

# North Bucks Bee Keepers' Association Newsletter Sept-Oct 2017

## Table of Contents

Calendar at-a-glance.....	1
Editorial .....	1
Events.....	2
North Bucks and Buckingham Honey Show – Sunday 24th September.....	2
Bucks County Honey Show – Saturday 23rd September.....	2
National Honey Show .....	3
Friday 13th October: AGM and Fish & Chip Supper. ....	3
Winter Talks.....	4
Beekeeping News .....	4
Cosgrove Apiary .....	4
Module 6 Studying.....	4
BBKA News.....	5
Apiary Notes for September / October from Andrew Beer: .....	5

## Calendar at-a-glance

Saturdays	Apiary sessions, Cosgrove Apiary, 12.30
24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	NBBKA honey show
3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Committee meeting
13 <sup>th</sup> October	AGM and Supper. 19.30pm. Monkston Park Community Centre.
21 <sup>st</sup> November	Celia Davies talk “into spring”, Monkston Park Community Centre.
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Celia Davies talk “World of the honeybee queen”, Monkston Park

## Editorial

Thank you to Steve Snook who hosted a very enjoyable summer party last month at his a home in Far Bletchley. It was great to catch up with fellow beekeepers over some food and drink.

Thank you to Jacqui Armitt for representing us at the Stoke Hammond show recently, where we had the display shown in the picture.

Please visit and “like” us on Facebook, as this is the best way to see breaking national and local beekeeping news:  
<https://en-gb.facebook.com/NorthBucksBeekeepers/>



## Events

### ***North Bucks and Buckingham Honey Show – Sunday 24th September***

North Bucks and Buckingham Beekeeping Associations are holding their joint Honey Show on Sunday 24th September, at Buckingham Nurseries.

Please try and put a few entries in, its good fun, and there's always lots to learn. The schedule and entry forms are on our website <http://nbbka.org/members/Documents.aspx?DocumentType=Documents>

If you can, please email Sue Lang on [honeyshow@nbbka.org](mailto:honeyshow@nbbka.org) with the list of classes you hope to enter. She can then prepare labels for your entries. This save lots of time and stress on the day. There's no penalty for not providing an entry for a class.

Remember you can enter up to 3 items in every class, but you can only win one prize per class.

We have two new trophies this year: The Ken Gorman Wax Candle Trophy for the best candles in the show, and The Andrew Beer Trophy for the winner of the Composite Class (Class 28).

Entries can be placed from 9.30am to 11 am, when judging will start. Trophies will be awarded as soon after 3pm as possible.

If you have some time available from 4pm Saturday 23rd to help set up and cover the tables/stands that would be really useful. Please let Sue know if you can be there.

### ***Bucks County Honey Show – Saturday 23rd September***

In 2016 North Bucks hosted the Bucks County Honey Show. It is High Wycombe's turn in 2017, and it is being held on Saturday 23rd September. If you are going to enter the North Bucks show, please consider putting your entries into the Bucks County show first. Sue Lang is planning on being on site all day, so if you can deliver your entries (between 9.30am and 10.45 am), Sue can collect them for you at the end of the day and transport them to Buckingham. High Wycombe district have a full day's activity planned including a tour of Pan Mill, a talk by Ash Samuelson, a Scavenger Hunt, Ploughman's lunch (£5 a head), Quiz and Raffle.

Bucks County are also hosting the inter-county 'Federation Cup'. First place winners in 7 classes will be put forward as the Bucks entry competing alongside Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough & District. This is a great opportunity to see the 'best of the best' entries locally.

More information about the event can be found <http://www.hwbka.co.uk/>

## ***National Honey Show***

Finally, the National Honey Show is being held between Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th October at Sandown Park Racecourse. Entries are accepted on Wednesday 25th October. Full details are available on <http://honeyshow.co.uk/>

As well as the main classes, there are specific classes for members of Bucks County Beekeepers Associations, and are well worth entering. Entries have to be submitted by 9th October – so you have time after the NBBKA and Bucks County show to decide if you want to enter the National too.

## ***Friday 13th October: AGM and Fish & Chip Supper.***

Monkston Park Community Centre, Plaistow Crescent, Monkston Park, Milton Keynes, MK10 9FJ

PLEASE NOTE: Some take you off Plaistow Crescent, carry on past Moores and the Coop on your left. There is extra parking outside the school opposite. Please also note it is MONKSTON PARK which is completely separate from MONKSTON.

We will be starting the AGM at 7.30pm prompt.

Agenda:

- Reports from Chairman and Treasurer, and other reports and updates as needed (e.g. Honey Show, Events/Talks, Membership, Education, Apiary).
- Election of Officers (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) and other committee members
- Presentation of honey show trophies
- Questions/Issues raised by members

If you have any subjects you wish to raise, please email them to [chairman@nbbka.org](mailto:chairman@nbbka.org).

We will be having a Fish & Chip supper at 8.30pm from Moore's (just along from the Community Centre). Please follow this link to buy your ticket for food. All orders must be placed on the system by 6pm on Thursday 12th October so that we can order the food. If you decide on the night to eat with us, you are welcome to pop along to the shop to purchase your own supper. Prices range from £3.50 to £5 a head so are very reasonable. We hope to have a short quiz alongside the supper. Whilst the AGM is aimed at members and only members will be able to speak and vote on formal matters, partners/spouses and children are welcome to attend. Please book anyone not eating a Free AGM ticket via this link so that we know how many people to expect. We will have tea/coffee facilities available.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/north-bucks-beekeepers-agm-and-fish-chip-supper-tickets-37252347775>

## ***Winter Talks***

Celia Davies is a renowned Beekeeper, Author and BBKA Examiner. Her talks are always informative, challenging and very practical. We are very pleased that she will be delivering two talks this winter.

