THE FEDERATION OF BERKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATIONS

June 2015

Number 701

General Secretary:
Martin Moore
Tilehurst
Reading
0118 967 7386
07729 620 286

E-mail: berksbees@btinternet.com

Web: http://www.berkshirebeekeepers.btck.co.uk/

Newsletter Editor:
Sue Remenyi
Curtis Farm
Kidmore End
RG4 9AY
0118 972 3699

Editors Corner

The general opinion was that last year was a great year for swarms – but arguably this year is even greater! I receive copies of forms that the public can complete on the South Chilterns website requesting all sorts of information. However, in the last month we have had a half dozen or so requests from people asking for help to remove bees from various parts of their property. This is only the tip of the iceberg as our swarm collectors have all been kept busy over the past weeks. Not all of the bees that folk discover are honeybees – for example, there seem to be a larger than usual number of bumbles about this year. A useful website for information about bumblebee conservation and what to do if you find a nest is www.bumblebeeconservation.org.

I came across this fascinating video on YouTube of the development of a bee from the laying of the egg to the emerging of the bee using stop motion photography.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lMtFYt7ko_o

Don't be put off by the Japanese – there is no speech.

It's a busy time of year for all of us, but I hope you have a chance to read the interesting contributions in this months' newsletter. Please also remember that there are still places available on the **Bee Health Day on 4 July** – see the end of thenewsletter for full programme details.

Sue Remenyi

In My Apiary

What shall we do with the Double-Egger?

Once upon a time there was a good strong colony with a marked queen, lots of bees and lots of stores going happily into its winter cluster in a national brood-and-a-half. After the minor disturbance of oxalic acid treatment at the end of the year, and the addition of fondant above the frames (as the warm autumn kept them active and eating longer than usual, I thought I'd rather spend a few pounds on sugar than risk losing a colony) they were left alone until the flowering currant came out at the end of March.

Oh dear; despite having eaten much of the stores and 2.5kg of Ambrosia fondant, there was a little pile of dead bees on the mesh floor. They were so desiccated that I thought there was no point in collecting a sample to test for nosema, as there probably wouldn't be enough juicy bits left. Reg thought it still possible they were victims of isolation starvation. I took the opportunity to replace three empty old brood frames with clean foundation, and found they had made themselves a new queen. But when I looked at the new brood, there was a surprise: alongside little patches of normal sealed brood on two frames in the half, there were double eggs in several of the cells. There were even the tiniest of twin larvae in some cells. Yet the eggs were in the correct position at the bottom of the cells, and the brood already sealed was normal worker brood. So probably not laying workers, and probably not an infertile drone-laying queen, but this is something I had never seen before. My hope was that the new queen just hadn't quite got the hang of things yet, and would probably settle down soon.

So what to do? Consult the experts, who said: *put her in the scuppers with a hosepipe on her*- kill her and re-queen. I searched the internet sites to see if there was any mention of a similar phenomenon, and of course on www.beekeepingforum.co.uk, there was. I ploughed through it all, only to find opinions evenly divided between killing her and leaving her alone to straighten herself out. Frustratingly, the conversations stopped short of reporting back what happened next. I decided to persevere.

The population was low so the queen was not expanding very quickly and continued to lay double eggs in the half, but there were also some single ones. I guessed that the twin larvae problem was being sorted out by the adult bees once the larvae got a bit bigger and took up too much room in the cell, as the sealed brood continued to look normal. I kept scratching the cappings off the hard stored honey, and as there were so few bees, in mid-April I donated a brood frame of sealed brood from another hive. I hoped this would encourage the queen to go downstairs into the brood box and lay there, as well as boosting numbers when they emerged. My mistake? Not leaving its nurse bees on it to help keep the brood warm. The small number of adults already in situ struggled with this job, and by mid-May when this brood should all have emerged – they hadn't. There were still a few double eggs, but the ratio of double to single was improving. My wonderful beekeeping friends looked in for me while I was on holiday and, noticing the stored honey was very hard, gave them some 1:1 syrup, which enabled the bees to carry on drawing the new foundation frames.

