



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.

December 2012

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In The Apiary

At the time of writing (end of November) the temperature is mild and there are intermittent periods of rain and warm sunshine. Ivy is still in flower, and so if bees are gathering nectar from this source, hopefully they are using it and not storing it. Stores gathered at this time are likely to ferment, which will need to be watched in the spring.

As far as beekeeping is concerned, December is a quiet month. Now is the time to reflect on the past season, a time to read our hive records and maybe think how we could have done better. Although few of us will have had a crop of honey this season, do not be despondent and look to the future. If you don't already keep hive records I strongly advise you do so next year. Even if you have only one or two hives, they may prove a great help in not repeating past mistakes.

After all the heavy rain we have had this summer it is important to look out for damp. It is obvious that you will let the damp get into a hive if you do not fit the top on properly on a rainy day, but what is not so obvious is the risk of condensation forming inside the boxes because of poor ventilation. Moisture is drawn in at the hive entrance by the heat of the bee cluster and it will also emanate from the cluster itself. Indeed, if you use a glass quilt you can actually see the droplets. It is important to ensure that there is through ventilation to stop this moisture from collecting because a damp hive is very unhealthy for the bees – and, besides, it will lead to rotting wood surprisingly quickly.

Older beekeepers like to put old sacking, newspaper or cast off clothing in the top of their hives just to be on the safe side. If you do like to pack the top of your hive, don't cram in too much and make sure you use porous material (like sacking) which does not block the flow of air. The practice of using old clothing may encourage moth and other nasty's and therefore it is best to avoid it. If you notice that the bees tend to propolize the air holes in your crown-boards, you can perch the boards on matchsticks, which will give enough of a gap at the top to keep the circulation going.

When boxes and frames are stored in cold conditions, the wax and propolis is easier to remove. I take this opportunity to cut out the old comb from the frames I removed from my hives earlier in the year. They should be thoroughly cleaned, which is most easily accomplished by removing the top wedge and one of the bottom bars and sliding a knife down each side bar. If the frame was originally assembled correctly, it will be quite easy to remove these parts. When cleaning the frame be sure to include the channels in the sidebar - if possible, boil them.

Check your hives from time to time in the cold winter months. If it has snowed, make sure the entrance is not blocked. It is always reassuring to see a small area of melted snow on the roof, letting you know your bees are still 'alive and kicking.' If you have bees at out apiaries, check more frequently to ascertain that the roof is secure, and that the hive has not been knocked over by cattle or vandals. Do not open your hives unnecessarily; anything that disturbs or breaks up the winter cluster can result in the death of the colony.

Enjoy your Christmas among friends and family and look forward to a bumper honey crop next year.

Triad



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Around the Associations

Wokingham and District Beekeepers' Association

Nigel Perkins welcomed everyone to the Club's annual honey show. We were due to start the evening with a short Extraordinary General Meeting, to agree the Minutes of the AGM from 9th November 2011 and the Treasurer's Report for 2011-2012. However, due to work commitments, our Hon Treasurer, Neil Marshall, was unavailable. This EGM will now take place at the next meeting on the 12th December. Our apologies.

Alex Atherton gave an update on the work taking place at the Apiary. On Monday 12th November a hardy group of members, Bob Loades, Robin West, Nick Evans, Nigel Birch, Ian Atherton and Alex cleaned out the Donkey Shed, disposed of all the old rubbish, sterilised the various pieces of kit and generally brought some order to chaos. Signs will be placed on the walls indicating where certain types of kit should be stored, so that it is instantly obvious which are spare brood boxes, or supers with drawn or undrawn frames etc. It was very hard and tiring work and our thanks go to them all for taking the time, during the working week, to undertake this on behalf of the club.

The third meeting of the microscopy group took place earlier in the month. As we had spare capacity in the classroom, and to help with the costs, we opened the sessions to the Reading and Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead societies. We are now close to capacity but if anyone would like to be placed on the waiting list in case people drop out or are unavailable, please contact Alex Atherton or Garth Matthews.

