



THE FEDERATION OF BERKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATIONS

The Federation, its Council, and its Officers cannot be held responsible for the views expressed in the Newsletter or possible errors.

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Editors Corner



The lovely warm weather we had in April did wonders for the flowers, and the Rapeseed - otherwise known as OSR (Oil-seed Rape)! The rolling fields of yellow that are such a familiar site around the Chilterns have been on show early this year. Of course, the knock on from this for us beekeepers is the OSR Honey. I have already had to remove a full super of honey, much of which has started to crystallise. Fortunately, I managed to extract some 10lbs of honey - although the

extracted frames are by no means empty!

There has been a lot of activity in the various Association Apiaries over the past month – with Slough Windsor and Maidenhead giving an interesting report for the 'In My Apiary' piece.

This month I would especially like to draw your attention to the Bee Health Day, which is being held at Bracknell Leisure Centre on Saturday 4th July. This event has been organised for the Federation and will be run by our Regional Bee Inspector, Nigel Semmence, together with some of his colleagues. Organised in conjunction with the National Bee Unit and sponsored by Bee Diseases Insurance, this promises to be a very useful day for all beekeepers. You will find the programme at the end of the newsletter. The cost for the day is £10 for adults and £5 for juniors. Registrations are being organised by individual associations.

Sue Remenyi

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In Our Apiary

The Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Beekeepers' Society have an apiary located north of Wexham. The hives are tucked into the corner of a field often occupied by ponies, shaded by trees and the location provides a very pleasant place to learn about and keep honey bees. There is a storage shed for equipment and supplies and a bench for resting. The surrounding area provides a good mixture of potential forage ranging from gardens, crops, a golf course and a country park.

The Society apiary is supported and managed by a group of dedicated members who have many years of accumulated beekeeping experience between them, which they are always willing to share with new and old beekeepers alike. They manage the apiary throughout the year, but the main activities start at the end of March as the indoor winter meeting schedule comes to an end. Throughout the summer, the apiary meetings are held on alternate Sundays at 2.30 although if the weather is inclement then a meeting may be cancelled on the day, as there is not too much space in the storage shed for sheltering!



The summer meetings are friendly and informative. Some of our members lead the examination of the hives and guide the decisions on any necessary action. Everyone has the opportunity to handle the bees, to take part in the regular care of the colonies and to ask questions about the procedures.

Care is taken to ensure that best practice is observed and taught in the apiary and standards of hygiene are taken seriously to ensure there is no cross contamination between member's and the Society's apiaries.



The number of colonies in the apiary fluctuates over the year; in autumn last year five colonies were left to overwinter with a super of stores each. In January they were the subject of some experimentation with oxalic acid. This followed an instructive talk the Society had in December about oxalic acid treatments and the benefits of controlling varroa mites using the sublimation method. Some members were keen to try out this method of administering the oxalic acid treatment.

Together with the mild winter and good provisions the colonies emerged into spring ready for action. The first of the summer meetings was not summery at all and little could be done, but in April we had the first chance to have good look inside the colonies. All the queens are marked and so they were spotted with little difficulty although we did not need to see the Queen to know that she was present as the patches of brood told their own story.

The stores supers had been left underneath the brood boxes during the winter and this was reversed whilst taking the opportunity to clean the floors of debris and tidy up the extra bits of brace comb and propolis. Bees always seem to think it necessary to enhance their surroundings and fill any likely space with 'a bit of extra comb'; unfortunately for them the beekeeper does not always concur!



A visit to the Society apiary is always an opportunity to raise issues about your own hives and to discuss ideas on bee care with the wealth of various different experiences – it is notable that it has been said that the collective noun for beekeepers should be 'an argument'!

Our Apiary is a valuable teaching resource and an essential venue for when our members take their Basic Assessment; it is a location for controlled experimentation as we all continue to learn and develop our beekeeping skills.



Finally as we reach the high point of the swarming season then perhaps we should try using the following Anglo Saxon charm which would have been chanted over a hive to prevent honey bees from swarming:

"Be still, wise-ones
Do not fly wildly to the woods
Be mindful of your keeper's welfare
As each man is of eating and of home."



John Belcher

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Tel: 0118 984 2321

Mobile: 07929 586037

Email: john.r.belcher@talktalk.net

Wokingham and District Beekeepers Association

Being both a new member of W&DBKA and to beekeeping I was very interested in visiting the club apiary which is situated in a very rural location, surrounded by fields of oil seed rape.