**Celia Davies talk 21st November 2017.** 7.30pm. 'Into Spring'. Venue: Monkston Park Community Centre.

We are opening this talk up to Bucks County BKA members and also Beds BKA members. As we have a limit of 100 people in the hall, please reserve your FREE TICKET via this link.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celia-davies-talk-to-north-bucks-beekeepers-into-spring-tickets-37663949888?aff=erelpanelorg>

**Celia Davies talk 20th March 2018.** 'World of the Honey Bee Queen'. Venue TBC

We are opening this talk up to Bucks County BKA members and also Beds BKA members. As we have a limit of 100 people in the hall, please reserve your FREE TICKET via this link.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celia-davies-talk-to-north-bucks-beekeepers-the-world-of-the-honeybee-queen-tickets-37664322001?aff=erelpanelorg>

## **Beekeeping News**

### ***Cosgrove Apiary***

Sessions are continuing on Saturday lunchtimes, these are designed for beginner beekeepers, but all members are welcome to attend.

### ***Module 6 Studying***

A note from Fiona and Andrew Eelbeck. "For those interested in taking module 6 or just learning about bee behaviour, we are able to start the 27 September, a Wednesday evening from 19h30-21h30. Firstly, we will look at the BBKA syllabus, then look at Mid bucks notes for module 6 and study that. It is also good to look at the past papers which are available to download for free from the BBKA Website".

Please email Fiona direct if you would like to join the study group.  
[eelbeckbees@gmail.com](mailto:eelbeckbees@gmail.com)

## **BBKA News**

An Update from BBKA Trustees has been published, follow this link for more details.

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/231962cc46de2c60ff68e8a12/files/476f55ac-f9bb-4c93-9005-87a8fc44fb0c/2\\_Positive\\_Thinking\\_4\\_9\\_17.01.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/231962cc46de2c60ff68e8a12/files/476f55ac-f9bb-4c93-9005-87a8fc44fb0c/2_Positive_Thinking_4_9_17.01.pdf)

It contains a summary of Courses taken and passed this year, plans for new practical courses on Bee Health and Bee Breeding (both standalone modules, like the Microscopy one). Plans are well ahead to make some changes to the Spring Convention for 2018 (not location though, still at Harper Adams), and quite a few other updates. Well worth taking a few minutes to browse through. A new Schools Pack including games, information and visual aids (for those who give talks to school children) will be available later in the year.

Bedfordshire Beekeepers Honey Show and Honey Festival. Saturday 30th September, Woburn Abbey and Gardens.

You have to pay entry to the Abbey and Gardens, entrance to the Honey Show is free. For the last couple of years Beds BKA have had around 250 entries in their show, well worth seeing.

<http://www.woburnabbey.co.uk/events/shows-and-fairs/wwwoburnabbeycoukhoneyfestival/>

## **Apiary Notes for September / October from Andrew Beer:**

Apologies from Andrew, for various reasons new notes for September/October are not available, however the notes from 2016 are still relevant and accurate.

Andrew also raises awareness of some colonies being very low in brood numbers and food, in particular those treated with Apiguard. A thorough inspection of all your colonies is highly recommended.

September 2017

Now in September (and note by the end of September) we must get our bees prepared for the winter ahead, and that includes all the tasks ably set out in the standard books. All I will do is to highlight a few thoughts:

- a) Is the colony strong enough to get through winter? In particular, a colony on less than six standard brood frames in September may have insufficient numbers to survive, and if necessary it should be united to another stock.
- b) Make a point of getting your winter feeding done by 30th September or even earlier.
- c) Be ever watchful for robbing. It is often difficult to detect the robber bees, but the robbers look furtive, prowling around outside waiting to make a quick entry. Wasps are

rather more obvious. The trouble is that once inside a hive, these robbers go almost unchallenged and even a strong colony can be wiped out in days. All stocks, whatever their strength, should be reduced to one bee space from the time the season's flow slows down (say beginning August) until the spring flow is well under way.

d) Are your hives secure and wind- and watertight? A damp roof will soon kill off the strongest stock. Damp in winter, even damp conditions around hives is a far bigger winter killer than cold. September is the time to ensure your hives are wind-, weather- and robber tight, and placed in airy conditions but do protect from prevailing winds.

e) And get ready for the shows. Read on!

#### October 2017

Feeding should be complete but however diligent you are there may be a hive or two which still need autumn feeding. Try to get the job done in the first 10 days of October adding insulation over the feed to keep the temperature in the hive as high as possible. The fact is that with late feeding, there is a general risk of the feed fermenting and if we get a cold snap the bees will stay put in the cluster and ignore the feed however much they may need it to survive.

The next job for me at the end of the month will be to place an eke immediately above brood chambers, coverboards above ekes. This will provide the necessary space for any fondant feeding. At that time of the year bees will not build wild comb in an eke, the coverboard will not be propolised down which means you can have a quick peek at the bees by lifting the coverboard say every 3-4 weeks in winter (or at once in event of suspected emergency) for 5 seconds at the most to see all is well.

All is well? Yes, you want to see a nice large still cluster looking dead to the world and with no faeces or signs of dysentery on frames or boxes. Always take a torch on the inspections as the cluster may be below top frame and not readily seen.