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| logoSURREY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONWEYBRIDGE DIVISION NEWSLETTER: September 2016[**www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com**](http://www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com/) |

***Editorial***

A different style of Editorial this month - Marion suggested that the following verse (especially the last four lines) is appropriate for this time of year.

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| *Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,* |   |
| *Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;* |   |
| *Conspiring with him how to load and bless* |   |
| *With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;* |   |
| *To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,* | *5* |
| *And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;* |   |
| *To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells* |   |
| *With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,* |   |
| *And still more, later flowers for the bees,* |   |
| *Until they think warm days will never cease;**For Summer has o’erbrimmed their clammy cells.* | *10* |

First verse of **Ode to Autumn, by** **John Keats (1795-1821)**

**REMINDERS and notice of New Items**

**End of season social BBQ, September 10th, 5.30 – 8pm at the Hersham Community Centre**

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE, and refer to page 3 for the details of this event.

**Subscriptions for the year 2016-2017 are due on October 1st**

A membership application / renewal form is attached. Please return to our Treasurer, Michael Main as soon as possible.

**Notice is hereby given that the AGM of Weybridge Division will be held on Sunday, November 6th, 2.30 – 5:00pm at Cobham Village Hall, Lushington Drive, Cobham, KT11 2LU.**

Please do your best to attend this important meeting. There will be more details next month.

*Any suggestions?* If you have ideas or comments about what we do or what you would like Weybridge Division to consider doing, please mention these at the meeting or to a member of the Committee before or afterwards.

**REPORTS**

**2nd Combined Guildford and Weybridge Division’s ‘Make it’ Session**

Eight members from Weybridge and Guildford Divisions spent an enjoyable afternoon at David Parker’s ‘Make Your Own’ event on Sunday 21st August.

His garden was set up with all sorts of woodworking equipment including an electric bench saw, an electric chop-saw, several electric drills, a manual hand-driven mitre saw, a hand-operated oscillating saw and a copious supply of screws and wood, the latter mostly retrieved from local skips!!!

I was particularly delighted with my ‘observation hive platform’ which I made under David’s guidance and with Richard Whitehead’s assistance – I had never used an electric saw or electric drill before. Everything went together so quickly.

Between copious cups of tea, coffee and Monique and Alyssa’s tasty homemade cakes as well as those brought by guests, others were busy - making 43 dummy boards, 7 roofs, 5 nuc box floors, a Snelgrove board and 4 entrance blocks.

A great afternoon. Thank you to David and Monique. My message to all is don’t miss the next one - good fun!

Sandra Rickwood

*Monique took some pictures of this meeting that can be seen here:*

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lb04r8vvthet0lm/AACqAIGav8oW28elbcpheVbMa?dl=0>

**Jamie Ellis talk, 1st August, at East Horsley Village Hall**

The talk (given without any notes) began with an overview of beekeeping in the United States where there are 2.6 million colonies, most of which are run by bee farmers although the largest number of beekeepers are hobbyist beekeepers. A bee farmer will operate up to 30 000 colonies. Honey is largely regarded by them as a nuisance; the main purpose of the bees is considered to be pollination. Colonies are moved around the country to pollinate the crops at various times of the year beginning with the almond crop in the East of the country in February, and finally overwintering in the South at the conclusion of their countrywide circuit. Jamie emphasised that the current problems for the bees do not have a single cause but a mixture of many in various combinations; he also stressed the difficulties of trying to analyse all of the data to arrive at helpful conclusions (for dealing with their problems). He described how the effect of infections, etc. can only be determined by comparing the effect of the many chemicals on bees with bees which have not been exposed to such chemicals. However, bees unaffected by such pollutants do not exist, so bees have to be bred for experimental purposes, and he described how *in vitro* bees were produced. At this point after he had spoken for about 45 minutes, we had a 20-minute tea break.

In the second part of his talk, Jamie described, supported by slides, the drone and queen reproductive apparatus and described the mating procedure in some detail. This was illustrated by a remarkable video. He used another video to show a speeded up process of the development of an adult bee from an egg.