On Sunday 12 April, a sunny, windy afternoon, with temperatures about 15°C, led by Neil Marshall the club's Treasurer and beekeeper of 10 years standing, about 8 members of the club arrived to carry out the first open session inspection of the season. After a lengthy walk through a field, we arrived at the apiary, where 6 hives were lined up, three with just brood boxes and three with supers already added. The club works with 14" x 12" brood boxes.

All colonies went into winter with 2014 queens and all had successfully overwintered.

The inspection commenced with hive 2. This colony consisted of one brood box and one super. Seven frames of brood were noted, the queen was found and Neil carefully clipped her wing with a pair of tiny scissors. Whilst clipping her, Neil also wanted to mark her, however, our shed which contains every spare bit of equipment imaginable did not have a marking pen! This was to prove a problem a few weeks later.

Hive 6 was next, again this was a strong colony with eight frames of brood and a super already added. Once again Neil clipped the queen, but she too was unable to be marked.

The next colony in line is hive 1. Hive 1 has a reputation for being very feisty and in 2014 Neil was stung more than once in some very uncomfortable places! We opened the hive and started the inspection. The queen, who is both marked and clipped, was seen and we were amazed at just how calm the colony was. A good brood pattern was seen together with plenty of drone brood. In order not to unduly upset the bees we carried out the inspection as quickly and carefully as possible and closed up, replacing the super which had previously been added.



Hive 3 was next and this had been supered a couple of weeks previously. The queen who had been clipped and marked had been seen and 6 frames of brood were present.

Hives 5 and 7 were the last in line. Neither of these had had supers added yet and on inspection it was clear as to why. They were both fairly weak, with only 3 frames of brood in each. A note was made of this and in subsequent weeks, hives 5 and 7 have each received a frame of brood from our stronger hives.

April has been a mixed month weather wise, with day-

time temperatures ranging from 11°C to 23°C, but averaging about 16°C with strong winds and little rainfall, still too low for nectar to be produced.

As this had been my first visit to the apiary, I was interested to see how the colonies developed over the following few weeks. So, I went along to a closed apiary inspection on 3 May. There had been rain overnight and the temperature was about 15°C and windy.

Hives 5 and 7 were still not as strong as they could be despite having been given extra frames of brood, and although they are increasing in size this was not sufficiently to need supers.

Hive 3 had not increased significantly as only 8 frames of brood were seen as was the queen. This colony was quite aggressive, to the point where bees were stinging one of our members in the lane behind the apiary a good hour after the hive had been closed up. One to definitely keep an eye on and perhaps eventually re-queen if this behaviour persists.



After the 'excitement' and the disappointment of the previous hives, we looked into hive 6. This was one of those where the queen had been clipped but not marked. We opened the brood box and discovered a large number of charged queen cells. None of them were sealed. We could not find the queen and being uncertain as to what decision to make, we rang our Chairman and asked his advice. He suggested we break down all the queen cells. We had seen both eggs and larvae, so if they had swarmed within the past couple of days, they would still be able to make a new queen. When next week's inspection is carried out, we

will again look out for queen cells and if necessary, carry out an artificial swarm.

Hive 2 was inspected next. Again, with a clipped but unmarked queen. The brood box was inspected and we found both sealed and unsealed queen cells. Three of us went through the brood box three times but could not find the queen. We thought perhaps she had already gone so left one unsealed queen cell on a frame, marked by a drawing pin. When we return next week this queen cell will be sealed and we will remove any new ones.

Hive 1 was left to last. It hadn't been inspected the previous week as it had been far too feisty! It was opened up, considered to be quite calm and an inspection carried out. Not surprisingly, it was found to contain both sealed and unsealed queen cells. However, the queen was still present! In view of this, it was decided to carry out an artificial swarm using the nucleus method. The queen, on her frame, was placed in a nuc box with two frames of stores either side of her and two frames of foundation either side of those. Bees from the swarming colony were shaken in. This queen will be our insurance should the virgin queen fail to mate successfully. All queen cells except one unsealed one was left in the original colony and the frame marked with a drawing pin. Three frames of fresh foundation were added to the brood box to replace those put into the nuc box and the hive closed up.

I certainly had a very interesting day and learned a great deal. I would urge anyone, particularly those who are new to beekeeping, to attend the apiary sessions. If you are happy to, you can participate and carry out a hive inspection under the watchful and experienced eye of Neil, but likewise, you can just stand and observe. In my opinion, it doesn't matter how many text books you read, you cannot beat hands-on experience.