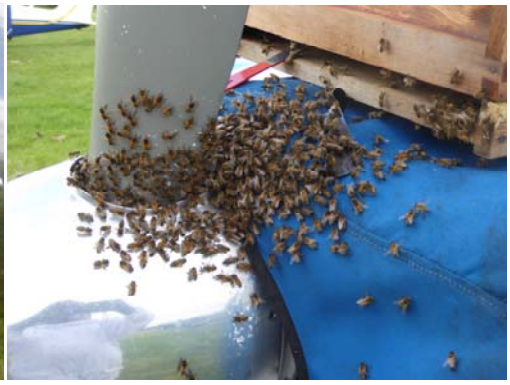
The brood patches in the half expanded from two frames to five. I swapped the brood and half boxes around, so now her existing brood was on the bottom layer; perhaps she would finally go upstairs and start laying on the brood frames. A couple of days later, she had at last laid out two whole brood frames, all with normal-looking larvae and just one cell with double eggs, all others normal. *Hoo-ray and up she rises, ear-ly in the morning.*

Two other hives in the same location had also changed their queens, stored ivy honey and eaten fondant through the early months without any problem. So the final conclusion is that while the new queen did take a little while to settle down into normal laying, the real culprit was lack of space, and the combination put a brake on spring expansion. The stored honey must have come from ivy; the bees preferred the lovely soft fondant to the hard ivy honey, so the brood frames were not being cleared of stores fast enough to provide laying cells for queenie. Doubling up must have seemed like a good idea to her. It was my fault not hers, and I am glad I persevered.

Meryl Toomey

There's a buzz in the air!

Roderick Blyth, a member of South Chilterns was called out to remove a swarm of bees from an aeroplane at White Waltham aerodrome recently. Little did he know they were in a propeller nacelle! (Pic 1) Anyway he put a brood box with some old comb in the area of the propeller and the bees eventually started to go in so he left for the night. (Pic 2)



The following morning they were out of the box and had moved to another aircraft. This time they were on the surface of the plane. He used a dustpan and brush to move them into a box, sealed it up and took them home. They are apparently doing well.

Wokingham and District Beekeepers Association

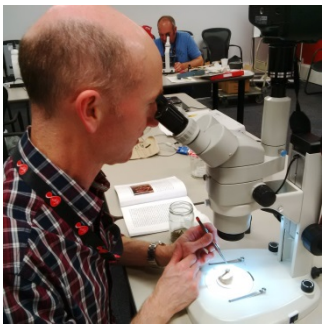
On a Saturday in May, Garth Matthews our Learning and Development Officer led a Microscopy Workshop for members of the club. The purpose of this was to test the bees for acarine and nosema.

Each attendee had to bring a sample of approximately 30 bees and the bees had to be as fresh as possible for testing purposes. On arrival, the bees were 'despatched' by Nigel Perkins using his 'special fluid'.

The day began with an introduction to the microscopes, which was an excellent refresher for those of us who hadn't used one for a number of years. We were shown how to operate both dissection and compound microscopes.

Following this, we started to test for acarine (acarapis woodi). Acarine is a caused by a mite which breeds inside the bee's tracheae, eventually blocking the tubes. There is no cure for it in the UK, although if detected, rather than destroy the colony, it could be re-queened with a young queen, which would help.

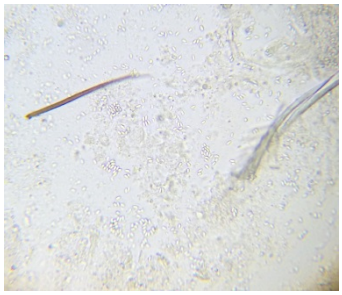
Garth testing for acarine



The bee's body is pinned onto an acarine cork and the head removed. Next, the collar is removed to expose the tracheae. This however takes a great deal of experience and was something that only a few on the day managed to carry out successfully. If the bee is infected, the tracheae are black in colour rather than the normal white. Even though the bees are dead, the mite can still be seen moving. Fortunately, no infestation was found.

After testing numerous bees we then went on to test for nosema (nosema apis). The nosema spores infect the bees' digestive system and affect their ability to digest food, resulting in the shortening the bees' life and the colony building up slowly in the spring. A Bailey comb change can be carried out and the colony re-queened if an infection is found.

To test for nosema, the bees' abdomens are cut off and mixed with a little water and ground up. A small sample is then put onto a slide and looked at under the microscope. If nosema is present, it shows up as small grains of rice. Unfortunately to the shock of one of our members, this was the case.



Nosema spores

The workshop was enjoyed by all and we were all grateful to Garth for giving up his time. It achieved what it set out to, to inform members of at least two bee diseases and arming them with the knowledge that beekeepers should not be complacent. To ensure they have strong colonies, they should check their bees annually.