I have to admit that a lecture or talk exceeding half an hour in duration, especially one that could be described as ‘heavy’ or riddled with technical terms, can send me into a state of semi-consciousness, but there was never a chance of this with Jamie. He involves his audience with questions, humorous comments: for example a gentle quip about the two US presidential candidates, and our recent EU referendum vote… none of which are likely to cause offence. He gently questions long held and quoted views and puts right some misconceptions (“Where did this figure that ‘30% of all our food is pollinated by bees’ come from? If its originators had done a little research, they would have found a figure of 10% to 20%”. “Is CCD a real entity?”). A feature that does not very often come across from speakers of this level that was great to see was his obvious sense of wonder of the things he was bringing to our attention, “Just take a minute to think about…”

Jamie takes one of his four children with him on all of his foreign visits. This time it was the turn of his 3-year-old son who sat through his father’s 2-hour presentation with remarkable patience. Jamie also showed great resilience when called on part way through the second half of his talk to go with the little boy for a ‘bathroom break’.

The only slightly disappointing aspect of the evening was that the title of the talk was not covered, “Addressing the sustainability of beekeeping in the 21st century”. Jamie explained this at the start of his address by saying that you have to have the current buzz words in your title (ie in this case ‘sustainability’) otherwise you don’t get the funding you need for your work. I suspect that this a little known aspect of how important things in the world have to be done! As you will imagine, many other things were said in the tallk, but I hope that this short report will give the flavour of what the 60 or so members of the audience (including six from Weybridge division) enjoyed.

Altogether, a memorable evening and one that I doubt if I will ever forget. Geoff Cooper

*This talk had a few rings from the article “The Case Against Honeybees” mentioned in the July newsletter.*

 **FUTURE EVENTS**

**End-of-season Social (BBQ) - Important event for Weybridge members and families**

We are planning on holding a summer/end of season social/BBQ on **September 10th (not 3rd as initially planned)** from 5.30pm – 8pm at the Hersham Community Centre in Burhill Road, Hersham.  Enter Burhill Road off Burwood Road beside St Peter’s Church, continue past a green on the left, then a plant nursery (Woodlark Nurseries) and the Hall is the next building on the left. Cars can be parked in front of the hall, at the side of the road or possibly in the car park of Piglets Play Centre, opposite.

Given the less than enthusiastic attendance at our last two summer meetings, partly because of holidays and maybe the topics, we are keen to ascertain the interest in such an event before we commit to booking the venue.  The event would be a relaxing few hours now we are at the end of the season, to catch up with fellow Weybridge Beekeepers, and discuss how each other’s season was and plans for next year.  The Hersham Community Centre will also be the venue for at least some of our winter meetings this year, so a great chance to see it now they have started their refurbishment.

*Please will you let David Parker know by Monday 5th September if you will be attending* davidparker@polymathconsulting.com. If there is not enough desire for this event, we will cancel it and advise everyone.

**Surrey BKA Training Day, Saturday 3rd September**

Details of this this training day were given in an attachment in the July Newsletter and are attached again.

**A talk on the Swindon honey bee (the one that grooms off Varroa), 10th November**

Meridian Beekeepers will be hosting a talk by Ron Hoskins on:*Bees who are better at grooming off varroa and the development of the Swindon Bee.*  All are welcome!

The details are as follows: Date: 10th November, Time: 7.15pm, Venue: Botley Market Hall, Botley High Street, SO30 2EA (upstairs room).  Cost for non-Meridian members is £5.

RSVP: Louise Evans  louisewithbees@gmail.com

There is parking to the rear of the hall, accessed via the passageway between the neo-classical Market Hall and Regina's restaurant.  The Market hall is opposite the Co-op where there is a bus stop. Botley is a 15 minute walk *downhill* from Botley Station.  There are no taxis or bus stop at the railway station. The upstairs hall seats 40 at a push, so book your place early!