At the National Honey Show Garth attended the bee inspectors' workshop on bee diseases and good practice. At the workshop the two Regional Bee Inspectors (RBIs) mentioned that a survey was about to be launched by FERA regarding the NBU services to the beekeeping community and that if the responses to this survey were not favourable their services may be significantly cut. If you would like to see this valuable resource continue, it would be appreciated if you could perhaps take five minutes to complete the survey on the FERA website, so that we can show our support for the excellent and essential work the NBU and its bee inspectors fulfil. The survey link is as follows: <http://survey.fera.defra.gov.uk/nbuSurvey1213>. (If you have any problems completing the survey please email customersatisfaction@fera.gsi.gov.uk for assistance)

Brunel Microscopes, who many of you know, have offered us demos and a tour of their new training facility in Chippenham, Wiltshire on Saturday 26th January 2013. We will also get the chance to try out the various microscopes. If anyone is interested and has not put their name down yet, please speak to Garth Matthews or Alex Atherton by the 14th January.

Lorna Rivett then explained the marking system for the various classes in the club honey show. Previously we had one class and judged on taste alone, but this year we extended the classes and included appearance and aroma. The same criteria also applied to the wax entries, except for taste!

Garth also took samples of the various honeys, and we plan to analyse these in our microscopy classes next year. If we have enough information we plan to map what forage our bees are bringing back to the hives and if possible, knowing where the colonies are based, map the various sources in relation to them.



Whilst the baking entries were being tasted by a separate panel of judges, we welcomed Suzie Carr to the meeting. Suzie is our local Rural Police Community Support Officer and had kindly offered to talk to us about rural and hive security.

Suzie started her session by asking if anyone had looked closely at a tin of Lyles Golden Syrup. It shows a picture of the rotting carcass of a lion with a swarm of bees, and the slogan "Out of the strong came forth sweetness". This is a reference to the biblical story in chapter 14 of the Book of Judges in which Samson was travelling to the land of the Philistines in search of a wife. During the journey he killed a lion, and when he passed the same spot on his return he noticed that a swarm of bees had formed a comb of honey in the carcass. Samson later turned this into a riddle at a wedding: "Out of the eater came forth meat and out of the strong came forth sweetness". Whilst it is not known exactly why this image and slogan were chosen, Abram Lyle was a deeply religious man, and it has been suggested that they refer either to the strength of the Lyle company or the tins in which golden syrup is sold. In 1904 they were registered together as a trademark and in 2006 Guinness World Records declared the mark to be Britain's oldest brand. I knew the picture but had never looked at it that closely, maybe just as well!

Suzie then explained that rural crime has increased massively. As crime prevention has focused on urban crime the thieves have moved on to easier pickings as they realise how much value is tied up in farm equipment, which is often left in remote unmanned areas. Thieves will sometimes spend hours and days driving around the same area, checking for suitable opportunities, so if you see anything remotely suspicious, or maybe the same car or van turning up day after day it is worth reporting by calling the Police on 101, the non-emergency number or by calling Crimestoppers (0800 555 111). You can also sign up to the Thames Valley Alert Service (www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk), which keeps you informed of crime trends in your neighbourhood. It also provides details of meetings and general crime prevention advice to help protect yourself from crime. Messages are sent via a computerised messaging system and you can choose to receive them via email, phone or text.

For equipment/hives in rural locations, you can buy monitoring equipment that runs off batteries. For example, one company called flyonethewall (www.flyonthewall.uk.com) sells a range of HD infrared wildlife cameras with motion, and with a battery life of approximately three months. Data is stored on an SD card, and you would obviously need to make sure the camera itself was hidden from view. They also sell a range of accessories including solar panels to charge the batteries!

Suzie also mentioned that farmers and gamekeepers are using a device called a "Poacher Catcher" (<http://www.poachercatcher.co.uk/>) which uses laser technology and sends an alert to up to four mobile phone numbers when the laser is triggered.

Another option is to fit a passive system, which acts as a deterrent and a marking system. One such device is the CESAR system, which uses special water with DNA that is unique to you. Suzie told us that you are four times less likely to become a victim of crime if you use it. (www.cesarscheme.org). At the moment this is used mainly for large farm machinery. Data tags are inserted over all parts of the equipment (as small as a grain of rice). They contain a number which cannot be altered and is unique to you. This coupled with signs that say the equipment is marked and tamperproof is likely to deter most crooks. Discussions are taking place with the manufacturers to see if it would be possible to adapt this technology for beehives. Likely cost might be in the region of £20/hive.

