

# Beemaster



The Newsletter of the  
Nottinghamshire Beekeepers' Association  
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Cover photo: Bee on Salvia, Stuart Humphreys

Other photo credits: Griff Dixon (page 6), Stuart Humphreys (p8), Karen Burrow (p14), Alison Brown (p15), Rob Chapman (p16), Anne Mason (p17)

*Please note:*

Beemaster is published monthly. Contributions by 25<sup>th</sup> of prior 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 his opinion, to be unsuitable. Views expressed in Beemaster articles are not necessarily those of the Editor and may not reflect the opinions of the Council of the Nottinghamshire Beekeepers' Association.

## Diary dates

Please refer to the NBKA website for latest updates

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Association meetings remain cancelled until further notice.

Members should keep an eye on the excellent **NBKA website** which is regularly updated.

[www.nottsbees.org.uk](http://www.nottsbees.org.uk)

Recent notices posted on the website include:

- BBKA COVID-19 update from Anne Rowberry, Chair of the BBKA;
- Launch of BIBBA National Improvement Programme (details emailed to members);
- An article on end of season mini nucs;
- The sad news reported by Alex Thomson of the death of Glyn Flowerdew (see 'Beelines' on page 18).

The website contains back issues of *Beemaster* from January 2019 onward.

As a reminder, in light of COVID-19, the BBKA Exam Board has cancelled the autumn round of exams. The BBKA website has useful reminders about matters such as 'Your apiary is a place of work for your volunteers.'

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/tending-hives-during-covid-19>

The 89<sup>th</sup> **National Honey Show** will be held virtually on 22-24 October.

[www.honeyshow.co.uk](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk)

## From the Editor

**Stuart Humphreys** introduces this month's newsletter

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With autumn seeming to have arrived rather early, welcome to September's *Beemaster*. After last month's bumper 30-page issue, I am pleased to report a return to our usual 20 or so pages this month!

My thanks go, of course, to everyone who has taken the time at this crucial stage of our beekeeping season to contribute articles...

**Griff Dixon** has his hands full dealing with his honey harvest and has fingers crossed for his hives that are on the heather moors. He also provides a comprehensive update on BBKA and NBKA matters.

In my 'View from the Vale' I bemoan the decline in oil seed rape; I'm not sure everyone will share my view!

**Penny Forsyth** looks forward to the real start of the beekeeping season, September. Penny also provides an update on the Asian Hornet Team; happily no confirmed sightings on the GB mainland (still touching wood).

Show Secretary and Librarian **Karen Burrows** pens some autobiographical snippets for our 'Meet the Council' series. Apparently, she doesn't even like honey!

In his report Griff mentions that some 5,000 new members have joined the BBKA in the last 18 months, increasing its membership by over one-fifth. Indeed, NBKA is enjoying its fair share of new members, so I am pleased that we have a second instalment of 'New members' corner', this month's introductions courtesy of **Alison Brown** and **Rob Chapman**.

Continuing our occasional 'Bees on my garden' series, **Anne Mason** writes admiringly of the fascinating habits and life cycle of the Common carder bee.

'Beelines' includes a brief note from **Alec Thomson** marking the passing of Glyn Flowerdew. Next month's *Beemaster* will include a more detailed appreciation. And the afore-mentioned **Rob Chapman** is looking for help sourcing an electric honey extractor.

Last but not least, **Linda Jordan** provides us with a tempting recipe for a seasonal apple and honey cheesecake.

I hope you enjoy the read. And stay safe.

# Notes from Norwell

By **Griff Dixon**, including his Honorary Secretary's report

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## In the apiary

This month has seen a trip to the heather to check progress, moving a single WBC from Caunton as a rescue mission as wasps were beginning to take over, spotting my first European hornet, getting through 100kg of sugar syrup as a top up feed, and starting to prepare hives for winter. Plus another late swarm collected and added to my quarantine area.

I have still to complete the super removals and pushing bees down into the brood box so they can prepare their winter nest. I will need to clean up my heather honey press and get that ready for extraction in a few weeks' time.

Maurice Jordan has reported that, after four-and-a-half weeks, the heather hives are a mixed bag with some heavy ones and a few lighter ones. They need another week as the heather is still in flower. In the end I managed to take 13 hives in two loads, leaving a further six possibles back at the apiary. It was a shame as four of these have proved to be very strong as I have been putting supers on them during August, so they would have done well on the heather.