Linda Secretary, (Meridian Beekeepers Association [www.meridianbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.meridianbeekeepers.co.uk/))

*Ron has done a huge amount of work on this topic; he has spoken at the BBKA Convention at Harper Adams and his talk and pictures are very interesting; they give much food for thought and discussion. – Ed.*

 **Central Association of Bee Keepers Annual Conference Friday 18th - Sunday 20th November 2016**

Attached are some early details about this year's annual conference The venue is the lovely hotel in Kenilworth called Woodside which we used for the first time last year. This hotel has very good conference facilities and is in a lovely setting. Facilities include a gym and swimming pool.

We do hope the varied list of speakers and topics will appeal to you and we look forward to seeing you there. The booking form itself will be issued very soon. Do put the dates in your diary now… Friday 18th - Sunday 20th November 2016.

Pat Allen, Secretary, CABK

*Some of us have attended this conference for many years and fully agree that the new venue is excellent in every way. If you are a new beeekeeper (or indeed a long-standing one) and want a more in-depth understanding of honey bees and associated topics, this conference can be recommended without any reservation. Do have a look at the details on the attachment. – Ed.*

**BIBBA Conference (Bee Breeders Association):**

See attachment.

**ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST**

**Exam successes for our members**

The following is a list of our 6 members who took the BBKA Basic Assessment, and who all passed with the pass levels shown:

***Pass with Credit (75% or more)***Berna Cemiloglu, Paul Svard

***Pass (50% or more)*** Robert Allen, Vildana Cemiloglu, Christopher Edgley, Andy Lear

Very well done by them all; certificates and badges will be supplied later and hopefully we will receive them in time for presentation at the AGM.

 Tim and Sally Hutchinson

*Congratulations too to their course tutors and practical session leaders, and to Tim and Sally for their successful tuition.*

**Beekeeper Required in School Apiary**

For some years now a private school in Thorpe has had 2 hives in their walled garden which have been looked after by Weybridge Beekeepers. With effect shortly, they will be in need of a new beekeer. The post is ideal for anyone who has recently taken up beekeeping, and an experienced beekeeper is available to support and coach the new caretaker.

The walled garden is a delightful place with a mix of allotments and ornamental gardens. The gardeners are very bee-friendly and many have planted excellent forage for the bees. Both hives are in an enclosure within the garden to encourage them to fly high. There is adequate equipment on hand, and an arrangement to suit the beekeeper is available on the honey harvest (typically some honey is donated to the school’s annual fair).

If anyone is interested, please contact Linda Pakuls (linda@smenos.co.uk or 07590 895085) in the first instance.

**Honey sale outlet**

Windlesham Country Market is looking for a honey producer to supply them with honey for sale.  Their markets are held between 10 - 11.30am on the first Saturday in the month, except in December, when it is on the second Saturday.  The market is held at All Saints Hall, Broadway Road, Lightwater, GU18 5SJ.

Produce needs to be taken to the market on each occasion and unsold stock taken away at the end of the day's trading.  Other items that can be sold include cakes, jams and preserves, handicrafts, plants and garden produce.  Anyone interested should contact Brenda Cresswell, 01483 828527[cresswell.brenda@gmail.com].

Andrew Halstead

**Volunteers required for Surrey Beekeepers Association stand at National Honey Show**

Surrey Beekeepers Association will be running a stand at the fast approaching National Honey Show at Sandown Park, Esher on 27th, 28th and 29th October. The stand will be in the main entrance area of the show and is designed to attract members of the public and those who are interested in taking up beekeeping.  The material on the stand will be all the basic stuff about bees and what is involved in becoming a beekeeper.  Even our newest members are well qualified to answer the questions that the public will ask so don’t feel you can’t put your name forward because you ‘don’t know enough’.  Yes you do!  The deal is half a day on the stand and you get free entry to the show for the other half of the day. This is a special year for the National Honey Show, the 85th show but the first at our new location.  Do come and join us.  To find out more about the show you can look at our website [www.honeyshow.co.uk](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/)

If you would like to join in please let Sandra Rickwood, the secretary of Surrey Beekeepers Association know and please give her an idea of the day(s) and times you could manage.  rickwoodsbka@gmail.com

We also need some volunteers to help with a children’s quiz that will involve the children in a hunt for clues around the show (see also the following item).  If that appeals please let Sandra (or Pam) know.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at ‘The National’.

