyable family day out as well as for the bee enthusiast with education opportunities aplenty! For more details of how to get there, what is on offer and admission charges please go to www.quincehoneyfarm.co.uk

Recipe of the month

from The Guardian 20 July 2019

If your honey has gone crunchy, it's not a sign of a flaw, but of quality. And even if it's not quite spreadable, it's a brilliant excuse to make honey cake

Crystallised honey cake

This delicious cake can be made with plain flour but wholegrains not only add nutrition, they complement the sweet honey with a scrumptious maltiness. Go on, experiment!



200-250g honey

150g butter, room temperature

2 eggs, beaten

220g wholemeal or multi-grain flour

1 tsp baking powder

Edible flowers to decorate

Heat the oven to 200C (180C fan)/390F/gas 6.

Melt 170g honey and the butter in a pan over a low heat. Take off the heat, stir in the eggs, flour and baking powder until well combined, then pour into a greased and lined 20cm cake tin.

Bake for 35 minutes, or until a skewer comes out clean when pushed into the centre of the cake. Cool on a wire rack.

Spike the cake all over with the skewer, then spread or crumble the remaining honey evenly over the top. Serve plain or decorated with flowers.

Beelines: notices, news and views

Email received from National Bee Unit – 24 July 2019

In light of recent concern expressed over the potential future legal status of European Foulbrood, we wanted to clarify the current EU rules, and our understanding of upcoming new rules under EU Regulation 2016/429, the ‘Animal Health Law’.

Currently, European Foulbrood is listed in Annex B of COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/65/EEC, meaning national programmes may be recognised by this Directive and, where freedom from this disease exists, trade measures can be put in place stopping trade in bees. This means that where a country is recognised in legislation as free of EFB, bees cannot be consigned to that country. However, in the 27 years since Directive 92/65 was enacted, no country has submitted to the EU a case for being free from EFB. It is for this reason that under the new Animal Health Law, and its tertiary legislation, this option is being removed. Under the proposed new rules, no country can declare itself free of EFB. Similarly, no country can put in place trade restrictions on the basis of EFB.

IMPORTANTLY, however, countries can choose to operate their own control programme for EFB, and to make it notifiable within their own territory. There is some flexibility afforded by Article 171 of the new Animal Health Law, whereby national measures may be introduced for non-listed diseases. On this basis, and under this rule, Defra and devolved administrations have no intention to de-list EFB in the UK. EFB will continue to be notifiable in the UK and will be controlled by the bee inspectors in line with current operations.

We hope this clarifies the situation. Please be assured that any change to the position in the UK would be subject to a full consultation with all beekeeping stakeholders.

Regards

Defra Bee Health Policy

Kind regards,

Becky

Rebekah Clarkson

Healthy Bees Plan Project Manager

National Bee Unit

Peak Hives Photo Competition

To mark the launch of our Pollinator Plants we're once again holding a photography competition. This time the only requirement is that your shot features pollinators or something related to pollinators. So bees, butterflies, moths all count as would an interesting hive design or location or a bank of lavender swamped with bumble bees...anything pollinator related.

We've had lots of entries so far but maybe you have the winning shot or are about to take it so please send in your piccys of pollinators!!!

First prize is one of our Cedar 6 Frame Nucleus Hives with a Varroa Floor.

Copyright of the photograph will reside with the photographer with license to use being given to Peak Hives.

Please email all entries to nicholas@peak-hives.co.uk marking the email **Photo Comp 2019**.