Regrettably we have had to close the club apiary to members for the time being as we have had problems with aggressive bees. Once we have resolved the situation, possibly by re-queening, we will let everyone know. This is a great disappointment to us as we have temporarily lost a valuable training resource.

During June we are carrying out a 'Bee Disease Safari' with Dan Etheridge the Seasonal Bee Inspector when we visit various members' colonies which will be inspected for disease.

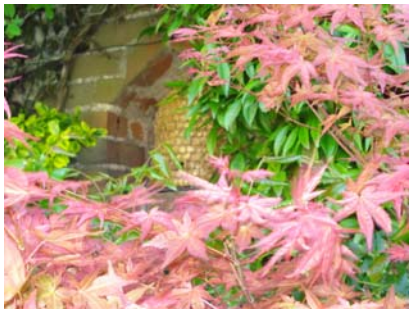
Our summer meetings are taking place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month in a local pub. This gives members the opportunity to meet on a social basis to discuss how their season is progressing and to try and resolve any issues they have. It is also a good opportunity for prospective members to come and meet us and decide whether our association is the one they wish to join.

At the end of June, we will once again be taking a stand at the annual Hurst Show. This gives members the chance to sell their own honey. Let's hope the weather is an improvement on that of May which I understand has been the coldest and wettest for some years.

South Chilterns Beekeepers Association

SCBKA apiary meeting at Chalkhouse Green Farm, 16th May 2015

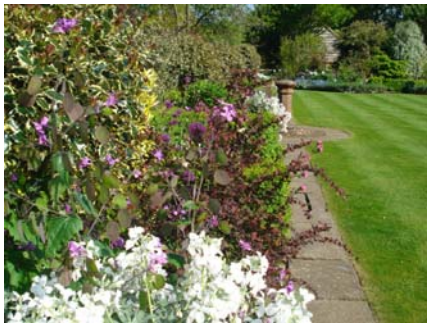
We were lucky to have glorious weather for this President's Day meeting in John Hall's apiary. Sadly our President, Ron Crocker, was unable to be with us.



The queen in the first hive hasn't been seen since last August, and today was no exception; even Queen Finder General Steve Radford didn't spot her. To make queen finding easier in a brood-and-half national, put the supers on the upturned roof, then the queen excluder, then the half. Look at the brood box first; then look at the half before moving it back. This stops the queen sneaking around from one box to the other while you are looking for her. This time though, even the trick of pairing the last two frames and lifting them out together didn't work. Usually, if the queen is retreating ahead of you as you lift out frames, she will be found in this sandwich: but not today. It's obvious though that she is hale and laying well with a good brood pattern, so all is well.

The second hive, a commercial, had queen cells. As we had no box ready for an artificial swarm, Reg's decision was to remove the queen, select the best queen cell to leave, and let them get on with changing the queen. The queen was captured and donated to a beekeeper with a failing hive.

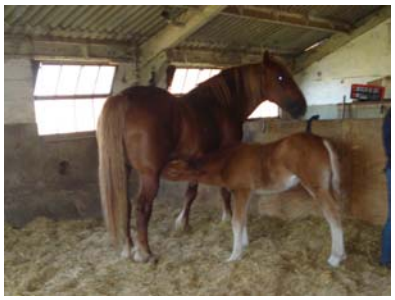
The next hive contained a swarm collected by John from a few miles away about two weeks before. In a trice, the first to say "there she is" was QFG Steve, and Reg marked the queen through a crown of thorns and gave her a puff of smoke to disguise the smell of the marker fluid. He didn't clip her, as at that stage it wasn't clear whether this was a prime swarm with a mated queen, or a secondary cast with a virgin queen, and she might have needed that wing. A few frames later eggs and larvae turned up, so now we know she was already mated. After two weeks, it was time to expand the brood space by adding a half to the national box.



The final hive was left until last deliberately because the brood in it was patchy, and if there was any chance this was caused by a disease, doing it last would reduce the risk of cross-contamination. In fact the only obvious disease was a touch of bald brood, where the cells are not sealed, but the brood develops normally. These cells often have a slightly raised edge, making them look like an incipient volcano, and it's thought to be caused by varroa.