Carol Butters
Secretary – W&DBKA



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South Chilterns Beekeepers Association

Saturday, 18 April 2015 saw the first members' Club Apiary visit of the year.



We were graced with a warm, sunny day with a temperature of around 14 degrees C, but a cool breeze. The daffodils and dandelions looked glorious.

The usual duo of Reg and Linda shared their immense knowledge with a group of 16 or more members. After a blow-torch was lit the wooden floors were scraped clean and "torched" to be sterilized and the smoker was left to smoulder for the forthcoming hive inspections.

Due to the cool breeze Reg covered the majority of the open hive with an inspection cloth, weighted across the top

and bottom to rest and keep the hive warm.

The group witnessed wild comb built at the end of shorter frames, bald brood cells (uncapped cells with larvae – the worker bees will have selected these probably because of deformity due to varroa). Hive clean was drizzled into each inspected hive to help kill the tiny beasts that cause so much damage to our bees.

The afternoon was concluded with a huge variety of cakes and flapjack – many thanks to all the bakers and of course, to Reg and Linda.



Reg's 'Top-tip-of-the-Day'

Use an old screwdriver, bent at the end to 90 degrees as a frame tool. This will allow easy scrapings of old wax etc to clean the sides of frames before inserting new foundation.

Our next Apiary meeting is on 16 May in Chalkhouse Green, where the focus will be on swarm control.

Also look out for us at Braziers Park on 17 May when we will be manning a stall at their Wood Festival of music and nature. See www.woodfestival.tumblr.com for more information and tickets.

Sue Abbott

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Reading and District Beekeepers Association

Reading & district Beekeepers Association have the pleasure in giving this brief report on our 6th Annual Beekeeping Day held at Caversham Heights Methodist Hall on Saturday 21st March.



Thanks to some energetic promotion with the help of local press and BBC Radio Berkshire; and good weather (the 2011 event was held on a snowy March Saturday!) we had a busy time of it with good attendance throughout the day. Attendees enjoyed listening to the speakers and visiting the stands and displays set-up by Reading beekeepers. Thanks also goes to our good friend and beekeeper's supplier John Belcher for his support. Mike Dabbs had brisk sales of Honey and Robert Kiff demonstrated hive elements assembly. We enjoyed delicious

home make cakes which had been donated by Reading members together with beverages and soup. Very many thanks to Marion Dabbs and Karen Challis and helpers in our refectory. A raffle organised by Hazel Blackburn had good support.

Other displays included Michael Blackburn's, Hazel Blackburn's honey tasting, Mrs Iryna Hunter demonstrating the elaborate Ukrainian art of egg painting, where the colours are taken-up in beeswax.* Linda and John Rogerson had a busy family and children's section, with dressing-up in bee suits, bee & wasp specimens, combs and 'find the queen' in The Virtual Beehive. Jill Davey demonstrated fermentation, and had mead and honey biscuits to sample. We had a display of Bee disease & microscopes. In with Robert's workshop Tim Whitaker set up a monitor where newcomers and beekeepers could watch some of his excellent video of beekeeping in action - loud buzzing was to be heard blending in with Robert's hammering!

* Clarke Hunter and Iryna can be seen on p10 of Easter edition of The Reading Chronicle; biker charity group almost 10,000 eggs for poor children.

We were fortunate in having excellent illustrated talks & demonstrations from :

Dr Beulah Cullen 'Health of the Honey Bee'. Beulah helped us with the health of our bees for many years as Ministry of Agriculture & DEFRA regional bee Inspector for many years and gave us a comprehensive rundown on brood problems and diseases, vital knowledge for beekeepers new and non-so-new, the current varroa mite situation and the threat of the 'small hive beetle' now present in southern Europe.

Dr John Gamble 'Honey Into Mead'. Dr. John is actually Beulah's husband and together they have excellent mead recipes and techniques, winners at 'The National Honey Show'. John described and discussed recipes, techniques for producing sweet meads, yeast strain selection: Tokay yeast was mentioned also the use of tannic acid with selected yeast for a sweeter recipe. John donated a bottle, splendidly bright mead impressively packed & labelled to our raffle & a bottle for 'tasters' on our mead section. Sweet indeed!