From Janet Bates MB, Education Secretary

Have a look at the website nottsbees.org.uk There are:

- Items for sale items on the Website
- Apiary sites available on the Website
- Bees for sale

Modules success

Congratulations to the following members on their success in Module 6:

Kevin Anderson D

Karen Burrow C

Susan Ford D

Module 1 study Group

The New Module 1 study group has met a couple of times

New members will be very welcome. We meet at the big Tesco in Hucknall at 7pm on the following dates with a view to sitting the exam in November:

13 Aug 2019 at 19:00 to 21:00

27 Aug 2019 at 19:00 to 21:00

16 Sep 2019 at 19:00 to 21:00

8 Oct 2019 at 19:00 to 21:00

29 Oct 2019 at 19:00 to 21:00

Contact Janet Bates- janet.bates@ntlworld.com or 07973 412101

Calling for pioneer beekeepers for a new research project

Dr. Barbara Smith, Associate Professor at the centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University, and Dr. Priyadarshini Chakrabarti, Research Associate at the Honey Bee Lab at Oregon State University, have a small research grant from the British Ecological Society for a pilot project to see what the effect of air pollution may be on honey bee physical processes. They are looking for help from beekeepers in postcodes NG10 5, DE75 7, DE11, WS15 2 who would be willing to donate 30 returning foragers from a hive, 15ml of honey, 15ml of bee bread and a small amount of wax, ideally from 5 hives per location. Want to get involved? We would love to hear from you! Please email barbarasmithmail@gmail.com or call 07557425453

Recurrence of Small Hive Beetle in Sicily

The Italian authorities have notified the Commission of the reoccurrence of Small Hive Beetle in Sicily in the Siracusa area. The EU will be discussing changes to the safeguard measures at the next SCOPAFF on 8/9 July. <https://www.izsvenezie.com/aethina-tumida-in-italy>

A new weapon against the Asian Hornet?

Dr Xesús Feás is a scientific researcher with a keen interest in the observation of the invasive *Vespa velutina* var *nigrithorax* (Lepelletier, 1835) Asian hornet and investigating methods for

controlling the species. Dr Feás, a member of The Velutina Task Force of [COLOSS Association](#) recently gave a talk at a conference at [University degli Studi di Torino](#) on Vespa velutina and a lecture for the British Beekeepers Association at Harper Adams University in Shropshire where he discussed his work and recent research conducted by Wen, Ping et al. ("The sex pheromone of a globally invasive honey bee predator, the Asian eusocial hornet, Vespa velutina". 2017. *Scientific Reports*, 12956, 7) showed evidence for Vespa velutina gyne-produced sex attractant pheromones that mediate attraction of males.

More information can be found here – <https://www.vespavelutina.co.uk/vespavelutinanews/dr-xesus-feas-and-his-team-are-successful-in-creating-a-new-weapon-against-the-asian-hornet?fbclid=IwAR3uMPJzcSORk4UntqEfCLtnrUqe0VtWbeJgqTOyJsk7xjkaw-FaYLP1onI>

NBKA Asian Hornet Action Team News

Current UK situation

On 3 July 2019, the first UK sighting of an Asian hornet of the year was confirmed in [New Milton, Hampshire](#). It was spotted by a member of the public and reported via the Asian Hornet Watch App. This was the first confirmed sighting since October 2018. Monitoring is underway to detect any other Asian hornets in the vicinity and local beekeepers are asked to be vigilant. The Asian hornet is smaller than our native hornet and poses no greater risk to human health than a bee. However, they do pose a risk to honey bees and work is already underway to monitor for any hornet activity and to identify any nests which may be in the vicinity.

Since 2016, there have been a total of 14 confirmed sightings of the Asian hornet in England and six nests have been destroyed.

Nine of these sightings occurred in 2018; an individual hornet in Lancashire (April) and Hull, three in Cornwall, two in Hampshire, one in Surrey (all September) and one in Kent (October).

The risk of an active Asian hornet nest being found in the UK is negligible during the colder winter months, but higher during the summer. Asian hornets have already been spotted this year in countries close to the UK (France and Jersey) and a risk remains at all times of year of accidentally transporting an Asian hornet when returning to the UK from abroad.

It is crucial you report any possible sightings so our experts can take quick and effective action to eradicate Asian hornets.

Nicola Spence, Defra Deputy Director for Plant and Bee Health, said:

By ensuring we are alerted to possible sightings as early as possible, we can take swift and effective action to stamp out the threat posed by Asian hornets. That's why we are working at speed to locate and investigate any nests in the New Milton area following this confirmed sighting.

