

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:

Andrew Barber Janet Bates Karen Burrow Griff Dixon Alison Knox Bob Logan Anne & Rob Mason
Other BKAs through the Bee Editors Exchange scheme
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DIARY DATES

Monday 2 December **Nottingham Region**, Arnold Hill Community Centre, **Arnold** NG5 6NZ
Brood diseases: Phil Khorassandjian 7.30pm
Monday 16 December **Newark Region**, Ferry Inn, **North Muskham** NG23 6HB 8pm
Thursday 19 December **Council meeting** Brackenhurst College, Southwell 7.30pm
Monday 23 December Copy date for **January 2020** newsletter
Monday 6 January **Nottingham Region**, Arnold Hill Community Centre, **Arnold** NG65 6NZ
7.30 pm **TBA**
Monday 20 January **Newark Region**, Ferry Inn, **North Muskham** NG23 6HB 8pm

www.nbkaeducation.weebly.com

From the editor**Penny Forsyth**

December is here and Christmas is just around the corner, that wonderful season of celebration and good will. Also just around the corner is yet another General Election, hardly a cause for celebration and offering very little in the way of good will. Oh well, at least it's stopped raining. The rain of the last few weeks has been no laughing matter- homes and businesses flooded and lives and livelihoods disrupted again and again. Whatever the cause- climate change, building on floodplains, change of land use and the concreting over of the countryside, poor management of waterways, cutbacks in local authority budgets- the burden of loss tends to fall on those who are the least to blame and the least well-equipped to recover from it. The Impact on wildlife should not be underestimated: it is not only the creatures who dwell above ground which suffer when habitats are submerged but also those which live, breed or hibernate beneath the soil. Nature is under siege all over the planet, we must all do what we can to redress the balance

In this issue Griff looks to the past to inform the future; Alison's after your silverware; Anne and Rob show us where our Christmas raffle money will be spent; Andrew makes tracks to the National Honey Show; we take a look at insulated hives and bee behaviour, ponder the historical link between honey bees and alcohol and mix up a batch of Linda's seasonal tipple- ideal for the designated driver! In Beelines you will find information about your membership subscription renewal, details of the BBKA Public & product Liability Insurance with a link to FAQ's and a job description for the position of NBKA Honorary Treasurer as Chris Hutter is stepping down.

There's plenty of good reading in this month's BBKA News and Beecraft: all the latest from the beekeeping world, advice for beginners and experienced beekeepers alike, wax modelling, soap making and cosmetic regulations, bee plants, National Honey Show report and book reviews. Beecraft also has Tom Seeley's Darwinian beekeeping and this year's report from the heather moors- better get yourself a mince pie or two. Kettle on?

Notes from Norwell & Hon. Sec. Report December 2019**Griff Dixon**

As the end of the calendar year approaches it's often a time of reflection on the season and how you can improve things next year. A time to think about what you have learnt from your mistakes and what you will have a go at next season without making as many mistakes this time. I managed to extract over 600lbs of honey this season but was actually hoping for more, although I did miss out on the heather which may have added a few more pounds.

I shall be for the very first time looking to do a wax exchange. I have yet to do this and have accumulated quite a bit of wax over the last 5 years not withstanding loads of brood and supers that have come round to that time where they just cannot be used again. Plus those that the proverbial wax moth has managed to worm its way into combs. I should be able to recover some combs that might be worth keeping and perhaps use them on the early nucs for next year. I am not looking forward to reclaiming the frames and re waxing when the new season starts.

Can anyone beat 6 field mice in one polynuc where I had left the back door open and the front door shut?(B S Honeybees 2 in 1) It was an empty with old frames but they still had a good go at shredding the polystyrene.

The flooding needs to be mentioned as various social media sources told of a number of apiaries sadly washed away. It is one of those things that needs to be considered when setting up an apiary- whilst bees do need a supply of water they don't actually need it in flowing form. I could not get access to The Trent at Cromwell Lock for a few days as the access road was flooded. I learnt from the lockkeeper when I did get past the flooded fields that my hive location was inundated with water with a tide mark half way up the stand legs!

It was one of the last to be finally winterised and on checking it over the bees were fine and in a nice huddle plus a couple came out to see me just to let me know that all was well.