Transporting Hives to the Heather

The NBKA Heather Location Chesterfield

Junior Beekeeper with Heather Honey European Hornet at Norwell Apiary

Norwell Apiary has managed to extract 1,300lbs of honey so far this year. There are still more supers to extract and further hives to clear off as winter preparations get underway. Then there will be the heather to extract and add to the overall year's total – probably won't make the tonne though.

Twitter social media from Scottish Beekeepers suggest it's a bumper year for the heather. Will let you know how we have progressed next month...

## NBKA matters

On NBKA matters I still have to prepare the notes of the 18 June virtual (Zoom) Council meeting and an agenda for the next virtual meeting on 17 September. We have held a virtual meeting to discuss the Constitution rewrite as its been over 30 years since the last one was restructured. A lot has happened since then which means we need a bit of a rethink on how we do things, especially as member numbers have surged towards 300. Administratively the NBKA is in a much better place than it was a few years ago but there is still some way to go to improve.

NBKA were contacted by a Nottinghamshire journalist undertaking a short documentary on 'Bees and the Climate Crisis'. This was passed onto Alison Knox, our Media Specialist.

On BBKA Matters the NBKA have been informed about the following during August 2020:

1. The Annual Delegates meeting on 16 January 2021 will be a Zoom Virtual Meeting.
2. The DEFRA Tree Consultation (Forestry England Tree Strategy) closes on 12 September.
3. There is a digital version of BBKA news which can be found on this link:  
<https://www.bbka.org.uk/reading-bbka-news-online>
4. There was an update about COVID-19 from Anne Rowberry concerning General and Apiary Meetings and Virtual Honey Shows. Some Associations are being inventive in reviving events virtually. Specific risk assessments need to be undertaken to ensure we adhere to government and Health & Safety Executive guidelines once we decide to get things going again.
5. The BBKA Draft Budget was received on 12 August 2020 with **a proposal to increase capitation to £21 per member (increase of £2)**
6. We have been informed of a BBKA exam board vacancy.  
Contact [gen.manager@bbka.org.uk](mailto:gen.manager@bbka.org.uk) if you are interested; closing date 4 September.
7. Asian Hornet Week is 7-13 September 2020 – download the free 'Asian Hornet Watch app.
8. BBKA have reported that over 5,000 new beekeepers have joined since January 2019. NBKA has likewise seen a surge in new members too.

August has been a busy month for BBKA activities. Let's hope we can get NBKA active again soon.

## View from the Vale (of Belvoir)

How bees are faring in the south-eastern corner of Notts by **Stuart Humphreys**

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With the main swarming season behind us, in August we took the opportunity to reduce the frequency of inspections. Instead, we focused on checking for varroa and uniting colonies produced by splits.

On the varroa front, three of our colonies had mite drops of less than five per day, the others averaged between 10-15. We were reasonably pleased with those results but will nonetheless be treating all the colonies with Apivar once we have finished removing all the supers during September. Originally we used Apiguard, then switched to MAQS for a couple of years; although it was quite effective we weren't sure our bees particularly enjoyed the experience, so Apivar it is, at least for the time being.

The honey crop is proving to be a bit of a 'problem' this year. The bees have been producing more than ever: for the first time since we started keeping bees we have had five supers on some hives; but thanks to COVID restrictions our sales of honey are currently down a third year-on-year. It's a good job we have a large pantry in which to store the excess.



Speaking of the honey crop, this year we've probably had less from oil seed rape (OSR) than in any previous year. Diane Kidger (who you might recall won last year's Photography Cup) keeps bees in our neck of the woods and tells me that her neighbouring farmer will never plant OSR again because of crop failure following the ban on neonicotinoid seed. My local farmer confirms that OSR is definitely in decline; in fact, if a profitable alternative break crop were available, none would be grown now. He too has stopped growing it until the ban on neonics is repealed or an effective, acceptable replacement is found. Apparently, part of the problem is that the plants infected by cabbage stem flea beetle don't always just fail. They can look perfectly healthy, encouraging farmers to continue applying fertiliser, etc. Then, come harvest, the yield can be minimal and the financial loss greater. If OSR does disappear for good, I, for one, will certainly miss it.

