

Herefordshire Beekeepers' Association



Newsletter
December 2017

Forthcoming events All welcome:

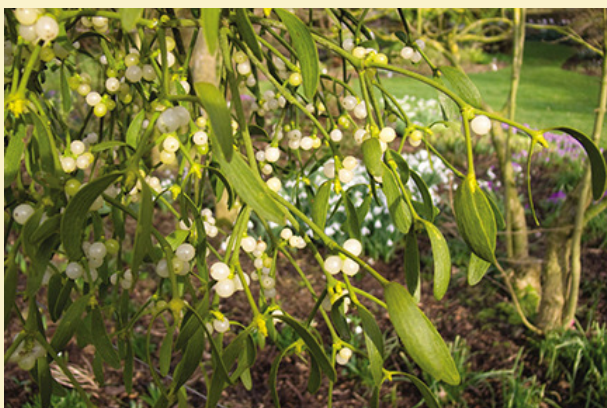
Saturday December 9th 11am-1pm. Apiary meeting and Apibioxal varroa treatment, Holme Lacy, for directions contact a member of the committee.

Thursday February 15th 7.30 pm, Any Questions, including Honey Processing. Three Counties Hotel.

Thursday March 15th 7.00 pm, AGM followed by talk by Wally Shaw

Wishing all our members a Happy Christmas, and good beekeeping in 2018

There will be no newsletter in January, but items can be sent through the website for inclusion in the February edition.



Mistletoe - *Viscum album*

The berries form on the female plant. In spring the flowers are pollinated by small flies, which are attracted by a scent of decaying oranges.

The National Bee Unit has a Seasonal Bee Inspector Post for Herefordshire advertised on the Civil Service Jobs website for the West of England.

The closing date for applications is 21st December and any applications submitted after this date will not be considered.

If you have any questions about the post then please contact the Regional Bee Inspector Colin Pavey:

Email: colin.pavey@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Mobile: 07775 119471

Membership renewals

Membership renewals will be due on January 1st 2018. We are hoping as many people as possible will renew their membership online this year. Full membership is needed if you already have bees, and you should estimate the maximum number of colonies you will have in the summer. Bee Disease Insurance cannot be upgraded during the season to take account of increased numbers. We also offer Junior, Associate and Partner membership which will be renewable on the website.

New data protection legislation means that we require permission to send your details on to the BBKA, Bee Disease Insurance Ltd (BDI) and the NBU. If permission is withheld we will be unable to obtain insurance and BBKA membership for you.

We will also be altering the contact details on the website so that committee members and LAN co-ordinators can be reached through email redirected to them.

An interesting abstract from the Proceedings of the 2017 American Bee Research Conference:



Varroa destructor feed primarily on honey bee fat body not hemolymph

Samuel D. Ramsey and Dennis van Engelsdorp. Department of Entomology, University of Maryland, College Park.

Efforts to mitigate the elevated losses of honey bee colonies have reached a global context as one of the primary drivers of these losses, *Varroa destructor*, has achieved a nearly ubiquitous distribution. Better understanding of the association of this parasite and its host is integral to developing sustainable management practices but very little study, if any, exists as support for the heretofore uncontested conclusion that Varroa feed exclusively on the hemolymph of adult and immature honey bees. This study was conducted to determine the primary host tissue composing Varroa's diet. Findings in a preliminary study suggest that the mites may feed on fat body. To test this hypothesis, honey bees were reared to specific ages corresponding to the development of the fat body and fed one of two fluorescent biostains *ad libitum*. The Uranine O biostain persisted in the hemolymph and Nile Red biostain persisted in the fat body. Mites were allowed to feed on these bees for 24 hours and were then crushed and placed in a spectrophotometer. The biostain associated with the fat tissue was present in Varroa in significantly greater proportions than the hemolymph biostain in all 4 honey bee age treatment groups. Varroa consumed 3 times as much fat body as hemolymph when allowed to feed on the age group associated with nurse bees, at which time fat body is at peak development. To determine the importance of each host tissue in Varroa's diet, adult female mites were collected from uncapped brood in several untreated colonies. These mites were then placed in queen rearing cups lined with beeswax and fed fat body, hemolymph, or a combination of the two through an artificial membrane. Fecundity was measured and analyzed. Varroa fed hemolymph produced no eggs while Varroa produced eggs in all treatments containing fat body. We are currently conducting studies of survivorship of mites fed on these two host tissues. Preliminary data shows Varroa fed only fat body have greater survivorship as well, which suggests that the ingestion of hemolymph may not be integral to growth and development of this mite.

Mite infested colonies have a significantly higher winter mortality than those where Varroa levels are controlled. The fat bodies of winter bees are important to their overwintering ability, so any reduction in fat deposition due to parasitism would be expected to impact adversely on bee survival.