Rob Nickless 'Wax & Candle Making'. Rob is Chairman of Newbury & District Beekeepers, a farmer, semi commercial beekeeper, producer with Mrs. Nickless of hive product preparations & cosmetics, beeswax candles, hand crafted beehive elements & last but not least is Reading Beekeepers tutor & lecturer at our successful Beginners Beekeeping Courses held in January & February. Rob demonstrated candle moulding using as well as proprietary candle moulds (not cheap) some of the inexpensive & decorative silicone bakery moulds now found in every cook shop. Rob demonstrated how to select & infuse wicks with beeswax so they remain straight when melted wax is poured – in and light readily. Rolled candles from foundation style beeswax sheets.

Mr. Dean Madden. Senior Research Fellow at Reading University gave us a short impromptu talk with his blue reaction vessels (he also donated one to our raffle) of an enzymic technique to invert sugar paste & syrup for bee feed.

Ged Marshall 'A Year in the Life of a Bee Farmer'. Ged is a Founder Member of British Honey Producers Ltd and with his wife Sheila runs 300 plus colonies based in north Bucks and has served on The Bee Farmers Committee for many years. Ged raises at least a thousand new queens each year so mating nucs are as prevalent as full sized colonies. Ged talked us thru his seasonal activities well illustrated, emergency winter feeding before supers are added, Spring feeding after supers added. Ged hasn't bought foundation for many years, using strips of wax nailed onto the top of super frames for bees to draw out, subsequently, uneven or tired comb can be cut out leaving a wedge at the top for bees to repeat the process, works for cut comb & extraction. However these days Ged concentrates on honey in bulk for sale to packers and his sales of new queens which are highly regarded by beekeepers. Like most commercial beekeepers having large numbers of colonies and nucs to inspect Ged and Sheila are methodical in their work, poor queens in a colony are eliminated and newly mated queens can be introduced or with a former good colony, bees are monitored for rearing a likely looking replacement. Ged showed a schematic of his honey processing plant plus a picture of same, this provides interesting work for students in the season! Ged described his automatic uncapped working vertically to uncap with high speed oscillating 'fingers.' Ged has a tonnage of honey. Varroa treatment is via pyrethroid strips, note that the bees don't have to use bought-in foundation which may have residuals already. Oxalic tricking tried in 2011. In general with his fast turnover of queens giving strength to his colonies Ged doesn't have a problem with varroa vectored virus etc.



Tremendous and heady fare for the ambitious beekeeper, very many thanks to Ged and all our speakers.

Reading Beekeeper association committee members and other members worked very hard to make this a successful day. If not mentioned above, thanks to you all!

Pictures show Rob Nickless preparing beeswax, Mike & Hazel Blackburn's stands, John Belcher's stand and microscopes in use observing varroa.

May meeting. An apple blossom Sunday courtesy of Mike & Hazel Blackburn at Cross Lanes Apple Farm. Sunday 17 May 11.30 start. Please drive carefully through gates past the sheds to the area where we will assemble.

Slough Windsor and Maidenhead Beekeepers' Society

Bees, wasps, honey bees and hornets in difficult places - Peter Higgs

On Tuesday 14th April Peter Higgs, a certified pest controller, gave a fascinating talk about his work removing honey bees from structures and re-homing them with beekeepers.

Peter set up his pest control business, PGH Pest Control & Prevention, in 2009 with the support of The Princes Trust, but he quickly realised that there was a gap in the market for saving honey bee colonies. He set up a separate venture 'BeeGone' to deal with honey bees when they have established themselves in more inconvenient places.

Peter was also aware that less scrupulous members of the pest control profession are sometimes willing to destroy honey bees using pesticides. Whilst the bees themselves are not protected by law the honeycomb is, as Peter's website states: 'The problem is that if a colony is treated with insecticide all the bees will die and the honeycomb then gets contaminated. This then becomes a serious situation, other bees steal the honey fly it back to their colony and then die too. If the bees robbing the honey are from beekeepers hives, the insecticide can be transferred into honey intended for human consumption which is not a safe situation. The legislation states that this must not be done and can result in fines of £25,000.'

Peter described some of the places that he has successfully removed and saved bees, often from chimneys. He also showed a film of the removal and relocation of the branch of an oak tree from a golf course which a colony had made home. Peter was able to cut off the branch and take it, complete with the colony, to a new location. The golfers were then free to play on.

As beekeepers we are sometimes asked to collect a swarm and as long as it is from a bush or a tree it is usually a fairly straight forward procedure. When the swarm has found a suitable cavity in a building, loft, chimney or other structure then its removal is much more complicated and should not be contemplated by anyone without the experience and more importantly the appropriate insurance. Peter's emphatic message is that swarm collectors should not take unnecessary risks. If you do recommend BeeGone for a difficult removal then he will give first refusal for the bees to the referrer.

