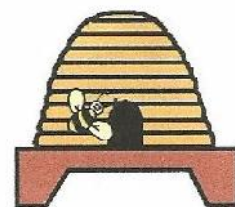


Herefordshire Beekeepers' Association



Newsletter
October 2017

Forthcoming events:

Saturday October 14th HBKA Honey Show,
Hellens Manor, Much Marcle, HR8 2LY.

Thursday October 19th Evening Meeting, 7.30 pm
Three Counties Hotel, HR2 7BP. Speaker: Professor
Les Baillie, Cardiff University, "The antibacterial
properties of honey".

Thursday November 16th Presidents Meeting, 7.30
pm Three Counties Hotel. Speaker: Brian Draper,

Les Baillie, is Professor of Microbiology at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Cardiff. He is using bees in an attempt to find new drugs to treat hospital infections because of the problem of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Honey produced by bees can have anti-bacterial properties so Les has been working with the National Botanic Garden of Wales to find out more.

He is working with PhD student Jenny Hawkins, on a project to identify plants that bees visit to make honey.

The researchers are trying to put these plants in as many places as possible around Cardiff for the bees to feed on and produce honey with anti-bacterial properties.

HBKA Honey Show

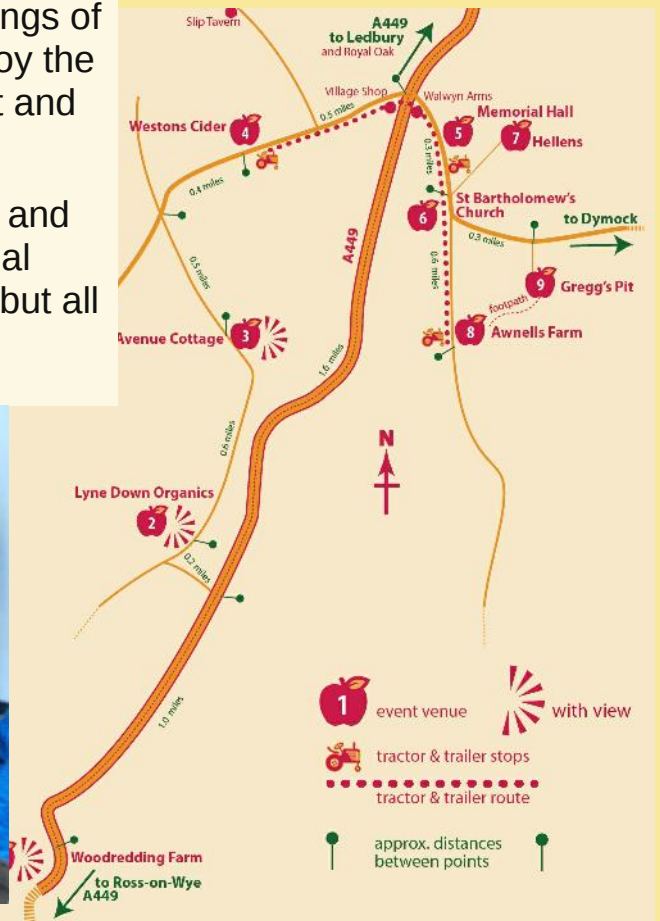
This year the honey show will be staged during the Big Apple event at Hellens Manor . Please bring your entries in good time. They may be staged on Friday October 13th from 4 pm – 6 pm, or on Saturday October 14th from 8.30 am - 9.45 am. Entry to the site is free at those times, but if you come along later there will be a £2 entry fee. Normal entry fees will apply if you wish to tour the house.

Judging will start at 10.00 am on October 14th. Exhibits may be removed from the displays between 5 and 6 pm on the 14th or may be collected on Sunday 15th. The schedule is on the HBKA website. If you are unable to come to collect your entries please let Andy know and he will take them home for you to collect at a later date. Please contact your LAN co-ordinator if you have entries but are unable to bring them along.

Anyone entering at least one class in the honey show will be eligible to sell honey or other products of the hive, so if you have a surplus, do bring some along. We will be selling honey for £6/lb. Honey should be correctly labelled and a taster pot supplied; the Association will deduct a 10% commission to help cover the cost of the event.

The Big Apple have put together a collection of rural events, all in the beautiful surroundings of the Marcle Ridge. You will be able to enjoy the local orchards, famous for their cider fruit and excellent eating apples.

The local farms and orchards, cider mills and barns will be open to visitors. Nine special venues in all, each one of them different but all with one thing in common – apples!



Stop Press Urgent

The National Bee Unit has confirmed a sighting of the Asian Hornet at an apiary near Woolacombe in Devon. Work to identify, destroy and remove any nests is already underway.

Please be vigilant. In the case of a suspected sighting, contact alert_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk immediately.

Committee News

We have three new committee members, Charlotte Taylor, and Steve Utley, Thank you to these beekeepers for being prepared to take on the task of helping with the smooth running of the Association.

More helpers are still needed for honey show duties; please contact Andy Tatchell if you can spare some time at the show on October 14th or to sell honey on the 15th.

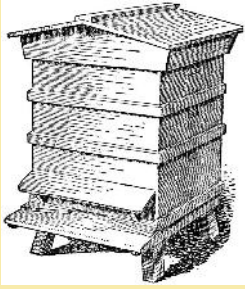
Mary Walter

Topical Tip.

Now is the time to clear up after the summer. I go through the supers and store all those frames that are in good condition with no pollen or traces of brood. I stash them outside under the garage stairs in clean boxes separated by queen excluders (to keep mice out) and sheets of newspaper. During the winter, frost will help clear any unwelcome pests.