I have finally got hands on to the NBKA website having had an introductory session with Janet Bates and hope to become more familiar with it over the next few weeks. I welcome any new ideas and thoughts on what should be included. Janet has done extremely well at putting the website together as it is, because it is quite time consuming, especially if you are learning as you are going along. The website is put together using Weebly's free website builder and is hosted through 1&1 IONIS (www.nottsbees.org.uk).

An Er2 training day is being hosted by the Yorkshire Association on the 14th December 2019 which I am hoping to attend and learn a bit more, especially about the renewal of memberships for 2020.

The Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM) is on the 11th January 2020 which gives us an opportunity to see how the BBKA ticks and works on our behalf. We can network with other associations and see how they manage membership, finances and honey show matters.

Only 109 days until Bee Tradex (at the time of writing)!

As I said last year- if folklore is to be believed you should be able to hear the hives singing on Christmas Day. Have a great Christmas and don't forget a fondant present to your bees.

The next Council Meeting is on Thursday December 19th 2019 at 7:30pm in Pippin Cottage at Brackenhurst College.

Griff Dixon, Hon Sec NBKA honsec@nbka.email

This month in your apiary: December

Penny Forsyth

December is the quietest month for bees and beekeepers alike. Our bees are in their winter cluster- secure, warm, dry and well-provisioned if we beekeepers have done our job properly- and will not be seen outside the hive unless on a cleansing mission or to collect water. The population of each hive is now very much diminished, as few as 5,000 bees, and these form a cluster with the queen and remaining brood at the centre. The priority now is heat conservation and the protection of queen, brood and colony through the coldest months of the year. The cluster is formed with an outer shell of bees facing inwards, abdomens outwards, creating an insulating layer against heat loss: the bees can also protrude their stings should an intruder threaten the cluster. Within this outer shell the bees can move freely and can access their stores- vital as they maintain heat in the centre of the cluster by eating honey and vibrating their strong flight muscles. Larvae also produce heat by consuming food. During a broodless period the temperature within the cluster is between 20C-30C and the cluster can expand or contract to maintain this range and to ensure that the outer wall does not get too cold. Bees from the centre will change places with bees from the outer layer to give them some time in the warmth and the cluster will loosen from time to time in order to move to a new area of stores. In very cold weather the bees may be unable to move far enough and can perish through isolation starvation- beekeeper vigilance is required here.

In the apiary there is little to do other than to continue checking that hives are intact and sound and that entrances are not blocked by snow, debris or dead bees. It is very important to regularly heft or weigh the hives to estimate the amount of stores remaining and to take action if there is cause for concern- a quick look in does no harm if you suspect isolation starvation to be a risk. Many beekeepers give their bees a present of fondant on Christmas Day, and why not- they will ignore it if they don't need it and it will be welcome if they do. Around New Year there is often a broodless period when oxalic acid treatment can be applied: on a still day put on suit, gloves and veil and work quickly with warmed solution. Winter is also a good time to move hives as the bees aren't flying so you can ignore the "less than 3 feet or more than 3 miles" rule, the bees will re-orientate when they start flying again in warmer weather.

Now that the leaves have fallen make point of looking up into the trees for Asian hornet nests.

Jobs for December

- ~ pay attention to hive insulation and ventilation
- ~ continue to visually check hives
- ~ continue to heft or weigh the hives to estimate stores, feed if required
- ~ continue to monitor varroa drop
- ~ treat with oxalic acid if that is part of your IPM plan
- ~ be alert to signs of Asian hornets- dead larvae/adults on the ground, nests high up in trees
- ~ continue to clean and repair last season's equipment- soda crystals and a blowtorch are your best friends here
- ~ make up all the flatpacks you bought in the sales
- ~ make up plenty of frames but don't wax them until you need them
- ~ read and learn, maybe sign up for a course

Happy Christmas!

Nottingham Region Meeting

Bob Logan

Hello everyone.

Our next meeting is **Monday 2nd December 2019**.

Our speaker is Phil Khorassandjian with a talk on "Brood diseases," a subject that shouldn't be missed by anyone, no matter how long you have been beekeeping. It's always good to have your (or my) memory topped up!

As we will be into the Festive Season there will be **mince pies** served at coffee/tea time.

We will also be hosting the **Bees Abroad Christmas Appeal Raffle**, so bring along items for the stall and buy raffle tickets. See you there!

Nottingham Region AGM & Alternative Honey Show Monday 7 October 2019 **Karen Burrow**

The AGM was chaired this year by the acting chair, Alec Thomson. Alec has agreed to continue in the role of chair for the following year.

