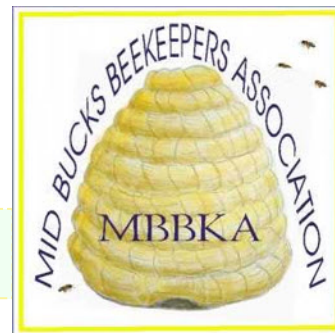


Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association



Newsletter for June 2011

Spring at the Association Apiary

by Sean Stephenson, Apiary Manager

If you have been down to the Association Apiary recently you will have noticed some changes. We now have nine colonies available in the main area for training purposes which offer a good variety from small manageable to large and busy colonies.

New this year is our Nursery Area which you can see in the foreground of the picture, this is where we have been rearing the nuclei resulting from our swarm management.

We are already employing two of the colonies reared in the nursery in the Association's observation hives; several of the colonies will be surplus to requirements and available for members to purchase. It might be a little sad but for me the biggest improvement this year has been the installation of a water butt!

Through maintaining so many colonies we have had the capacity to help out several members with such things as frames of eggs and the loan of emergency equipment.

Being surrounded by OSR this year does not seem to have caused too many issues with colonies, so far we have only harvested one super of honey although there



Summer Programme

We plan to put on displays at the following events. If you come along to any of these, please spare an hour or so to help us on the stand.

Saturday/Sunday 25th/26th June

Haddenham Garden Centre

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday 16th July

The Lee Flower Show

12:45 pm - 5:00 pm at the The Lee.

Saturday/Sunday 30th/31st July

**Worlds End Nursery
"Bee Weekend"**

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday 6th August

Tring Museum Honey Day

Tring Natural History Museum,
Akeman Street, Tring
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Saturday 20th August

**Aston Clinton Horticultural Society
Show and Fete**

(times to be announced)

Thursday 1st September

Bucks County Show

Weedon Hill, Aylesbury
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

are several supers ready to be extracted. With the lack of recent forage leaving the supers on seems to have been a prudent move.

To keep up to date with events at the Association Apiary visit Sean's Blog at <http://blog.mbbka.org.uk/>

"Advanced Session" at the Apiary on Wednesday 22nd June - 6:30pm

This year 8 people will be taking the Basic Assessment and on Wednesday 22nd June we will be holding a mock practical exam.

It doesn't matter if you are not taking the Basic Assessment, the evening is open to **everyone** who is interested in testing how good they are at examining and assessing a colony.

We plan to split people into teams and ask them to assess a colony and answer a few simple questions on what they find.

There will also be a short mock oral exam in which everyone is welcome to take part if they wish.

Are your bees starving?

The year started off so well with the very warm weather in March and April but since then problems have multiplied.

Spring was exceptionally dry and when the rain eventually came in May, the weather turned cold.



Are your bees starving? (cont.)

This resulted in a prolonged "June gap" that started in mid May and is only just finishing.

The Bee Inspectors have been finding many colonies this year that are running short of food. Honey accumulated earlier was being consumed rapidly.

It is important to check that your colonies have sufficient stores available, particularly if you have taken off a spring honey crop.

As a rule of thumb, a good size colony will consume about **10 lbs** of honey per week if they are unable to obtain forage.

For emergency feed at this time of year I recommend using 1:1 sugar in water, i.e. 1 kg sugar dissolved in 1 litre of water. This weaker solution helps the bees to make up brood food without having to collect much additional water.

The National Bee Unit has written a useful advice note on avoiding summer starvation which can be found by following the link to <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/downloadNews.cfm?id=110>

Summer Events

On page 1 you will find the list of events we are going to over the summer.

At each of these we take along our observation hive, set up a poster display similar to the one in the picture and have honey and wax products for sale. Sometimes we also provide candle rolling for children.



Our stand always attracts a lot of attention with people coming along who are genuinely interested in bees.

We need lots of our members, young or old, experienced or novice, to come along and help with these events. It's great fun spending the afternoon talking to people and you don't need a great depth of knowledge - just enthusiasm about bees.

Please contact Frank Rickett if you can spare an hour or two at any of the events

"Keeping Bees Healthy" Saturday 11th June

Thanks to everyone who helped out on Saturday 11th June with the "Keeping Bees Healthy" day.

In particular, to [Julian Parker](#), [Seasonal Bee Inspector](#), who gave clear and easy to understand talks on bee health and on the major bee diseases.

We were also very fortunate that Julian was able to bring along combs infected with [EFB](#). There is nothing quite like seeing the effects of the disease for oneself in order to understand how to spot the signs.

School Visits

Holmer Green Junior
The Common,
Friday 27th May HP15 6TD
Dear Mr and Mrs Rickett,
I am writing to thank you for coming to Holmer green Junior school. We really enjoyed the bees coming to are school because I am not as scered as I was before. I all ways just to think that bees stung you by purpus but they donit it is if you annoy them. I also really likt how they made there nest.
The most I injoyed was when we tasted the hunny. It was so nice and I really liked the hunny with the braed stiks. It was the best.

Best wishes
from evie



This letter from a Year 3 pupil (8 yrs) was amongst several received from the children at Holmer Green Junior School after our recent visit there with bees in an observation hive.

Vanessa Rickett

For Sale

Two WBC hives and other beekeeping equipment in good condition.

Contact Frank Rickett on [01494 866516](tel:01494866516), chairman@mbbka.org.uk

Bees Wanted

Some of our new beekeepers still need bees to get started this year. If you have any good quality nuclei available please let me know.

*"June just rains and never stops
30 days and spoils the crops"*

Flanders and Swann

How apt!

Frank Rickett, Chairman

Tel: 01494 866516

Email: chairman@mbbka.org.uk