The success of the business was recognised when he was presented with the 'Princes Trust celebrate success RBS Award 2013' by Prince Charles at an event held at the London Odeon, Leicester Square.

Further information can be found on: www.BeeGone.co.uk

We have put this information onto our website:

Inaccessible bees?

Unfortunately beekeepers are not equipped or insured to remove bees from roofs, chimneys or brick-work. If you would like advice or a quote for safely and humanely removing honey bees - and guaranteed steps to prevent their return - a possible contact is Peter Higgs at BeeGone

www.beegone.co.uk

savebees@beegone.co.uk

0800 9551 999

Apiary Meetings

Our summer meetings are held at the society's apiary where members can learn and gain hands-on experience of all aspects of beekeeping. Meetings are held at 2.30pm on alternate Sundays and the next meetings will be on the 10th and 24th May.

Winter Meetings 2014

Our schedule of winter meetings has now ended and will recommence on Tuesday 8th September. Meetings are held at All Saints Parish Hall, Alexandra Road, Windsor SL4 1HZ. The meetings are usually scheduled on the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 8 pm and refreshments are available.

General information and details of all our meetings and can be found on our excellent website: <http://swmbks.weebly.com/meetings.html>.

Small hive beetle

The concern about the arrival of the small hive beetle onto our shores from mainland Europe continues. Beekeepers are constantly alert. This link is a short, but interesting video from Switzerland.

<http://play.swissinfo.ch/play/tv/society/video/deadly-bee-parasite?id=41371618>

Vulcan Beehives



These amazing looking beehives were designed by an award winning architect firm from Norway called Snøhetta. They are located on the roof of a foodhall called Mathallen in Oslo. The aim of the project was to increase awareness of bees and to encourage more inner-city beekeeping.

<http://snohetta.com/project/186-vulkan-beehive>

EU Report on Neonicotinoids



EASAC – the European Academies' Science Advisory Council have recently released their full report on *Ecosystem services, agriculture and neonicotinoids*. You can read the full 50 page report from here:

http://www.easac.eu/fileadmin/Reports/Easac_15_ES_web_complete.pdf . They came up with the following 8 conclusions:

1. Ecosystem services provide significant economic benefits to agriculture. Maintaining strong functional ecosystem services is a critical part of a sustainable agricultural system.
2. Biodiversity has significant positive impacts on the provision of ecosystem services but is also an objective in its own right under global and European international agreements.
3. Insects providing ecosystem services have shown major declines in recent decades (pollinating wild bees, natural pest control providers, etc.).
4. Protecting honey bees is not sufficient to protect pollination services and other ecosystem services. Honey bees have been the main focus in assessing the risks from neonicotinoid use, and much debate has focused on whether honey bee colonies are being affected. Yet the honey bee colony structure provides an exceptionally resilient buffer against losses of its foragers and workers. In contrast, bumble bees have just a few hundred workers at most, while solitary bees and other insects have no such buffering capacity.
5. There is an increasing body of evidence that the widespread prophylactic use of neonicotinoids has severe negative effects on non-target organisms that provide ecosystem services including pollination and natural pest control.
6. There is clear scientific evidence for sublethal effects of very low levels of neonicotinoids over extended periods on non-target beneficial organisms. This should be addressed in EU approval procedures.
7. Current practice of prophylactic usage of neonicotinoids is inconsistent with the basic principles of integrated pest management as expressed in the EU's Sustainable Pesticides Directive.
8. Widespread use of neonicotinoids (as well as other pesticides) constrains the potential for restoring biodiversity in farmland under the EU's Agri environment Regulation.



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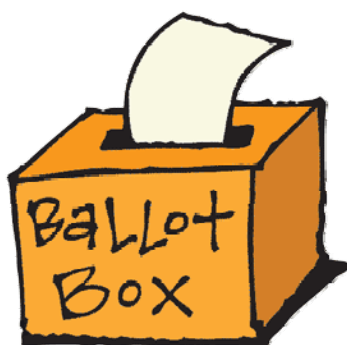


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Did you know



That the BBKA put the following questions to the political parties about their thoughts on bees, beekeeping and pollination.

1) As a result of the BBKA's campaign for increased investment in research the Insect Pollinators Initiative (IPI) was set up. The IPI projects are now reaching their conclusions but much work remains to be done to elucidate and confront the issues facing honey bees. What will your party's approach be to providing the modest funding needed to enable further work?