## This month in your apiary: September

**Penny Forsyth** looks forward to the start of the beekeeping year

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September is the month when the beekeeping year really begins – the honey crop has been removed and our actions now will determine how well our colonies will fare in the winter months ahead.

This month our inspections need to focus on the amount of stores in the hives and whether our colonies are big enough and healthy enough to overwinter successfully: it's time to perhaps unite small colonies, treat for varroa and to start autumn feeding if your colonies are light on stores. Whichever varroa treatment you decide on – and there's plenty of advice out there – you must keep records for at least five years: you can download a record card from BeeBase.

Here in the north of the county my bees are still bringing in stores of nectar and pollen from phacelia, rosebay willowherb, bramble and Himalayan balsam, and these they will keep for the winter. Wasps are becoming a nuisance in my apiary, constantly trying to sneak into the hives to plunder their hard-won stores and being rebuffed by the guard bees: I have reduced all entrances and put foam strips in the gaps between varroa floor and brood box. My wasp traps are catching plenty but it looks like a bumper year for the pests so I'll redouble my efforts – wasps can wipe out a small colony in days. This is also the peak time for Asian hornet activity so stay alert for them hawking around your hives or feeding on ivy and fallen fruit.

Now that you have taken your last honey crop you will need to make sure that your colonies are sufficiently well-provisioned to get through the winter: each full-sized colony will need around 20kg (44lbs) of stores as a minimum, more if the winter is mild. I leave my bees at least one super of honey and always do a visual inspection of each hive to be sure that there are good stores in the brood box, never assume. I also take the opportunity to rearrange frames of stores to ensure optimum accessibility then use the weight of the hive as my guide as the season progresses.

How do we measure the weight of a hive? Various scales and spring balances can be used but an easier, if less scientific way, is to lift one side of the hive about half an inch (hefting). If it feels so heavy you can scarcely lift it (feels as if it's nailed down), then the stores are likely to be adequate. For autumn feeding we use a ratio of 2:1, that is 2lb sugar dissolved in 1 pint of hot water (1 kg in 625 ml for the metrically-minded). Use white granulated sugar dissolved into hot water and allow it to cool before putting it on the hive – never heat the syrup. Use contact feeders (bucket feeders), rapid feeders (these have a central, covered, cone-shaped access) or large capacity feeders such as Miller or Ashworth. Feed early in the month to give the bees time to process the syrup sufficiently; too diluted and the syrup will ferment, causing dysentery.

When feeding take care not to excite robbing in your apiary: ensure you don't spill any syrup, check that the box surrounding the feeder has no gaps which could allow wasps or robber bees to enter, and feed only in the evenings. If you haven't already done so, reduce entrances and set up wasp traps.

Small colonies – of 5 frames of brood or fewer – have difficulty maintaining an adequate temperature in the cluster during the colder months and so have a lower chance of survival than larger ones. If you do decide to overwinter them you will need to give them extra protection, perhaps in a polystyrene nucleus box. I've successfully used polystyrene blocks around the brood nest in a standard National brood box. You may also wish to consider uniting small colonies: this provides an opportunity to select for your best queens. You will find instructions on how to unite colonies in beekeeping books and magazines, online and by asking more experienced beekeepers.

### Jobs for September

-  Estimate winter food stores by hefting hives and/or inspecting each frame.
-  Top up the stores to at least 20kg by feeding heavy syrup.
-  Be alert to wasp activity in and around your hives – reduce entrances and set up traps – and to robbing by other colonies.
-  Monitor for varroa mites and treat immediately if the natural drop exceeds 20 mites per day.
-  Monitor again after treatment to ensure it has been successful.
-  Unite small colonies or ensure that the hive or nuc is well-insulated
-  Remove the queen excluder towards the end of the month if you are leaving a super of honey on the hive. Clean it and store it under the roof ready for use.
-  Remain alert for the presence of Asian hornets, either hawking around your hives or feeding on ivy or fallen fruit. Use sweet baits in any traps and monitor daily.
-  Take advantage of this year's Asian Hornet Week 7-13 September to learn more about this potentially devastating intruder and spread the word!.

## NBKA Asian Hornet Team news

**Penny Forsyth** reports on the current UK situation

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I am happy to report once again that there have been no confirmed reports of Asian hornet activity in the UK, almost certainly due to the continuing reduction in freight and tourist traffic from the continent due to coronavirus restrictions. There have been, however, even more false sightings than usual which shows an increased awareness among the general public. This has been fuelled partly by misleading images in the press and social media and sensational stories about the Asian giant hornet, which it is feared may establish itself in the US after several nests were found this year.