The AGM involves the election of the committee for the following year.

Jan Lees and Glenis Swift have decided to leave the committee this year. Many thanks to them for their efforts over the past year(s).

Kevin Anderson and Martyn Nisbit have agreed to join the committee this year. Many thanks to them for offering.

Rukhsana Meherali has taken on the job of organising the refreshment rota for meetings. I am sure you will give her your support.

The remaining part of the meeting was taken up with alternative honey show. There were a large number of honey entries with the winner being Alec Thomson. The Honey cake section was won by Mary Venning and the Mead section by Tim Simpson. Congratulations to all and many thanks for everyone who entered.

Nottingham Region meeting Monday 4 November 2019

Karen Burrow

Graham Royce, NDB and Master Beekeeper of 30+ years standing returned to give a talk entitled 'Beekeeping - but not as you know it' (subtitled - 'If Heath Robinson had been a beekeeper').

The talk covered a number of areas where Graham has engineered solutions to a number of problems, including:

Entrances - instead of mouse guard turn the entrance block 90 deg and drill holes through, or reduce the entrance size by modifying the floor so only has 8mm gap (also stops bees building comb at the bottom of the brood frames).

Scales - produced an ingenious method for weighing a hive, using bathroom scales, light bulbs and mirrors!

Keeping a smoker lit - using towelling that had been soaked in a saltpetre solution (then dried) - it fizzes like a firework fuse. (Don't try this at home!!!!).

Swarm collection - manufactured a 'vacuum cleaner' to suck the bees down drain pipe and flexible hose into a nucleus box, which sits on top of another box containing a fan from a car scrap yard, driven by a 12 volt battery.

Fumigation of comb with acetic acid- put a box of frames inside a wheelie bin liner, seal and put a roof on it.

His 'piece-de-resistance' was his shed, in the shape of a WBC hive, fitted out for honey extraction.

Newark Region

Penny Forsyth

Fifteen members assembled at the Ferry Inn, North Muskham, on Monday 18 November for our monthly informal bees and beverages session. On this occasion we held our equally informal AGM at which it was agreed that our current committee would stay in post viz Andrew Barber as Chair, Maurice Jordan as Hon. Treasurer and Pete Bull as Hon. Secretary. It was further agreed that the group would continue to meet at the Ferry Inn on the third Monday of the month at 8pm for a social gathering to exchange ideas and information about bees, beekeeping and the wider world with all its foibles and futilities. Since our meetings are informal there were no minutes to approve nor motions to debate, consequently the business was swiftly concluded and conversations resumed on the customary wide range of topics, which this month included the disappointing yield from the heather, winter feeding, hefting v weighing hives to estimate stores, hive insulation, solid floors v OMFs, the requirement for/effectiveness/best method of oxalic acid treatment. There was, of course, the customary wide range of opinions on offer and plenty of lively debate. National Honey Show committee members Andrew, Maurice, David and Pete were eagerly anticipating their annual trip to this flagship event, this time by train to avoid the spirit-sapping purgatory of the M25: you can read Andrew's very informative account on p7. There were, unsurprisingly, many tales of woe to be told about the flooding in our area- the River Trent is tidal almost as far as Newark and we still have some road closures. Happily no-one has had hives inundated although water levels in and around some apiaries have given cause for concern and prevented access.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, 16 December, all welcome.

NBKA Honey Shows: a reminder to trophy winners

2018 SILVER CUP HOLDERS ~ please make ready to return your silver cups to me at the **JANUARY 2020** meeting in Arnold. I will need to get them re engraved for presentation to the 2019 winners at our AGM in February. ~ Thank you ~

Alison your (soon to be ex) **Show Secretary**

2019 Bees Abroad Christmas Appeal

Anne & Rob Mason

The Ekye Beekeepers' Union (EBU) in Ghana, Western Africa has been chosen as this year's Bees Abroad Christmas Appeal. The EBU is based in and around Ekye Amanfrom, a port on Lake Volta (the largest artificial reservoir in the world contained behind a hydroelectric dam).

Life for the majority of the local population is very hard and even the fishermen who have previously eked a living from the lake are experiencing reduced incomes. Others including subsistence farmers are living in homes built from mud, often just a single room, in poor repair and with limited sanitation.



Many children under 12 years of age have not had access to education and been forced to help support their families by working on the lake, which is fraught with danger leading to injuries and drownings.

