

Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association

Newsletter for June 2009



Where has our summer gone! The Tring Canal Festival was held over the bank holiday weekend at the end of May and, for the first time in three years, we had some really nice weather. At the beginning of June, new queens had started to lay and the season was beginning to look quite promising.

As I am writing this newsletter, the temperature has dropped 10° and I am back to my winter woollies!

If you have recently taken off a spring crop of honey, be careful to make sure the bees have enough stores to see them through this cold spell. A decent sized colony will need 10 lbs of stores to last them a week; this is equivalent to two fully sealed brood frames.

Summer Programme

Sunday 14th June

Aston Clinton Fete
Aston Clinton Recreation Ground
11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Wednesday 17th June

Association Apiary
Training session for new beekeepers
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Saturday 4th July

Honey Day
Natural History Museum, Tring
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday 5th July

Disease Recognition Day
Great Missenden
(see item alongside)

Saturday 11th July

The Lee Flower Show
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July

Chiltern Show - Great Missenden

Sunday 2nd August

Visit to Garden Organic at Ryton

See overpage for more details

Sunday 6th September

Open Day at the Association Apiary
Details to be announced later

Sunday 20th September

Visit to Stockwood Discovery Centre

See overpage for more details

Disease Recognition Day

Sunday 5th July

at **The Memorial Hall, Link Road,
Great Missenden, HP16 9AE**

10:00am to 4:30pm

Our new Seasonal Bee Inspector, Julian Parker, will be holding a Disease Recognition Day.

Julian will be assisted by Ian Homer and they will bring along example frames that are infected with EFB and AFB so that you can see exactly how these diseases can be identified.

The day will cover:

- Good Husbandry and Apiary Hygiene
- Identification guidance for AFB and EFB
- Varroa Management
- Colony Losses
- Nosema
- Exotic Pests and potential future threats

There is no charge for the day; tea and coffee will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

I have been on two of these days myself and can testify how useful they are. We are very fortunate in having one organised so close to us at Great Missenden and I would urge as many members as possible to come along.

You **must register** in advance by contacting Julian Parker on **01494 711781** or by email at julian.parker@fera.gsi.gov.uk

More overpage

Summer Visits

Two visits have been arranged for this summer.

On **Sunday 2nd August** we will be visiting **Garden Organic** at **Ryton** in **Warwickshire**.

Formerly known as the Henry Doubleday Research Association, Garden Organic has 10 acres of landscaped gardens maintained in a fully organic way. On 2nd August they have a food and wine event. Admission will be £7:50 for adults and £6 for children.

All members and their guests are welcome to come. If there is sufficient interest we will lay on a coach, otherwise we can share cars and go in a convoy. The distance from Wendover is about 65 miles.

If you are interested in coming, please let **Karen Dadswell** know by 12th July on **01296 624091** or email membership@mbbka.org.uk

On **Sunday 20th September** we will visit the Stockwood Discovery Centre at Luton. The Centre is well known for its bee-friendly gardens and museum of country crafts, including beekeeping. The Centre is also the home of Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association.

A guided tour has been arranged and times will be given nearer the date. Costs will depend upon the numbers going but will be no more than £5 per head.

Nuclei available

Caz Lee in Wendover will have a number of 5-frame nuclei available for sale within the next 2-3 weeks.

If you are interested, please contact her on 01296 620463

Found in the Apiary Hut

A pair of ladies spectacles has been found in the Apiary Hut. They are currently on top of the filing cabinet so if you have lost a pair you can pick them up the next time you are at the apiary.

Frank Rickett

Tel: 01494 866516

Email: chairman@mbbka.org.uk

Association Apiary

This year has been very busy in the Association Apiary and it is great to see it so well used.

During May we arranged five sessions for new beekeepers and I hope that all of our beginners who are hoping to start beekeeping will have taken the opportunity to come to at least one of these.

During June, **Gill Peacock** is looking after the apiary and she will be there on Wednesday evenings **17th June** and **24th June** at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited to come along.

We are very grateful indeed to Beulah Cullen for coming all the way from Hillingdon each Tuesday for the past 6 weeks to teach a course leading towards the BBKA General Husbandry exam.



Congratulations

Some of our members took BBKA Module 1 (Beekeeping Husbandry) and Module 3 (Disease, Pests and Poisoning) examinations in March.

These are really tough exams so congratulations to those who passed.

Apiary Sites Available

We have recently had three offers of sites suitable for out-apiaries. If you are interested to find out more, please contact me for details.

The sites are at:

Great Missenden - Aylesbury side

Weston Turville - site on the allotments

Wigginton (near Tring)