Building on this, one of the key messages of the 2020 **Asian Hornet Week 7-13 September** is for the public to download the free app **Asian Hornet Watch** onto their phones so that they have the information ready to hand to accurately identify and report sightings of Asian hornets, and particularly nests as we move into autumn and trees shed their leaves. Beekeepers are asked to put aside one hour per day to check hives for Asian hornet hawking activity and to try to increase awareness of this yellow-legged intruder as widely as they are able. A press release is available to send to local media and there is a page on the BBKA website on the link below that has more information:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/Event/asian-hornet-week-2020>

In the Channel Islands Asian hornet hunters have been finding an abundance of well-hidden nests in bramble patches, in the ground and in shrubbery around the island. The total so far this year is 34 nests – mostly located using radio tracking – compared with 48 at the same time last year. Any cautious optimism about the reduction in numbers has to be set against the inevitable curtailment of monitoring activity during lockdown, although members of the public are well-informed and have been extremely vigilant in reporting any sightings. The Jersey Asian Hornet Group is now fully active whilst observing government COVID-19 restrictions and their Facebook page is a useful source of information, pictures and some quite chilling video footage... well worth a look.

Now is the time to watch out for the Asian hornet as the colony has lots of larvae to feed, especially new potential queens. The best places to watch are in your apiary, where workers may be hawking in front of hives; in orchards where they may be feeding on fallen fruit; and on late nectar-producing plants such as ivy. Traps should now consist of sugar rich sweet baits (but not honey) on an open dish placed where it can be easily monitored. We should maintain our vigilance for hornets and nests, remembering to look up – secondary nests are frequently built in tall trees. It goes without saying that we should check regularly our own sheds, porches, garages, carports, house eaves, and stacks of old hive boxes, etc. Don't forget..... See it, Snap it, Send it!

Non-Native Species Secretariat <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: [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk) and please let me know.

Finally, just a reminder that the BBKA has launched an interactive map on its website giving the locations, names and contact details of AHAT members across the country. This works in the same way as the Swarm Map and is drawing data in real time from the information in the eR2 database. Anyone requiring help or advice about a suspected sighting simply enters their postcode and the relevant section of the map comes up showing coloured pins: blue for the co-ordinator, red for verifiers.



## Asian Hornet Team map

You will find our [advice here](#).

Please action this asap to ensure we can all help the Government in the coordinated response to this invasive species.

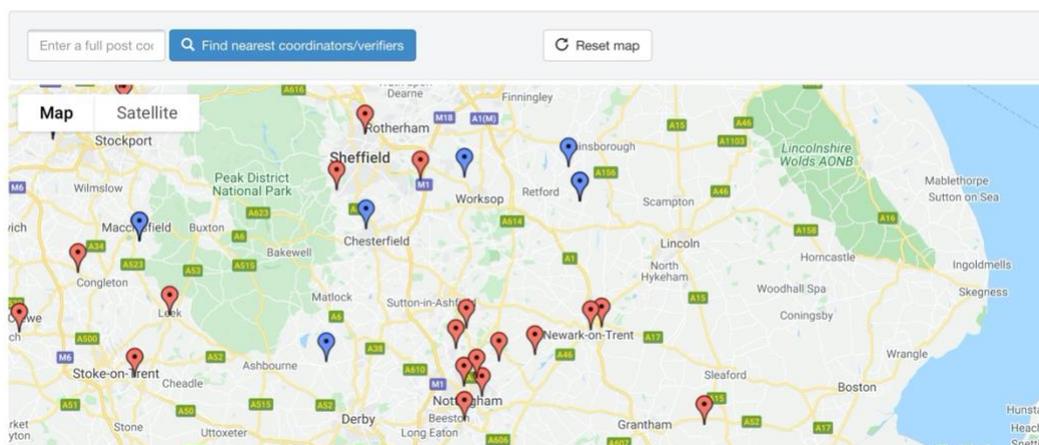
The Asian Hornet Team can arrange assistance with the identification of suspect Asian hornet sightings or leads.