The EBU project will really make a difference by providing an alternative source of income to members of the local community enabling more children to receive an education, providing work for young men thereby discouraging them from seeking work elsewhere such as Ghana's capital, Accra. Through the development of market gardens along the shore, better pollination by the honeybees and money from honey sales it is hoped that the EBU will benefit their local community's health and nutrition.

At the Nottingham region's NBKA meeting on Monday 2nd December we will be holding a Christmas raffle. Please do your bit to support this Bees Abroad project by bringing an item for the Christmas raffle and/or buying a ticket or two, thank you!

The National Honey Show 2019

Andrew Barber

On Thursday 24th October I travelled to Sandown Park, Esher, for the 88th National Honey Show. I am a delegate for the NHS, along with Maurice Jordan, David Chase and Pete Bull.

Normally we travel down by car, but the distance and navigating the M25 meant that this year we travelled by train.

The National Honey Show has been held in many places over the years, usually in central London, but for the past few years other venues have been tried just outside London. We have often thought that it ought to be renamed the London and Home Counties Honey Show, indeed there are county classes restricted to entries from Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex and Middlesex. At one point in the past it was suggested that the show be held at Stoneleigh, which would be a central location and the headquarters of the BBKA, but this heretical suggestion was immediately shot down in flames.

Over the years the show has grown and grown. When I first attended, it was strictly a honey show with one or two trade stands, but now the trade entries have grown and grown equalling and perhaps exceeding the Spring Convention.

Entering for a prestigious competition such as this would be a daunting task and the standard is, rightly, very high. In the past there have been several entries from the Commonwealth, but I don't recall seeing any this year. I do know that in the past there have been a few problems with HMRC so perhaps that is the reason. There is always a strong contingent of entries from Eire and there are classes open to the world excluding the British Isles, The Channel Islands and the Republic of Ireland. As I wrote earlier the standard is very high, but I have seen entries in our local shows over the past few years that would have stood a good chance of coming home with a prize. Indeed a few years ago our current president David Chambers came home with a prize for his granulated honey.

Something that has grown in popularity over the last few years is the lecture programme. This year there were 22 over the three days of the show. Unfortunately, we have to go on the first day, the Thursday, and not all the speakers can get there until the weekend, so the programme for the Thursday is somewhat limited. There are some prestigious speakers from all over the world, giving us the benefit of their experience in the world of beekeeping. You can always catch up with some of the lectures via You tube, because these talks are always videoed thanks to sponsorship by the Worshipful Guild of Wax Chandlers and this is a great way of keeping up. Having mentioned the Guild, some of the entries in the wax sections are quite breathtaking. There are also workshops that you can attend, 32 in all. They range from Microscopy, making Pampering Lotions to skep making and many other diverse activities.

Entries are not only limited to honey and beeswax, there are classes in mead making, microscopy, videos and essays, confectionery, cakes, marmalade: there are even separate classes for schools catering for the beekeepers of the future. Practically all aspects of beekeeping are covered. My particular favourite class is the one catering for beekeeping inventions. Some are quite plainly crazy, an invention for the sake of it and not really of any practical use at all. One invention that I have copied from a previous show was where a person had attached small but powerful magnets onto mouse guards and had corresponding metal screws on the front of the hive. This makes the autumn fixing of mouse guards a doddle. If you are interested in entering for next year's National Honey Show, have a word with our show secretary. If you cannot personally attend, then Thorne's have the means of getting your entry to the show.

Even if you don't want to enter any of your beekeeping produce, it's worth making the effort at least once in your beekeeping lifetime.

The 89th National Honey Show will again be staged at Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey KT10 9RT from Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th 2020.

INSULATION AND BEE BEHAVIOURS

Scientists are beginning to uncover why well insulated hives are so beneficial. Basically, hollow trees are so warm that the bees in them only need to gather one tenth the fuel to keep the colony going, compared to a conventional framed hive. It turns out that the bees do not just use the free time to gather more honey for a rainy day. Instead, they turn to cleaning the hive, propolis (sterilising) the walls, grooming mites off each other, and inspecting brood for signs of disease. In other words, bees have a hierarchy of behaviours. The priority is gathering enough food to survive. If you keep them in cold hives, and keep taking their honey away, you suppress the other behaviours, the ones which keep them healthy. You may want to pause and think about how unmanaged colonies thrive despite the lack of human help.