Another organisation is Dog Watch (www.dogwatchalert.com). This organisation originally started to reunite owners with stolen/lost pets but now covers all types of rural crime.

A cost effective way of improving security is to put up signs saying the area is patrolled/watched. The fact perpetrators think people may be around can be enough to send them off to other areas. Most local police forces have a "countrywatch" scheme. Suzie brought along a number of countrywatch signs, which were snapped up immediately, so she is going to send some more to us.

If you keep hives in your garden, then security is much easier. Make sure you keep the back gates padlocked and if possible have one top and bottom. Thieves can reach over and use bolt cutters on the top lock but it is more difficult to get to the bottom one. Make sure you have adequate lighting, use prickly bushes on boundaries and put trellis on top of fences and gates. Trellis breaks easily, is unstable and makes a noise, all of which are things burglars hate.

Suzie's talk gave us much food for thought and was very much appreciated.



Lorna Rivett then announced the winners of the various classes.

Honey Bake – any baking item containing honey. 1st prize went to Mary Paul for her Chelsea buns, 2nd to Sarah Wells for the banana bread baked by her husband and 3rd to Lorna for her gingerbread.

In the Granulated/soft set honey class, 1st prize went to Sarah Wells, 2nd to Lorna and 3rd to Bob Loades.

For the runny honey, 1st prize went to Brian Grace, 2nd to Yvonne Goddard and 3rd to Lorna.

In the wax class 1st prize went to Robin Roberts for his cakes of wax. 2nd prize went to Lorna for her Church and 3rd prize went to Nigel Perkins for his skep.



We had a good number of honey entries considering the bad season and a great selection of bakes, which we then proceeded to demolish so only the crumbs went home. Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to the winners. Thanks also to everyone who pitched in to help organise the event. It was a great evening and we also made £71 on the raffle towards club funds.

Dates for your diary

The next session of the Microscopy group will take place on the 4th December. The monthly Club meeting is on Wednesday 12th December. The first part of the evening will be our EGM followed by our regular meeting. As this will be our last meeting before Christmas please bring a few nibbles and a prize for the raffle if you can. Our guest speaker will be Dr Nikki Gammans, Bumblebee Project Officer, Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

Lynn Janes
Hon. Sec. Mobile: 07721 338833

Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Beekeepers' Society

<http://www.bbka.org.uk/local/slough-windsor-maidenhead>

Neil Coxhead, Secretary SWM BKS

Anatomy of the Bee - Graham Royle

On Wednesday 24th October members of Slough Windsor and Maidenhead BKA were treated to a fascinating talk on Bee Anatomy by Graham Royle, NDB. Graham has achieved the ultimate qualification for beekeepers – the National Diploma in Beekeeping. We were very lucky that Graham kindly fitted in his visit as he was en route to the Honey Show in Weybridge.

The talk was a close up look at individual bees and was accompanied by Graham's superb presentation of microscope views of the bee anatomy. We were able to see five eyes on the head and were surprised at the hairiness of the compound eye. A microscopic examination of the wings showed the hooks that lock the wings together in flight and a view of the pollen baskets revealed how the pollen is held in place. Even more impressive were Graham's micro views of a worker bee's dissected proboscis and abdomen.

It was a truly memorable talk and Graham's book 'Apis through the Looking Glass' is sure to be appearing on many a members Christmas wish list this year.

Life in close up

Freshly inspired by Graham's talk, we were delighted to receive a kind invitation from fellow beekeepers in Wokingham and District BKA to join them in their newly established Microscopy course. The course is intended 'to improve everyone's knowledge of bees and diseases through microscopy and hence develop overall husbandry skills'.

On 6th November three members from Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead joined in a class run by Alex Atherton and Garth Matthews at Maiden Earlegh School in Earley where we were inducted into the use of the microscopes. Soon we were able to have our own close up look at the specimens. The evening ended all too quickly but we can look forward to furthering our knowledge in forthcoming meetings.