[The AHT training exercise is ready for members please click here](#)

The exercise needs to be completed for you to have cover for taking part in AHT activities. More information can be found about insurance on this additional [Asian hornet page](#)

Legend: blue pin = AHT coordinator (Team Leader), red pin = AHT verifier (member of team)

NB: Changes are made via the ER2 system not the office, please contact your membership secretary



Clicking on the pin gives the name and contact details. NBKA makes a good showing with 10 members visible: you will find the map via the Asian Hornet tab on the BBKA website.

However, BBKA is now recommending 15 members per team as a desirable unit; consequently, if you would like to be involved in the NBKA Asian Hornet Team please contact me at pennyforsyth16@gmail.com.

## Meet the Council: Karen Burrow

Show Secretary and Librarian **Karen Burrow** doesn't even like honey...

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My first introduction to the world of the honey bee came as part of A-level Biology where there was a large section on insects which, of course, included a fair amount of coverage of honey bees. Having always tended to unusual activities (just ask the children) becoming a beekeeper appealed. My first beekeeping book dates from this period and unsurprisingly it is not a lot of use, but it is interesting looking at beekeeping before things like varroa and Asian hornets. At this time beekeeping was very much a minor activity, carried out by what to me seemed like to me to be very old men. Living in Leeds at the time urban beekeeping was non-existent, and so it was put on the back burner.

Around 20 years ago I found myself living in Derbyshire and came across a beginners course run by Margaret Cowley at the local agricultural college. I completed the course and gained a certificate. In those days the government subsidised courses if there was a certificate at the end!

A few years later I installed my first colony at the bottom of the garden. I only wanted one colony but it never seems to work out like that. I also remembered at this point that I don't actually like honey...

In the intervening period the apiary has expanded to 10 colonies. I currently supply my honey to a local dairy farm who runs a self-service milk shop. Amazingly, they seem to be able to sell all I can produce. I am told one person buys a jar every two or three days!

I joined Nottinghamshire beekeepers as the location and times were more convenient than Derbyshire's (and, of course, the people are nicer...). Over the years I have volunteered for various roles in the Association, currently I am the secretary of the Nottingham region (which is primarily concerned with contacting presenters, so if you know of any good speakers let me know). I also took on the role of librarian and have just taken on the organisation of the honey shows. All of this has been very easy this year with no meetings or shows...!

When working I was always short of time, but after taking voluntary redundancy three years ago I needed something to keep me occupied. I stumbled across the BBKA exam scheme. I know this is not everybody's cup of tea but I find it makes me pay attention to things and read up about subjects. The study group has been a good way to encourage continual learning which is important in beekeeping. I am currently working towards the final written exam, Module 8, which seems to cover everything.

As the exams have been cancelled this year I have needed to find other things to do. Fortunately I came across a big, ex-display shed in a local garden centre which was delivered just before lockdown. The shed kept the family occupied for many hours this spring, erecting and painting it and then filling it with all my bee paraphernalia. Many afternoons have been spent in there making frames and painting all of my brood boxes and supers in a kaleidoscope of colours.



I think this is the first year I have not had a mad panic to find frames to carry out an artificial swarm but I suspect normal service will be resumed next year. Although my new shed is much better than the old one it is still not entirely bee proof. If anyone can tell me how to achieve this I would be very grateful!

## New members' corner

New members **Alison Brown** and **Rob Chapman** explain why they've joined the NBKA

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*Alison writes:*

My husband, Jay, and I started keeping bees last spring with the help of a friend who keeps bees locally. After much research we decided that top bar hives looked like a good option for us. Our friend gave us a nuc of bees and we put them in the hive using the 'chop and drop' method. This is not exactly ideal, but we weren't confident enough to collect swarms at the time, so it was a good way to get us started. This year we collected our first swarm which is now thriving in our second top bar hive.

We're thoroughly enjoying beekeeping and love to watch how quickly they build comb.

We are slightly unconventional in that we follow a fairly natural approach – we don't use queen excluders, etc. – and we only harvest honey when they need more room or have stores left over after winter. We therefore don't generally need to feed them.

Here's an example of some freshly built comb in our new hive:



We joined the NBKA in order to meet other local beekeepers and learn and share experiences. Once lockdown has lifted and we are able to attend meetings, we're looking forward to getting to know the beekeepers in the area.

