



WOKINGHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Helping honeybees & beekeepers since 1946



website:
www.wdbka.org.uk
or scan the above code

Bee-news-ed

W&DBKA Newsletter

2019 Issue 6, July

(To contact the editor please e-mail wokinghambeekeepers@gmail.com)

The Committee...

The committee met on Tuesday 02 July. There was a change of venue for the meeting this month, because Neil (whose office we normally use) was on holiday. We met in the Portakabin meeting room... a suitable venue with its pristine, newly laid linoleum. (Technically not linoleum but you know what I mean.)

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 06 August.

10 July Two Poplars' Meeting

A visitor from 'over the pond' who was in Reading, found notice of our pub meets on the new website and decided to join us. He later emailed Lynne a thank you:

"I did stop by last night and had a lovely time chatting with the members. As a US beekeeper it was very interesting to hear their local perspectives. Hope to visit again sometime!" We look forward to it!

HELP: Annual Honey Extraction Saturday 03 August

We do need volunteers for the annual Association honey-extraction day on Saturday 03 August. If you are available to help please email John Waddelove using the Association email (see the top of the page) or by using the website contact form.

Same as last year there will be a morning session 9am - 12 noon and an afternoon session 12 noon - 3pm. No need to limit yourself to half a day, if you can help for the whole day, even better. Donations of biscuits and cake will not be refused!

It is hot sticky work so dress appropriately and you might want an apron. Disposable gloves provided. If you can, please bring: newspapers for the floor; an uncapping knife (initially forgotten last year) and bee suit - so, of needed, you can help put supers back on the hives for cleaning by the bees.

Apiary Bee-news-ed

Sean Stephenson and Jenny Morgan (from Reading Association) were the external assessors who put five members through their paces for the BBKA Basic Assessment qualification on Sunday 30 June. Candidates won't know the results for some weeks as the final decisions are made centrally by the BBKA.

Garth Matthews, coordinating the assessments, reported that we have four nucs and four hives that need to be left alone for a few weeks. Consequently the following inspection (06 July) was cancelled because a number of virgin queens needed to be left, undisturbed, to go on mating flights. Full report on the website: <https://wdbka.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/ApiarySummary201906030.pdf>

BEE HEALTH DAY

The Bee Health Day, run by the National Bee Unit (NBU) and organised by Reading's Association took place on Saturday 22 June at Earley St Peters' Church Hall. The NBU inspectors' organised a well run day with thought provoking and informative workshops... giving people the opportunity to see and handle frames affected by EFB, AFB and more common diseases such as sac brood and chalk brood. Association attendance was disappointing considering the number of beekeepers



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who will not have had the opportunity to see and handle diseased frames before or to discuss bee health matters with experienced and knowledgeable inspectors. Only eleven of our members attended: it was thought more would have attended considering the recent EFB outbreak. Attendance from other district associations invited by Reading was also relatively low. Despite expectations parking was not a problem and attendance on the whole was good and it was a very successful day.

Our New Website:

Our new website www.wdbka.org.uk is up and running, attracting contacts from both members and non-members. If, despite the launch email, you haven't seen it yet, then take the time to have a look at our new window to the world. It is the place to go to for Association news, the apiary schedule, inspection reports, a calendar of events, equipment sales and more. Use it to raise enquiries and make contact. Reviews so far have all been good.

Are You Fully Insured?

Make sure you are adequately covered by your BDI insurance. If you have increased your number of colonies during the year because of splits/managing swarms you may have more colonies than you are insured for and subsequently may not be covered if you need to make a claim. When you next renew your membership consider getting insurance for the number of colonies you may end up with later in the year.

The recent European Foul brood outbreak saw colonies destroyed and hives burnt. The beekeepers are/will be claiming against their BDI insurance... not possible if they are not adequately covered!

Is Your Apiary Registered with BeeBase?

Your colonies should be registered with BeeBase so that you will be notified if there is an outbreak of disease near your apiary (or apiaries). Make sure the **location of your apiary (or apiaries)** is registered IF they are not at your home address.

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/public/register.cfm?>

Asian Hornet Spotted in Hampshire 03 July

The Government have reported the first confirmed sighting, this year, of an Asian Hornet. It was seen in New Milton, Hampshire. More on our website..

<https://wdbka.org.uk/asian-hornet-first-confirmed-sighting-of-the-year/>

...And Finally...

The thanksgiving service for our former chairman, Dr Niall Riddell was held on Monday 01 July. Chair John Waddelove, his wife Felicity and secretary Evan Reynolds were part of a packed congregation at All Saints' Church, Swallowfield. To accommodate the large congregation, speakers were placed outside the church entrance where over seventy people listened and took part in the service.

Niall who served in the Northern Ireland and the Falklands recently celebrated his 40th anniversary. He sadly suffered heart attack whilst snorkelling with his son in Australia. Our thoughts go out to his family.