The AGM

The Annual General Meeting is never likely to be the most keenly anticipated occasion of the year but it is a necessary annual event and this year it was well attended. The annual reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer summed up the year with all of the trials and tribulations we had experienced, but also reflected a flourishing and engaged membership.

And finally...

As the bees cluster and the keepers settle down for winter; we can reflect on the strange and difficult beekeeping year and make our wishes for a better one next year.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Lorraine Godenzie

Forthcoming Meetings

1th December at 8pm: Making Mead – John Gamble, followed by Christmas supper.

15th January at 8pm: Pam Hunter 'How Bees perceive the world – the senses of the bee'

25th January at 7.00pm for 7.30pm: Annual Dinner at Stirrups Country House Hotel, Maidens Green, Bracknell, RG42 6LD.

As always, details of all our meetings, topical articles and much more are on our website at:

<http://www.bbka.org.uk/local/slough-windsor-maidenhead>

Reading and District Beekeepers' Association

Jon Davey, Secretary

www.rbka.org.uk

We have held two meetings in this period on 29th October and on 20 November. The October meeting was held at Tidmarsh Village Hall and featured a presentation by Mrs Hazel Blackburn on Honey for Showing and Beeswax Candles.

Reading beekeepers are fortunate to have Hazel as a committee member. She is a Senior Honey Judge, travelling to Beekeeping Shows throughout the UK. In addition to judging the many classes of honey being she is also an expert on beeswax candles, decorative mouldings etc. Some of the diverse beehive products can be seen at Reading & Districts show at August Bank Holiday.

Having recently returned from judging in The Channel Islands, Hazel allowed us to taste a fine honey from a show on Guernsey, as well as a wonderful honey from near Petersfield in Hampshire and a New Forest heather honey. Hazel gave good advice for would-be honey show winners as to the importance of cleanliness, the selection of jars, careful selection of which class honey should be entered in, ie, light, medium etc. She displayed a range of colour grading glasses. Advice was given regarding the labelling requirements of honey 'labelled for sale', these also being the expected requirements for honey being sold by beekeepers. For cut comb and chunk honey classes, Hazel recommended that well-capped neat comb cut from unwired frames without empty cells and pollen should be used to have a chance of winning in a competitive show.

Preparation of beeswax came next with displays of moulded and rolled candles and illustrations of procedures to thoroughly clean beeswax using high grade light wax from cappings and light brace comb etc. Hazel showed how to pre-wax the wick, which must be selected for size appropriate for the candle girth, and she showed us how to hold a wick steady using a 'cocktail-stick' during molten wax pouring. Questions and answers followed and a good initial grounding on working with wax was made possible by Hazel's excellent presentation.

Hazel's next task was to judge entries from novice beekeepers for the annual award of The Hazel Blackburn Trophy. This year's winners were:-

First place and the trophy was awarded to Annette Jukes for an excellent light honey.

Second place went to Ian Duddle, who was narrowly 'pipped at the post' with his light honey, which was the novice class winner at this year's Reading Honey Show.

Third place went to Stuart Grey with a very good clean white set honey.

Many thanks to Hazel Blackburn, as well as to all who entered and attended.

Our second meeting on 20th November was the Annual General Meeting. Reports were presented by the acting chairman, secretary and treasurer. Officers were (re) elected as follows. Cathy Tucker (Secretary), Michael Blackburn (Treasurer & Membership Secretary), supported in the membership function by Martin Moore, Giles McLoughlin (Education & Communications), David Lawton (Librarian), Linda Rogerson (Swarm Coordinator), Marion Dabbs (Minutes Secretary). Jon Davey agreed to continue as Acting Chairman.

Katie Rennie and Clark Hunter were welcomed as two new committee members.

A number of proposals affecting the intentions of the association's future course and activities were discussed and voted upon.

The trophies from The Reading Honey Show were presented.

Following the AGM we had an excellent presentation including 'scene of action' photos from our swarm coordinator Linda Rogerson with able assistance from committee member Mike Dabbs who's self-designed and constructed 'Bee Vac' (vacuum type swarm collection apparatus) was seen at work. This generated much useful comment and discussion. We then had a viewing of 'The Dance of the Honey Bee' DVD. This charming professional looking production was much appreciated and generated questions and discussion.