2) Will your party continue to support and roll-out the National Pollinator Strategy?

3) A two year moratorium on the use of neonicotinoid insecticides on flowering crops was introduced in December 2013. This expires in December 2015; what will be your party's approach after its expiry?

4) The Healthy Bee Plan was also born of the BBKA's campaign to raise awareness of the problems facing the honey bee. Will your party confirm this 10 year project and continue to invest in the educational aspects the plan has highlighted and maintain the National Bee Unit in its role as an inspectorate?

5) A new pest, Small Hive Beetle has been discovered in Calabria, Southern Italy. What steps does your party support to ensure that the arrival of this pest can be held-off for as long as possible, such as bans on imports of bees from Italy, bans on the import of agricultural products from Italy which may vector the pest and enhanced surveillance of possible entry points into the UK?

You can see their responses [here](#).

Bee Health Day run by the Regional Bee Inspectors from the National Bee Unit

A bee-health training day consisting of lectures and workshops has been organised for Federation members at the Bracknell Leisure Centre on Saturday 4th July. Spaces are limited to 100 so book early to avoid disappointment. The cost will be £10 for adults and £6 for juniors. Details of how to book will be emailed to you via each of your associations.

The workshop, which is organised in conjunction with the National Bee Unit and sponsored by Bee Diseases Insurance, is being run by Nigel Semmence, our Regional Bee Inspector, together with some of his colleagues.

Programme

- 10:00 **Arrive – tea & coffee**
- 10:30 **Welcome; general outline of the day**
- 10:35 **Observing the colony** Nigel Semmence, Regional Bee Inspector
- 11:05 **Comfort Break**
- 11:15 **Bee pests and diseases** overview by Nigel Semmence

- 12:00 **LUNCH** – please be ready to re-start promptly at 13:00
 13:00 **Workshops** Four half hour sessions, with 10 min's comfort breaks in-between
 A Apiary hygiene
 B Diseased frames
 C Varroa control
 D Exotic pests
 15:30 **Tea/Coffee break**
 15:45 **Final wind-up,**
 16:00 **Depart**

For your Diary

Date	Topic	Event Host	Contact
10 May	Honeybee Fayre and Auction	Yalding and District Beekeepers	http://www.yaldingbeefayre.co.uk/
14/15 and 16/17 May	BIBBA Practical Course - Improve Your Bees by Raising Your Own Queens - a 2 day course.	Glan-yr-afon, Corwen, LL21 0HA in North Wales	Steve Rose steve-rose@bibba.com or see www.bibba.com

Association websites

All four Federation member association websites have a lot of information – some of which may only be relevant to that association, but there is also quite a bit that is useful to us all. Here are the links for your reference:

Reading & District Beekeepers Association: <http://www.rbka.org.uk/>

South Chilterns Beekeepers' Association: <http://www.scbka.org>

Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead Beekeepers' Society: <http://swmbks.weebly.com/>

Wokingham and District Beekeepers Association: www.wokinghambeekeepers.org.uk/

Useful Links, Advice and Information

<http://www.apinews.com/> This website is a mine of information from around the world. You can subscribe to their newsletter.

<http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/newhome.html> This website has a lot of really useful information for the beekeeper.

<http://www.beekeepingforum.co.uk/> This is a portal for all things beekeeping.

<http://www.bbka.org.uk/> The British Beekeepers Association.

<http://hymenopteragenome.org/beebase/> Beebase is a comprehensive data source for the bee research community.

<http://www.lapisonline.it/index.php/en/l-apis-excerpt> A long standing Italian publication which now has an English section.

NBU Advice for Obtaining Bees:

Join Beebase - By joining BeeBase you can access beekeeping information and ask for advice or help from the Bee Unit: <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase>.

Your Regional Bee Inspectors are:

Southern Region: Nigel Semmence at: nigel.semmence@fera.gsi.gov.uk,

The main website is: <https://secure.csl.gov.uk/beebase/public/Contacts/contacts.cfm>

National Bee Unit, Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, York YO41 1 LZ, tel: 01 904 462 510, email: mailto:nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk .

South Eastern Region: Mr Alan Byham, fax/tel: 01306 611 016

Contributions to the Editor are always welcome as long as they are signed. Anonymous letters and letters not in English will not be published. The Editor reserves the right to withhold names.

Contributions, including emails, to arrive with the Editor by the 20th of the month for publication by the 7th of the following month. Contributions received after this may be held over for a later month.

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