*Rob describes his 'tentative steps into the fascinating world of beekeeping':*

I had been interested in and thinking about keeping bees for quite a few years before I finally took the plunge. A friend of my wife's had to give up keeping bees as his wife had become severely allergic to bee stings, so we bought his whole bee collection/equipment off him. And we were suddenly beekeepers! This was in autumn 2017.

It then became all a bit trial and error. And I am still a bit scared of looking at them, to be honest. We researched courses about beekeeping and, as a result, got to know Andrew Barber, who took us under his wing; as it happens, we also have dance lessons together. Not with each other. With our respective wives.

Our friend who lives around the corner from us also showed an interest, so we bought her some bees from Andrew for her birthday (she did have a hive – we didn't just hand over a box of bees!). A new neighbour moved into the village, who has also shown an interest and has also ended up getting some.

The three of us now have eight hives between us, of which six are occupied. We help each other out and call on Andrew when we have a problem. He's always willing to help, as anyone who knows him will know. There's still an element of trial and error and we all are reading and watching YouTube videos when we need to know stuff. Every day's a school day!

My take is that the bees know what they are doing. They've been doing it for a really long time. Without them, there would be no crops. That's the reason I started. And I will continue on this basis. I don't want to be a full time beekeeper.



Our friend keeps us all in check. She's definitely 'Director of All Things Bee and Honey-related' for our village; we're all her apprentices. We haven't actually extracted honey, yet, but she has. It's all a learning curve. It's all about being good to bees.

## Bees in my garden: Common carder bee

**Anne Mason** admires the life cycle of one of our most common bumblebees

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The common carder bee (*Bombus pascuorum*) is, as its name implies, seen relatively often. Emerging in spring it is the earliest of the carder species of bumblebees, and they have a long season (March to November) compared to many others.

The name carder is thought to originate from the carder bee species' behaviour of scraping the 'hair' from leaves such as those on *Stachys* plants known as 'Lamb's Ears'. They bundle the hairs under their bodies and use it for lining the inside of the nest.



We spotted this cute little bundle of orangey/ginger fluff in our skep shaped garden ornament in June this year. Writing towards the end of July, the workers are still busy flying in and out the skep, bringing a smile to my face.

The queen emerges from hibernation in March and can be seen on flowers in search of pollen and nectar both for herself (as an 'egg laying machine') and for her subsequent offspring. She looks for a suitable nest site in cavities, old birds' or mouse nests, and mossy lawns. The queen collects moss to create a small hollow sphere bonded with wax. Inside this, she makes little wax 'pots' with pollen inside and lays 5-15 eggs before closing the cell. She also makes another wax 'cup' for nectar which will be her food source when the weather prevents her from foraging.

After 3-5 days the larvae hatch and feed on the pollen and within several weeks they have matured. The early workers (all female with undeveloped ovaries) are small and assume the role of nest builders and foragers, with the queen remaining in the nest. Later in the season, during August and September, she lays unfertilized eggs which become male bees (drones) in addition to eggs which develop into larger female bees (new queens) with the colony's numbers peaking between 60 and 150.

In September the entire nest of bees including the 'old' queen and workers will die except for the mated new queens which fly off in search of a suitable site to hibernate.

Common carder bees feed on a variety of flowering plants. According to one study these include wildflowers (257 types) and cultivated (21) such as nettles, knapweed, Himalayan balsam, red/white clover, fruit trees, paprika and tomatoes.

# Beelines

Notices, views and news

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## **Death of Glyn Flowerdew, from Alec Thomson**

It is with a heavy heart that we have to record the passing away of Glyn Flowerdew on Thursday 20th August. Glyn had been seriously incapacitated for the past 18 months being stricken with motor neuron disease to which he eventually succumbed. Glyn took up beekeeping on his 60th birthday and became a member of the Notts Beekeepers Council fulfilling the role of Education Secretary for several years and he will be fondly remembered by many novice beekeepers who attended his introductory courses and his practical tuition sessions at his apiary at Newstead Abbey.

Arrangements for Glyn's funeral are still to be organised and when confirmed details will be publicised on the NBKA website.

Our sincere condolences go to Glyn's wife Eileen and his family.

A more detailed appreciation of Glyn will be included in next month's *Beemaster*.