The sun is too low in the sky now for the solar wax extractor to work, but old brood frames can be cleaned up with a wallpaper steamer fed into the bottom of a stash of frames. Some people use an old wheelie bin or dustbin. The wax that drips out can be saved to exchange for sheets of foundation next year.

Mary Walter



Bob's Beelines

Our beekeeping year is now in October. Your Varroa treatment should be finished and feeding syrup should be finished by the first week of October.

Your bees will very soon be bringing in pollen from the ivy which will be in flower in the next two weeks.

Remember to put your mouse guards on by the end of October.

Now is the time to start planning your Beekeeping for 2018.

That's all for now.

Bob and Kath Cross

Introduction to microscopy

Have you been intrigued by the idea of finding out more about pollen and bees by looking down a microscope. I know I have. Marin Anastasov, who gave a talk at the HBKA AGM last year, has kindly offered to put on another of his one day courses "An Introduction to Microscopy" and not charge for his time. He has done several of these and they seem to have gone down well with whoever has attended.

<https://oxnatbees.wordpress.com/2016/10/09/beekeepers-under-the-microscope/> . For us he would suggest a taster on pollen recognition and some work on bee anatomy and on bee disease analysis.

He proposes holding it at the RAU, Cirencester so as to make use of their laboratory facilities. The RAU is a little under an hour's drive from Ledbury, so perhaps some of us might car share.

The RAU make a modest charge for these facilities, so if we can get together around ten of us from the HBKA and perhaps surrounding associations, we would hope that the day would cost no more than £20 each, which would be extraordinarily good value. He has suggested either Saturday 24th or 31st March 2018. If anyone is interested, let me know at microscopy2@sisyphus.biz and I shall see what can be organised.

Roger Gill



East LAN meeting 29th August 2017

For the last meeting of the season for the East LAN, we had a good turnout in Much Cowarne, hosted by Andrew and Sue McFarlane. Andrew had increased his apiary by 50% compared to last year. His two hives had produced a total of five swarms, one of which he had caught and put into his new, third hive. It was this hive that we inspected first, looking to see whether it would be strong enough to make it through the winter, or whether it might be better to combine it with one of the other two colonies. As ever, Dave Sutton and Bob Cross were able to lead us and enlighten us in these matters.

This first hive had some of the brood on shallow frames. There was not a lot of brood, around four frames of bees and not a lot of stores. Varroa treatment was suggested as well as feeding.

The second hive had a super on for the bees to clean out. There were seven frames of brood, but not a proportionate amount of stores. Hive three had plenty of bees and clearly observable brood in all stages. Dave reminded us all that we should be checking all frames in our hives at this time of the year. We added some Apilife Var to this hive and discussed the merits of using a Miller or Ashforth feeder for giving the bees syrup.

We concluded that there was no need to combine the hives, but they would all benefit from some feeding to get them through the winter.

Having discussed feeding the bees at such length we then adjourned to the house where Sue and Andrew fed us with much tea and cake, so we all departed informed and replete.

Roger Gill

A prospective beekeeper gets to handle a frame of bees



Midland and South West Counties Convention 2017

Even for someone with as little experience as I have (and I must have been the most inexperienced person there) the 2017 MWSCC, held at the RAU Cirencester on the weekend of the 16th September, was very valuable.

The talks ranged from 'Sustainable bee improvement' to 'Pollen – super food- for honey bees' and were given by people with both erudition and experience. Of interest to the technically minded was a session on remote monitoring of hive weight, temperature and humidity using off the shelf components, for less than £20 per hive, rather than the £500 for an Arnia system.

Several of the talks, and a workshop, were on swarm prevention and control. Thus the sessions were very practical as well as theoretical. The swarming subject started with a talk on the Demaree. Later, Wally Shaw gave a talk on reactive swarm control, using a variation on the original Pagden method (but based on Pagden's own proposed alternative) and a practical demonstration by Jenny Shaw with brood boxes and supers moving from side to side and under and over. It gave me an opportunity to thank Wally in person for his excellent leaflet "There are queen cells in my hive - what should I do?" www.wbka.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/wbka-booklet-english-PDF.pdf.

I wish I had come across this document before last June when I opened one of my hives to find more than a dozen queen cells and felt inclined to panic. (As it turned out they sorted themselves out, did not swam and a few weeks later I had a new queen laying prodigiously) .

As ever with such gatherings, there is the potential to learn as much from other delegates as from the speakers. We had plenty of opportunities for such exchanges over a couple of fine dinners (rather better than RAU student fare) and far too much time in the bar.

I was a little surprised to find only three people from the HBKA there (and one of the three was a speaker), so I recommend watching out for the 2018 MSWCC and signing up for a good value, and very enjoyable, weekend.

Roger Gill

NB Look out for Wally Shaw who will be giving the lecture after the HBKA

Autumn Forage-

Common ivy *Hedera helix*

Ivy in full bloom in my garden. The apiary smells of ivy nectar after a warm autumn day, and the bees are also busy gathering pollen from the flowers to see them through the winter. The flowers only appear once the plant has climbed up high.

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. Mary Walter

Committee Robert Cross
 Mike Healey
 Steve Utley
 Charlie Taylor

LAN COORDINATORS

South LAN: Geoff Blake
North LAN: Mary Walter
East LAN: Fiona McKinley
 Marlene Hewitt
Newsletter Editor VACANCY
Examinations Sec. Louise Sheppard