Channel isles latest: In Jersey there have been over 80 sightings of Asian Hornets so far in 2019 and a total of 24 nests have been found, 20 primary and four secondary, compared with a total of 17 throughout the same period in 2018. As hornets only build their nests throughout the spring, the Jersey AHAT team is hopeful they will not find too many more.

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 11 team members and between us we cover several postcodes but the aim is to provide 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 **so we need more!** 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>

Where there is an established population of Asian hornets now is the time when workers are most likely to be seen hawking around our hives. Once the workers emerge from the primary nest, they gradually take over many of the roles of foraging, defence and nest building within the colony, leaving the queen to lay eggs. They enlarge the nest around the embryo nest as the numbers increase in the colony and this primary nest continues to grow in size and numbers until mid July when 70% of these nests relocate into a high tree. For about a month, however, both nests will remain active, until the brood in the primary nest has all emerged. This is when you may start seeing Asian Hornets preying on your bees, as the adults have many hungry larval mouths to feed.

The adult hornets hunt for protein for the larvae, and in return receive a sweet substance from the mouths of the older larvae. The adults also collect and eat nectar and tree sap. Remember to keep monitoring your traps daily, releasing any by-catch. At this time of year the queens will not be hawking for bees so traps should be hanging near your kitchen window or somewhere very easy to see. Baits should be protein (cat food/tuna) and changed regularly. If you see an Asian hornet, the key is to get evidence so that you can report it. The easiest way is to take a photo or video, then email it with details to: alerthonnative@ceh.ac.uk or use the Asian Hornet Watch app. and please let me know pennyforsyth16@gmail.com If you have any queries about identification please send me a photo; the smart phone app has useful pictures and a means of reporting. I hope that none are seen this year but if seen the sooner the nest can be found and destroyed the less likely it will be for the nest to release queens.

Download the identification pdfs, laminate them and put them up in your apiary, on your allotment information board or local notice board.

<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 use them appropriately- visit <https://ahat.org.uk>

If you have not already registered your apiary on Beebase then please do so now. If there is an Asian Hornet incursion in your area it is vital that every beekeeper can be located and contacted. When you register and record your apiary information you can also report whether or not you have AH traps in place. Follow the link below:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/login.cfm>

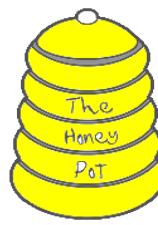
And finally.....

From the poem "To the fells with the bees in the morning" by RE Richardson, Scottish BKA magazine September 1926

When the summer's on the wane and the corn begins to fall
When the lime has dropped its blossoms and the honey flow is small
Then the bee-man rises early, for he hears the heather call
To the fells with the bees in the morning!



Off to the heather

<p>Compak Distributors of Glass and Plastic Containers and Closures Suppliers of British Made Quality Honey Jars and Lids. We have an extensive range of quality containers and closures. You will find our prices competitive, our delivery options flexible and our service professional. To receive more information or a price list, please call the number below. 3 Ashmead Road, KEYNSHAM, Bristol BS31 1SX Tel: 01179 863 550 Fax: 01179 869 162 Email: sales@compaksouth.co.uk</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>ADVERTISEMENTS NBKA accepts no responsibility for advertisements appearing in this newsletter. Please mention BEEMASTER when replying to advertisements.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>This advertising space is available now ~ see above right for rates and terms</p>	<p>CASH AND CARRY BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT at discount prices</p>  <p>See our website (Products/Cash and Carry) for new beekeeping equipment being introduced continuously throughout out the year.</p> <p>Major cards accepted.</p> <p>Normal opening times: Wed, Thu, Fri and Sun 12.00 – 5pm</p> <p>The Honey Pot, Unit 73, Trent Business Centre, Canal Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 4HN.</p> <p>0115 9726585 Mobile/text numbers 07703 711009 Email localhoney@hotmail.co.uk</p>