## **From Rob Chapman, NBKA member**

Our little cooperative is looking to source and buy an electric honey extractor that can possibly hold brood frames. We have looked on the websites of the major beekeeping suppliers but they seem expensive; also, eBay (from China, etc.) but to date have been unsuccessful. If anyone knows of one for sale, I would be grateful if they could contact me at [robchapman155@gmail.com](mailto:robchapman155@gmail.com).

# Recipe of the month: Apple & honey cheesecake

Another tasty treat from **Linda Jordan...**

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## Ingredients:

### **Crumb base and topping:**

6 oz (175g) digestive biscuits

3 oz (75g) butter

### **Filling:**

$\frac{3}{4}$  pint (400ml) apple puree  
(made from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb (675g) apples)

2 tbsp (30ml) honey

$\frac{1}{2}$  oz (15g) packet of powdered gelatine

$\frac{1}{2}$  pint (250ml) carton of fresh double  
cream (or fromage frais)

## Method:

1. Lightly butter a 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (19cm) tin and line with greaseproof paper.
2. Crush the biscuits and mix with the melted butter.
3. Set aside three tablespoons of the mixture and press the rest into the prepared tin.
4. Heat the apple puree with the honey until it has dissolved.
5. Dissolve the gelatine in a little cold water, stir into the apple puree, and leave to cool.
6. Whip the cream (if using) until stiff enough to hold its shape, and fold the cream or fromage frais into the mixture.
7. Pour onto the biscuit base, scatter remaining biscuit mix on top, and leave to set.

## Advertisements

### Compak

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Tel: 01179 863 550

Fax: 01179 869 162

Email: [sales@compaksouth.co.uk](mailto:sales@compaksouth.co.uk)

#### 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).

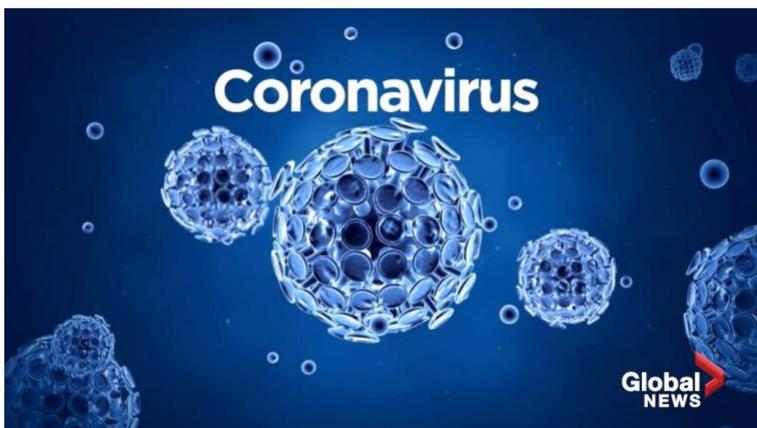
#### ADVERTISEMENTS

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.



Beekeeping has many different challenges and this year is no different, except it us and not the bees in danger this time.

Bees are unaffected but we Beekeepers have to take great care when going to and handling our bees, collecting equipment, as well as the recommended distance between other people.

During the COVID 19 Virus crisis, The Honey Pot at Canal Street is open by appointment only to customers wanting Beekeeping Equipment and Honey etc. See our web site [www.thehoneypot.store](http://www.thehoneypot.store) for up to date information.

**BEEKEEPING MUST GO ON** Whilst we are closed to the casual caller, you can arrange a weekday and a time to suit and meet you there individually maintaining our social distance.

**CONTACT** By email or send a message from the new web site.

*Special offer during September:  
10% discount on 1lb honey jars  
& lids for orders over £50*

**CASH and CARRY BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT 2020 - 2021** Price list available, major cards accepted,

**THORNE'S AGENT** Stocking most of the popular items you need, the other items by order.



Frames and Foundation

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email: [info@localhoney.co.uk](mailto:info@localhoney.co.uk). Also on Twitter and Facebook



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01769 573086

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## Varroa Treatment

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## Extraction Equipment

Everything you need to make the  
most of your honey crop

## 2020 Sale Days Cancelled

Online sale

Monday 31st August - Monday 14th September.  
Sale orders over £100 carriage paid within the UK.

All our usual second quality hive parts,  
second quality frames and  
usual bargains will be available.

Example frame prices are below

- 50 SN1/DN1 - £20
- 50 SN4/DN4 - £24
- 50 14"x12" - £30