With many thanks to all who participated, agreed to serve and attended.

Dates for your diary

Reading Beekeeper's Annual Festive Dinner is being held on Friday 18th January at Caversham Heath Golf Club. We have a choice of three starters, four mains and desserts, or the Christmas menu for £20 per head. The menu is on our website www.rbka.org.uk. Please confirm and make your choices without delay to Michael Blackburn (one for each diner please).

Our December meeting is on Tuesday 18th at Caversham Heights Methodist Hall starting at 7:30pm sharp for a talk by our good friend Will Messinger on 'Bees as Wild Animals' This talk will attempt to re-interpret some of our beliefs in what is right or wrong for successful beekeeping fo-

cusing on bees as wild animals. Will has sent us a brief outline of his subject, which can be found on our website. Our December meeting is also enlivened and refreshed by some hot mince pies and spiced cordial. Don't miss it!

The January meeting is also at Caversham Heights Methodist Hall on Tuesday 15th January at 7:30pm. Our speaker is Steve Benbow and the subject is 'Keeping Bees In High Rise Locations'. Steve markets his honey as 'The London Honey Company' supplying Harrods, Harvey Nichols, The Savoy and Fortnum & Masons where he manages ornate hives on the roof. He also keeps bees on the roof of The National Portrait Gallery, The Tate Modern and other renowned buildings. He has been requested to bring some copies of his new book 'The Urban Beekeeper' covering a year of bees in the city, and we are sure Steve can be persuaded to sign copies for this wishing to buy. This is a meeting not to be missed!

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South Chilterns Beekeepers' Association

Joanne Shanagher, Secretary.

Tel: 01189 721067

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

On a wet and windy night on the 21st November, around 40 members of the SCBKA assembled in Woodcote Hall for the inaugural South Chilterns Honey Show. Although the Association has been in existence for over 30 years, this was the first time a Honey Show had been held.

After a generally cool, wet and miserable year for bees, it was great to see our dedicated keepers anxious to share and see the fruits of their colleagues' labour throughout the year, and to swap stories of bee health problems and successes through such a challenging period.



The Show started with a short talk by Reg Hook on what judges look for when judging honey in prestigious shows around the country. For our show, the requirements were relaxed, as allowing a broad range of entries helped everyone taking part to see what was possible!

Showing honey is an exacting task. The honey needs to be displayed in 2 identical jars of a certain weight, with no gap between the top of the honey and the lid of the jar.

Clear Honey is usually judged in 3 groups, light, medium and dark shades, with the honey free of air-pockets and particles suspended in it. Heating the granulated honey for a couple of days at around 50°C prior to filtering and then pouring it into tilted jars to minimise introducing air into the honey helps to produce the finished product to the standards judges are looking for.

Natural Set or Creamed Honey has similarly exacting characteristics although the process is different. Natural Set Honey is made by filtering the honey from the holding tank and pouring it into jars. No heating is required. Creamed Honey has a similar process, but the honey in the holding tank needs to be heated to 30°C and then mashed in the container, whilst taking care not to pull the masher out of the honey introducing air into the mixture, allow to stand for a while and then bottle. If the honey is coarse granulated, it can be reheated to liquefy it and then be allowed to cool. The mixture is then seeded with around 5% of creamed honey, stirring it occasionally until it starts to go cloudy, and then bottled.

After Reg's informative talk, he dressed for the serious judging work he was about to perform, sporting a white coat, hat, gloves and a dazzling blue beard guard! The other judges, Jemima Hume-Humphreys and Kate Malenczuk also got to work with helpful comments and suggestions from other bystanders! The rest of the attendees adjourned for tea, coffee and biscuits. The Classes and the winners were judged and are as follows:-

Adults

Class 1: Any size glass jar of clear honey

1. Dave Moss, 2. Nicky Phillips, 3. Caroline Bushell, 4. Jemima Hume-Humphreys, 5. Stephen Kaseki, 6. Dave Moss

Class 2: Any size glass jar of set or creamed honey

1. Steve Radford, 2. Max Stone, 3. Chris Berghmann, 4. Grey's Court, 5. Tim Selwyn, 6. Duncan Heather

Class 3: Beeswax candle and or 3-1 oz. moulds of beeswax

1. Dave Moss

Class 4: 1 bottle of mead

1. Tim Selwyn 2. Tim Selwyn 3. Dave Moss

Class 5: Honey Cake

1. Fiona Johnson , 2. Heidi Sheridan, 3. Steve Radford

Class 6: Honey biscuits

1. Dave Moss, 2. Steve Radford, 3. Fiona Johnson

Class 7: A Photograph of Bees/ Beekeeping.