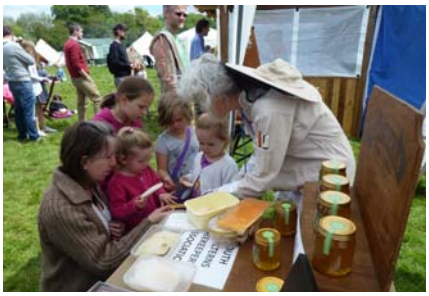
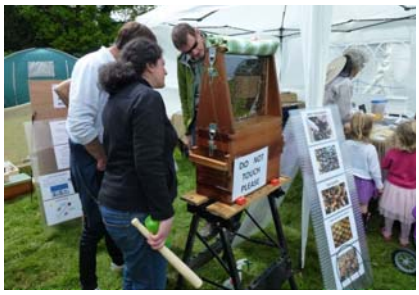
The patchiness is probably due to in-breeding; when some of the drones with which a queen mates are her own offspring, a proportion of the larvae are genetically diploid drones, and these are removed by the workers, leaving lots of holes in the brood pattern. The queen in this hive is probably failing and needs to be replaced. This could be done in a few ways after removing the old queen: a queen cell could be donated from a healthy hive; a mated queen can be introduced in a queen cage so that the bees become accustomed to the new queen and accept her rather than killing her as an intruder; or a virgin queen can be simply run in the entrance, as a virgin will be accepted this way. Unfortunately, because this hive was left until last, we had just destroyed the available supply of queen cells in no 2. So at present, this hive still has the failing queen, and is still in need of rescue.

All the hives were treated with Hive Clean as we went along.



Following the business bit, we were treated to one of the famous Chalkhouse Green Farm delicious cream teas, and we held a plant sale, which raised £85 for the charity SOUNDABOUT www.soundabout.org.uk. John and Sarah would like to say thank you to all who attended this meeting for your kind generosity. Just a note that Chalkhouse Green Farm also has an Open Day on July 5th, 2pm-6pm.

South Chilterns also had a stand at the Wood Festival at Braziers Park on Sunday 17 May. Although the Festival ran for three days, we went just for the Sunday. The weather held reasonably fine all day and the Festival was well attended. Our stand was popular and kept the team on their toes! As well as information sheets, we took along an observation hive and the children particularly enjoyed trying to find the queen.

Reading and District Beekeepers Association

26th April was our first outdoor session of the season we were guests of Clark & Iryna Hunter at their garden apiary at Fernlea. Clark is our project leader for Reading's new association apiary, which we hope will become a valuable teaching tool for new and intermediate beekeepers as well as a resource for other beekeeping projects. The apiary will be located at nearby Dunsden. Clark, who plans a mix of hive types for the apiary is busy assembling hives and we were able to view his efforts under construction. We had a good attendance from established and new beekeepers and some newly interested people.

There are four colonies on the well sited Fernlea apiary in good modern equipment, two Nationals and two WBCs. Starting with hives one, two and three (Nationla, WBC and WBC) we found good populations with brood in all stages, good patterns with stores in top corners and pollen and nectar coming-in. Queens were found in two hives, which Clark has marked with red. We raked-out some drone brood and just 1 or 2 varroa were seen. Supers were receiving stores but nothing capped yet. Clark favours 12x14" deeps in his WBC's and there was plenty of room for expansion, although the population of flying and working bees were plentiful as was the brood. Hive two did have three occupied queen cups and one was reserved for hive four (National). Inthis hive, although the population was reasonable and of sound appearance, there was some blind brood and sack or slipper brood was seen in several cells. No sign of the queen so after some discussion the queen larvae from hive two was inserted. Having not found the residential queen this may stimulate swarming activity,* but Clark decided he'd rather have a new queen here as these types of rather common brood defects are considered to be the signal of a queen likely to be reaching the end of her laying condition.

A newly interested attendee, Lee, is a top photographer and took a number of pictures which show the bees and Clark's excellent equipment, however my favourite picture of the day was by a friendly neighbour, next door but one which he sent on to us and entitled 'Have The Aliens Landed?'

An excellent opening session to the season with thanks to Clark and Iryna for their invitation, hospitality, tea and cake etc., and to all who attended and participated.

June meeting is set for Sunday 28th. And it is our intention to invite beekeepers to Reading's new Association Apiary at Dunsden. Watch our newsletter & your e-mails for more details.

**A few weeks later a hearty swarm emanated from Fernlea apiary, (hive number uncertain) and this was generously given by Clark to one of our new beekeepers awaiting his first colony.*

Slough Windsor and Maidenhead Beekeepers' Society

May has proved to a busy month for our beekeepers and swarm collectors; the generally fine weather has promoted a rash of swarm calls from the public and we are grateful that so many have people are concerned enough to want to save the bees rather than just get rid of them.

In spite of being kept busy with their bees some of our members have also kept an eye on bee related news stories which may be of interest to others.