The initial research in this area was by Derek Mitchell in the UK.

To summarise, Mitchell, an instrumentation scientist, got thinking about his wife's hives, modelled hive heat flows on computer, and backed up his predictions with heaters in hives. He realised the immense impact insulation and absence of draughts had.* Every kilo of honey requires the bees to bring in several kilos of nectar to make it, so small differences in insulation and draught proofing make a big difference to the stress on a colony. Torben Schiffer, in Germany, has backed up Mitchell's theory with measurements on actual tree hive nests and confirms that a well-insulated tree colony may only have to gather one tenth as much nectar as one in a framed hive, that is 50kg instead of 500kg (half a ton!) a year. Long hives and Warrés may be better than conventional framed hives, but still need considerably more nectar to run than a tree cavity. All hives and colonies benefit from extra insulation.

Not only has Torben Schiffer confirmed these results, but by observing bees in such nests he has discovered the behavioural hierarchy described above. He has also found that above 10c, propolis volatilises, suppressing mould growth and mites which gives another reason cold hives are unhealthy. Torben is also researching how bees control humidity in hives. Warm air holds much more water vapour than cold. When ripening honey, bees warm the honey processing combs to 40c. If they can only warm them to 35c, the air will carry away 30% less moisture which means they need to work harder, by fanning more air, to remove water from nectar to make honey. The other main point Gareth and Torben have been thinking about is that when swarms move into a cavity, they seem to build comb and breed at a rate to suit that cavity. The bees must use comb to optimise ventilation to suit the size and shape of the cavity, and position of entrance. It follows, then, that removing top boxes full of dense, warm honey and adding a new empty box above or below is going to disrupt things. Even changing the volume of a hive is going to change internal conditions because, after all, the hive is the skin of the colony.

Based on an article from the Oxfordshire Natural Beekeeping group's newsletter. Thanks to Lune Valley Community BKA oct 2019 via ebees

*The author wondered what effect open mesh floors had as they were not mentioned in either article.

Honey bees and alcohol

To most Europeans, the production of alcohol in the form of mead, is intrinsically linked to mediaeval monks and monasteries. (They also produced a fair amount of wine and beer as well!) However, the earliest archaeological evidence of a honey derived alcoholic drink comes from Neolithic China where residual traces of a fermented beverage of rice, honey and fruit have been found dating back to as early as the seventh millennium BC.

There is now circumstantial evidence to suggest that the first honey-based alcohol may have been produced in Southern Africa some 100,000 years ago!

Recently published figures suggest that mead, possibly the world's oldest alcoholic drink, has been making a comeback, especially in supermarkets, after winning a strong fan base among younger drinkers in pubs and at beer festivals. It can now be found with numerous different flavourings, such as strawberry or blackcurrant and in sparkling variants.

English Heritage, which claims to be the UK's largest retailer of mead through the gift shops in its 400 historic buildings and monuments as well as online, says it sells a bottle every 10 minutes. Sales of mead have increased by an average of 10% annually for the past three years, according to English Heritage, and between April 2018 and March 2019 they sold 29,750 bottles.

Courtesy of Lune Valley Community Beekeepers via ebees

Recipe of the month

Linda Jordan

Thought this would suffice for the Christmas Parties, Alcohol Free!

Cranberry Punch

60ml (2 fluid oz) Honey

120ml (4 fluid oz) orange juice

1 litre (1 3/4 pints) sparkling mineral water

200 ml (7 fluid oz) cranberry Juice

4 tablespoons tap water

1 stick cinnamon

1 small orange

Fresh cranberries and mint to garnish or to make ice cubes

Method

Put the orange juice, honey and cinnamon with the tap water in a small pan. Heat gently to melt the honey, then boil briefly.

Leave to cool.

When ready to serve, pour the cranberry juice, mineral water and slices of orange into a punch bowl with the prepared syrup. Add the cranberries and leaves of mint or prepared ice cubes.

BEE MERRY & BRIGHT



Beelines: notices, news and views

From Janet Bates, MB, Membership Secretary

Membership Renewal for 2020

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS are due January 1st 2020

Membership is due for renewal on 1st January 2020.

If you are on our database you will receive an email in December inviting you to renew your membership.

You need to click on the link to the online membership form and complete the form online.

The form will default to the criteria that are on the database at present but these can be changed either with tick boxes, drop down boxes or freehand changes as appropriate.

When complete click the submit button.