1. Stephen Kaseki, 2. Steve Radford, 3. Stephen Kaseki

Class 8: A painting or drawing of Bee/Beekeeping.

No entries

Children

Class 9: A photograph of Bees/Beekeeping.

1. Henry Stone

Class 10: A painting or drawing of Bees/Beekeeping.

1. Alice Kaseki, 2. Henry Stone, 3. Henry Sheridan



The Association's silver salver for 'Best in Show' was won by Dave Moss after careful consideration by the judges and audience!

It would be remiss not to report that we had a disqualification in the Honey Cake class. Our chairman had entered a cake using his own recipe and not the one required for the show. After Max admitted that he hadn't followed the rules, his cake was disqualified. No-one, including our Chairman is above the law of the SCBKA!!

Congratulations to all who took part, to the winners of the various classes and overall Best in Show. With events of this nature, a huge vote of thanks must go to the organisers and judges of the show. So, thanks go to Linda Clarke for organising the Hall, ensuring that the exhibits were correctly categorised and anonymous, and keeping track of proceedings on the night; to Guy and Louise for providing the prizes and certificates; to Max Vine for the professional compeering of the evening; to the judges - Reg Hook for Classes 1 to 4, 7 and 8, Jemima Hume-Humphreys for Classes 5 and 6 and Kate Malenczuk for Classes 9 and 10. Without their planning, skill and knowledge, the evening would not have been so much fun for all who were there.

Finally – thanks to everyone who came along making the evening a most enjoyable and memorable event and we are already looking forward to the 2013 show!

Richard Bushall

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(Advert)

Editors Corner

As I settle into the role of Newsletter Editor I feel the need to have a corner in which to say a few words – so here it is!



Firstly, it was pointed out to me that the woodpecker picture that I inserted into the November Newsletter was not the variety most likely to be a problem to us in this area and that an image of the green woodpecker otherwise known as 'Yaffle' would have been better. So, thanks to Jon Davey for pointing that out and for sending me two pictures from



Michael & Hazel Blackburn. The 'yaf yaf yaf' call indicates they're in the vicinity and once they start attacking beehives, often in cold winters, generations thereafter tend to carry on with it. The picture on the left shows how the bird got tangled up in netting that had been put around the hive.

I really enjoy reading the contributions to the newsletter and I particularly enjoyed the story regaled by the Community Support Officer at the Wokingham Association's honey show. She talked about the bees around the lion on the Tate and Lyle golden syrup tin. I rushed to my pantry to have a look and here it is. Good question for the Christmas quiz might be to ask what is the image on the front of a famous brand of golden syrup!



A feature of the newsletter is the regular 'In the Apiary' piece. This was started by George Hawthorn way back in 1952! Since 2006 the feature has been managed by three members of the Federation Committee with the intention of giving seasonal advice to less experienced bee keepers. You will have noticed that it is signed *Triad* – representing the three contributors. Well the triad has been reduced to a duo and I feel that it is somewhat of a burden to ask two people to write a piece each month. So, we are looking for additional contributors to this section. Ideally, I would like 12 contributors from the four Associations that contribute to the newsletter. I would like people who have been keeping bees for four or more years to offer to write one piece – just a single page. Once I have volunteers I will assign each person a month so you will know the season/period that you will be writing about. If you would like to contribute, please email me at berks-bees@btinternet.com . I already have two volunteers from South Chilterns.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful period over Christmas and the New Year and to remind you that the next newsletter will be in February 2013.

Sue Remenyi, Editor

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Interesting article on how Honey suffers after bad year for bees by Hannah Briggs on the BBC Food website.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/0/19585638>

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

Letters 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 on the 7th of the following 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.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Bees and Beekeepers!