Presidents Evening

At the President's evening on 16th November, Brian Draper gave a talk on 'Walking from the source of the Wye to Hereford'. Brian had been a Conservation Officer for the Severn. He illustrated his talk with photographs of bridges, buildings and scenes along the way and shared his knowledge and amusing anecdotes with us. For instance, the Judge's Lodging for this area was at one time in Rhayader (the name means a cataract up which the salmon leap). However, he found the locals too dangerous and likely to harm him for his judgements so his lodgings were moved to Presteigne.

At Llansantffraed in 1936 a party was organised for the children to celebrate the accession of Edward VIII to be paid for by the villagers. However, the local water company ended up paying most of the cost because they owned much of the land. The Post Office in Builth Wells is probably unique. It has a crest of Edward VIII over the entrance. The stonemason must have completed the job between the accession and abdication.

The Baskerville Hotel at Clyro was formerly a private house of the eponymous family where Conan Doyle once stayed. Behind it is a large wood where the author would have heard and seen the family's 'hounds'. Further downstream towards Hereford the deer park at Moccas has many ancient trees. Seeing them, Brian said, it makes you proud to be 'old and wrinkly'.

Hereford has the incomparable Old Wye Bridge built in 1490 over which all traffic passed until the Greyfriars Bridge was completed in 1966.

Brian has another talk on walking the Wye from Hereford to Chepstow; perhaps another time?

Peter Furneaux



Apiary site available:

I have had the following email:

My wife and I own a property in Westbrook, about 4 miles from Hay-on-Wye. It has a paddock, now an orchard, which we have planted up with 14 fruit trees, consisting of various varieties of apple, plum and pear. We wonder whether one of your members would be willing to keep a hive in the orchard. We have discussed this with friends who keep bees and understand that it may be viable. We hope that if it happens it would be good for us and for the bees.

The property is on the lower slopes of Little Mountain. The orchard is about 0.25 acre. It is surrounded by a hedge, consisting of brambles, sloe, hazel, holly, dog rose, thistle, oak, cornus and other hedging plants. There is open farmland around us, devoted to livestock – cattle and sheep. There is no arable farming in the vicinity. There are plenty of trees of all varieties and established hedges.

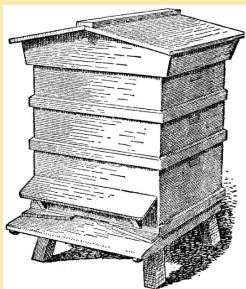
Please let Mary know if you are interested and I will put you in contact.



Wassailing at the orchard

BBKA Delegates meeting

This is effectively the AGM of the BBKA. Justine Gallacio is our delegate. The propositions for discussion have been published in the latest BBKA magazine. If you wish Justine to make any representations at the meeting please send an email to enquiries@herefordshirebeekeepers.org.uk and we will forward it on to Justine.



Bob's Beelines

November has been very mild, our bees have been out flying most days. They are using up their winter stores, so keep a check on the weight of your hive, if the hive feels light you can feed concentrated warm syrup (invertabee or ambrosia syrup) or a block of candy.

Check that the mouse guard is still in place, a piece of chicken wire will keep the woodpecker out. Also make sure the roof is waterproof, damp is not good for your bees, repair any equipment for next year.

East LAN end of season dinner: a group of 25 attended the dinner at the Plough Inn at Stoke Lacy followed by Dave Sutton and a very good quiz. Thanks Dave for that, we were also pleased to see members from other LANs.

That's all for now see you in the new year, Merry Christmas to all.

Bob and Kath Cross.

Topical Tip Moving Bees

Bees will follow landmarks until they find the exact spot of the nest. If you need to move a colony the usual rule is less than three feet (in which case they will drift this short distance) or more than three miles when they will re-orientate to the new location.

If you need to move a colony winter is an ideal time to reposition the hive. Wait until they have been continuously clustered for about two weeks of cold weather. The bees will usually re-orientate to their new position when the weather warms up and they break cluster.

Mary Walter

Holly

Ilex aquifolium

Holly is another dioecious plant, meaning it has separate male and female plants, and relies on insect pollination to set its berries. Hollies have insignificant white flowers in May.

Mary Walter



If foul brood is suspected, contact our RBI, Colin Pavey on 07775 119471 - or email colin.pavey@apha.gsi.gov.uk. At present, we do not have a local SBI.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

President	Peter Furneaux
Chairman	Andy Tatchell
Vice Chairman	Debbie Smith
Secretary	VACANCY
Treasurer	John Robinson
Membership Sec.	Steve Utley

Committee	Robert Cross Mike Healey Mary Walter Charlie Taylor Mary Walter
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LAN COORDINATORS

South LAN:	Val Lilwall
North LAN:	Mary Walter
East LAN:	Fiona McKinley



The green woodpecker

These beautiful birds can quickly demolish wooden and polystyrene beehives, but usually keep away unless the ground is frozen and they cannot reach ants- their preferred food.

Mary Walter