The membership classes have changed slightly from previous years and from the November BeeMaster.

BENEFITS	BBKA membership	3rd party public liability insurance	BBKA News	BDI	NBKA Membership	Beemaster	Subscription
CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP							
Registered member	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	£25.00
Partner member-plus BDI (same address as a registered member)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	£18.50
Partner member-No BDI (same address as a registered member)	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	£16.50
Junior member (under 18)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	£9.50
Associate member	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	£12.50
Family member (Additional NBKA member same address)	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	£6.25

The preferred method of payment is by standing order or bank transfer.

Notts Beekeepers Association, HSBC, sort code: 40-10-06, Account no.: 21122258, Ref. **SUBS, SURNAME&FULL INITIALS**- this is essential to identify your payment.

If you need to pay by cheque then please contact [Janet Bates](#)

Prompt payment will be appreciated.

If you have any queries please contact me.

From Janet Bates MB, NBKA Education Secretary

Module Study Groups

You are invited to join and learn more about your bees and beekeeping.

The original study group have taken Module 7 so will be working on module 8 which can only be taken after the other modules have been taken (and passed). This means it is not suitable to start with although anybody is welcome to come along to the meetings.

The new module study group will be working on module 2. It is quite suitable for anybody to start with this module as they can be taken in any order (apart from 8).

The first meeting for module 2 is on 10th December. Please, do come along if you are interested (there is no obligation to take the exam).

The syllabus is on the BBKA website- it is on the products of the hive. The meeting is held in the meeting room at the big Tesco's in Hucknall at 7pm for a couple of hours.

Let me know if you would like to come along so that we can look out for you, 07973 412101. We meet at the customer service desk and go up to the room together.

BBKA Public & Product Liability Insurance

The BBKA has confirmed that with the help of their insurance broker, Buckland Harvester, they have arranged the public and product liability insurance for the period 4th October 2019 to 3rd October 2020 at a lower cost than the previous year. This was largely due to the fact that there had been no claims on the insurance policy over the last twelve months.

The insurance policy wording and certificates are on the website for members to view and download. www.bbka.org.uk/public-liability-insurance.

The BBKA has also published a document entitled 'Frequently Asked Questions' which can be viewed or downloaded via the members' area of the BBKA website as above or from the WSBKA website: www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/newsletters.html

From Chris Hutter, NBKA Treasurer: New Treasurer for the Association.

I have been in this job for 35+ years and would now like to hand over to someone else.

No special experience is required and you get to know all that is going on in the association.

My books are totally manual and I actually write the accounts on real paper. Now however is probably the time to use computers etc etc but it is not essential.

I use the standard and well established technique of Double Entry Bookkeeping, which suits the activities of the association.

The BBKA has changed the system so that the membership secretary will now take full responsibility for the list of members and the members paying extra bee disease insurance. This will now significantly reduce the work of the treasurer so there should be less to discourage anyone from applying.

I am very willing to talk to anyone who is Interested , and I shall await the rush of applications with eager anticipation.

Chris Hutter, Treasurer 0115 9830038

NBKA Asian Hornet Action Team News

Current UK situation

There have been no further reports other than those already detailed this year. Asian hornet queens will be looking for hibernation sites: check sheds, garages, roofs of beehives, leaf litter. We need to be looking upwards now: as the leaves fall there is a better chance of spotting nests in trees, especially in sycamore, birch and apple. On the ground you may see dead larvae which have been ejected and dead worker and drone adults- so..... **See it, Snap it, Send it!**
Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNS) <http://www.nonnativespecies.org>

If you think you see an Asian hornet or nest be sure to report it immediately, preferably with a photo, via the Asian Hornet Watch app, downloadable for smartphones, or email details to: alernonnative@ceh.ac.uk 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. 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>

Somerset BKA has produced some excellent information pdf's available to all: you can access them via the link on the AHAT website <https://ahat.org.uk>

Read up about traps and baits ready for next season- 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>

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 12 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 (NNS) 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>

BBKA Asian Hornet Conference at Stoneleigh: Saturday 8 February 2020

This is the first Asian Hornet Conference to be hosted by BBKA and is designed to bring together AH Co-ordinators from the regional BKA's to hear keynote speakers and discuss best practice. Two representatives are invited per BKA but more could be included if demand justifies a larger venue. NBKA will, of course, be represented and will report back to members.

And finally.....



Happy Christmas!

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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).

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