The following article paints a rather grim picture of colony losses in the United States of America with reports of 42% of colonies lost in the period of April 2014 to April 2015.

The headline 'The mysterious die-off of the nation's honeybees worsened last year with a spike in summer deaths indicating a troubling new development'. There was a worrying 6% increase in the summer losses that exceeded the winter losses and the highest levels of losses were in the eastern side of the country. Full details can be read in the following link:

http://www.treehugger.com/sustainable-agriculture/us-beekeepers-lost-almost-half-their-honeybees-2014-15.html

Dave Goulson is Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Sussex. He has spent the last 20 years studying bumblebees, and has published over 200 scientific articles on their biology. He founded the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in 2006 and his acclaimed book 'A Sting in the Tale' was published by Jonathan Cape in 2013.

This month he published an article on the 'hot topic' of neonicotinoids and raised the question: 'If modern farming can't sustain bees, how much longer can it sustain us?'. He questions whether the current model is sustainable or perhaps we need a whole new model for food production.

http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2861549/if_modern_farming_cant_sustain_bees_how_much_longer_can_it_sustain_us.html

One of our members, Stephen Jones, writes a regular blog spot for the Ascot, Windsor and Eton Express in which he muses on aspects of beekeeping in an interesting and entertaining way:

http://windsorhoney.blogspot.co.uk/

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 7th and 21st June.

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 meet-

ings 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.*

Running backwards for bees!

Farai Chinomwe intends to run the comrades marathon backwards, becoming the first Rastafarian master beekeeper to do so. (Comrades is a double marathon (56Km) run between Durban and Petermaritzburg in South Africa). While running backwards won't win the comrades, it does help build strength, endurance and balance improving performance when you run 'the normal way'. It also has it's challenges, like neckache. Farai is a dedicated beekeeper and it was through the bees that he learned backward running. He had collected a swarm of bees from a client and they were buzzing angrily in the boot. Suddenly, the car simply sputtered, stalled, and left Farai in the cold and dark without any prospect of help. He realised he'd have to push the car, which was quite heavy, to the top of the hill where he could at least coast the few km back home. He started pushing the car the normal way and it was immediately clear that he wouldn't be able to make it. He turned around with his back to the car boot and found he could push it far easier. Eventually, after 2 hours of pushing and coasting and steering, he got back home, transferred the bees to their new home and finally got to sleep. Next morning on waking, he noticed that his quads felt like they got the most amazing workover and at that moment he suddenly realised that the bees had helped him discover a really useful training technique. As a result Farai has decided to run some of his marathons backwards to raise awareness about the importance of bees in the environment. All funds raised will be used to establish managed urban hives and training opportunities for the disadvantaged through Farai's business, Blessed Bee Africa. https://www.facebook.com/blessedbeeafrica.

Did you know these facts about Royal Jelly…….

Royal Jelly is the substance that turns an ordinary bee into the Queen Bee. It is made of pollen which is chewed up and mixed with a chemical secreted from a gland in the nursing bee's heads. This "milk" or "pollen mush" is fed to all the larvae for the first two days of their lives. The larvae chosen to become a queen continue to eat only royal jelly. The queen grows one and a half times larger than the ordinary bee, and is capable of laying up to two thousand eggs a day. The Queen Bee lives forty times longer than the bees on a regular diet. There is no difference between a queen bee and a worker bee in the larval stage. The only factor that is different between them is that a developing queen bee continues to eat only royal jelly.

Scientists decided to try feeding the queen bee's diet to other animals with surprising results. The life span of pigs and roosters showed as much as a thirty- percent increases. Fruit flies fed royal jelly increased in size and in rate of production. Chickens given royal jelly laid twice as many eggs, and older chickens began to lay again.

In France, there have been reports of women fed royal jelly during menopause, showing complete remission of their symptoms. Some were even able to become mothers again. France also claimed that their studies showed royal jelly to have rejuvenating and sexually stimulating effects on both men and women. Canada has approved royal jelly as a natural dietary supplement for its athletes. Royal jelly is not a drug, but a nutritious, quickly assimilated food.

In Germany, Drs. Chochi, Prosperi, Quadri and Malossi (in separate studies) used royal jelly as an aid to badly undernourished and premature babies. The infants fed royal jelly increased in weight and health. Another doctor, Telatui, reported that neuro-psychic patients given royal jelly regained normal weight, a more stable nervous system, and a greater degree of stamina for physical and mental work.