Sandra Rickwood

**Stewards needed at National Honey Show (to work with all age groups)**

I am sure you know that The National Honey Show is taking place from Thursday 27th October to Saturday, 29th October, and is moving to a new venue at Sandown Park Racecourse.  They always need help with stewarding, so if you are going and could volunteer for a few hours as a steward, please contact the chief steward, Bill Fisher, at **chiefsteward@honeyshow.co.uk****.**

Taking advantage of more space in the new venue, involving children and providing interest and activities for them are high on the list.

***Bee Craft*** is supporting this initiative and  BKids Club has its own stand, alongside the ***Bee Craft*** main stand in the trade hall.  Pam Todd, who looks after "all things BKids" for ***Bee Craft***, is organising some fun things for children to do and will be there for all three days of the Show. I'm sure you will have guessed this will be no mean feat!

If any one is going along and would be willing to help Pam for an hour or two on one of the days, would they please email her at **b.kids@bee-craft.com**with an indication of when they can help.

**Do you make cast candles or cast wax models?**

If you have visited the Surrey BKA tent at the Surrey County Show (and if you haven’t you have missed a treat) you will be aware that one of the very popular attractions is our ‘Straw Draw’.

The public buy straws containing rolled up raffle tickets and if their number ends in 0 or 5 they win a prize.  We need hundreds of small prizes to make the stand work.  Income from the Straw Draw helps to fund the activities in the Bee Tent.

One of the most popular prizes is a small cast candle or cast wax model.   We need at least 50 cast candles and 50 wax models weighing no more than about one ounce each.  We are looking for someone with experience of making cast candles to take on the manufacture for the Show.    The Show Committee will provide the moulds, wicks and the wax unless any of our members are prepared to be very generous and donate wax.

It does need to be very good quality clean wax of a good colour; ideally cappings wax.  The next Show will be at the end of May 2017 so this is a winter job that may suit someone with a little time to spare.

If you have candle casting experience and can spare time to assist the Show Committee your help would be very much appreciated.  Please contact either myself or our Chief Steward, Michael Main.

Bob Maurer bob@maurer.uk.com

 Michael Main michaelfmain@hotmail.com

**A study group for Module 5 (Honey bee biology)**

*Helen of Epsom BKA has requested that we bring the following to your attention:*

Today I’ve signed EBKA up as a study group on the correspondence course today so just letting you know proposed dates, as you’ve previously indicated you may be interested in joining us.

We generally follow the structure of the correspondence course – tackling a paper a month. We divide the questions between us and someone leads on the answer for each – collating inputs from others to arrive at the team answer.  At the meeting we discuss the proposed response – deciding what is the actual answer and what we will note for additional useful information.

A quick edit and the answer goes in for marking – our tutor usually gets it back in time for us to debate his feedback at the next meeting…Sounds complicated –but it works honest!

Proposal is to meet on 3rd Tuesday of each month thus…

September 20th, October 18th, November 15th, December 20th, January 17th, February 21st,

March 21st, or maybe 14th,  if exam is Sat 18th. Exam date tbc.

The correspondence course costs £55. And if you are joining us we ask for a contribution to this – last year this came out at £6 each.

Any questions or queries please mail me, and please let me know if you want to join – need to make sure I buy enough biscuits!