Chemical analysis of royal jelly found it rich in protein and the B vitamins (especially panothenic acid). However, analysis of royal jelly fails to break it down into all its different components. It cannot be synthesized.

Royal jelly has proven to be a potent bactericide. It also acts as a catalyst, stimulating intercellular metabolic activities without significantly modifying normal physiological activity. Thus, it hastens cell recovery with no side effects. Royal jelly has been known to speed up healing of wounds and to reduce the amount of scarring.

The beneficial effects of royal jelly seem not to depend entirely upon its vitamin content, but upon some type of enzymatic or catalytic action of an as yet unknown factor; or perhaps, the known factors working in combination with a co-enzyme through a process that has not yet been defined.

Since the action of royal jelly seems to be systemic rather that one which affects a specific biological function, it has been recommended for a great variety of purposes: to retard the aging process, for menopause, correction of under-nutrition, for arthritis, vascular diseases, peptic

ulcers, liver ailments, nervous instability, skin problems, improvement of sexual functions, general health and well being.

I have not verified all these but the source is http://www.backyardbeekeepers.com/facts.html (Ed.)

An invitation from the Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects

The Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI) are delighted to invite you and the members of your Beekeepers' Association to attend two workshops to be held at the University of Sussex.

Planting for Bees and other Flower Visitors

Saturday 25 July, 1300-1730

This workshop is targeted at anyone who is interested in providing more pollen and nectar-rich plants for our wild and managed bees and other flower visitors. We aim to show you how to identify different categories of flower visiting insects and how to survey plants to determine which attract the most insects, and also the types of insects attracted (i.e. different plants attract different insects). The workshop will also describe the latest results of LASI research aimed at helping bees and other insects in gardens.

Integrated Varroa Management

Friday 7 August, 1300-1700

Saturday 8 August, 1300-1700

This workshop is targeted at beekeepers who are interested in methods of pest and disease control. There will be lectures giving the background on various techniques such as hygiene, including queen rearing; how to carry out drone trapping; and the use of oxalic acid as an acaricide. This will be followed by demonstrations on how to use these methods.

For more information about the workshops please visit LASI's event page.

If you would like to reserve a place at either, or both, of these workshops then please book online at the secure booking page. There is a charge of £5 per booking towards refreshment and administration costs which will be payable when booking.

We hope to see you there and look forward to welcoming you to the Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects.

Contact :

Sue Hepburn |Head of Donor Relations
University of Sussex, Development & Alumni Relations Office (DARO), Room 4b29 Mantell Building, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RF | Tel: +44 (0)1273 872657 | Email: s.hepburn@sussex.ac.uk

Weekend course: "Bees, flies and flowers: the ecology of pollination and why it matters"

University of Cambridge, 26 – 28 June 2015.

In this course you will learn to assess your own garden for its value to pollinators. You will try out practical techniques used in pollination ecology, including preparing a pollen sample for microscopic examination and measuring insect behaviour. Expect to go home with an entirely different view of flowerbeds and road verges. The course is taught by Dr Lynn Dicks, Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge Department of Zoology. Lynn has a PhD in the ecology of pollinating insects, awarded from Cambridge in 2002 and has continued to work as a science writer and broadcaster for 10 years. She is keen that as many people as possible notice and enjoy the diversity of wild pollinators that busy themselves around us every summer.

This weekend course takes place at the Cambridge University Institute of Continuing Education's home, Madingley Hall, over the weekend of the 26 – 28 June. The course costs £250

which includes lunch & dinner over the weekend, refreshments, and tuition. It is also possible to stay at Madingley Hall's B&B over the weekend at an additional cost starting from £50 per night, subject to availability. If you would like to sign up or would like more information about the course, please visit www.ice.cam.ac.uk/bees

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
26-27 June	Bees, flies and flowers: the ecology of pollination and why it matters	University of Cambridge	www.ice.cam.ac.uk/bees
4 July	Bee Health Day	Bracknell Leisure Centre	Your association representative
25 July	Planting for Bees and other Flower Visitors	LASI – University of Sussex	http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi/newsandevents/events
7 & August	Integrated Varroa Management	LASI – University of Sussex	http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi/newsandevents/events

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.

Advertisement entries, to be received by the Advertisement Manager in advance of the 20th of every month. Rates**:** 2 Lines for £1.00; Commercial rates: £1.00 per line. Please make cheques payable to FBBKA. To be sent to the Advertisement Manager: Mr Jon Davey, 107 Northcourt Avenue, Reading RG2 7HG. Tel: 0118 975 0734.