 Helen info@epsombeekeepers.co.uk

**ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

**BBC item on neonicotinoids**

I have recorded this in case anyone is interested. The file can be accessed below for the next month or so and downloaded. It is a short piece on BBC Radio Norfolk Farming programme covering the new research on neonicotinoids and their effects on bees.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/uv3sfqxmrioe0xn/BBC%20Norfolk%20Farming%20on%20neonicotinoids%20and%20Research.mp3?dl=0>

David Parker

*This (for a change) is a nicely balanced article on an emotive subject. It would benefit all beekeepers - new and experienced - to read it.*

**Pollen substitutes using soya flour**

The August issue of BBKA News, page 278, gives recipes for pollen substitute patties, using soya flour. If anyone wants it they can find it here:

<http://www.evitamins.com/uk/bobs-red-mill-low-fat-soy-flour-58067>

David Parker

*Some informed people say that pollen substitutes are not beneficial to honey bees – any comments?*

**FOR SALE**

Neither the Newsletter Editor nor Surrey Beekeepers Association take any responsibility for the accuracy of any of the following entries, or for the condition of any of the items advertised. If considering purchasing bees or secondhand equipment, the prospective purchaser should take great care to ensure that the bees are not diseased, and that all equipment is sterilised before use. Inexperienced purchasers should take a knowledgeable beekeeper with them.

**Wax melters, bee escapes, brood boxes and a feeder**

3 wax melters (different types), 5 rhombus bee escapes, 2 polystyrene brood boxes, new National polystyrene feeder

For contact details, descriptions and clear photographs of all of these, please see the attachment, ITEMS FOR SALE.

Tim Hutchinson

**Apiary clothing for sale**

**Bee Togs Apiary Clothing - Clearance Sale Special Offer**

Special offer for the clearance of Bee Togs apiary clothing.  Suits £55, Jackets £45.  Contact Martin Major direct on 07973 653575 or email at BeeTogs@gmail.com. You need to contact me direct as these cannot be bought from the web site at this price.  Hurry whilst stocks last.

**Bees for sale**

We have available:

A number of COLONIES WITH 2016 MATED QUEEN (National Standard Brood Frames) Price for 1 brood box full with mated 2016 Queen, bees, brood at all stages and stores: £195 (Larger colonies will be available at extra charge). For more information, please contact me - details below. (Feel free to contact me if you wish to see the bees beforehand)

NUCS are ready now: 6 Frame Nucs (National Standard frames) with 2016 mated queen. Supplied in 6 frame Poly Nuc. Price: £140 + £30 nuc deposit which is refundable on return. 5 Frame Nucs (National Standard frames) with 2016 mated queen. Supplied in 5 frame Correx Travelling Box. Price: £145. The Nucs have a mated 2016 Queen, locally reared from our gentle breeding stock, together with a combination of her brood in various stages, and stores.  The Queens will be marked white.

**Astrid Bowers-Veenman** (Hog’s Back Bees)  Location: Ash Green (between Guildford and Farnham, just off the A31)  Distance from Weybridge: 12 miles (as the crow flies)

 **Tel. No.: 01252 330229 / Mobile: 07803 069798** **Email:****astrid@coginternational.co.uk**

**Bees and beekeeping equipment for sale from a past member of Weybridge Beekeepers**

Most of the equipment in Stephen Sore’s advertisment in the July issue has been sold, but the following are still available:

bees, to give away

extractor £500

2 settling tanks, offers

Contact Stephen, on Aquilasore@mail.com

**STOP PRESS**

**Amazing Wisley Apiary Site Available**

As many members are aware, Weybridge Division has been looking into identifying a new permanent teaching / apiary site and as part of this process we have had discussions with Thames Water.  They have proposed a number of sites, one of which is located in Wisley Lane, near Wisley village, and we have just heard that it is now available for beekeepers’ use. It is the Wisley Sewage Treatment Plant, but don’t be put off by that – it doesn’t smell these days like it used to.  Whilst this site is not suitable as an apiary for the whole Division, it offers a great opportunity for one or a number of beekeepers to use as an out apiary.  There is a huge amount of land available to put hives on, excellent nearby forage and water and permission to put up sheds or storage boxes for keeping equipment on site.  Beekeepers need to be named individuals to gain access to the site and would be given a six-month rolling agreement by Thames Water. So if you ever thought about keeping a few more hives this could be a great location for you. Anyone interested should contact David Parker, at davidparker@polymathconsulting.com who is co-ordinating responses to Thames Water.

*When visiting this site with Andrew, I took a few photos; two are attached (IMG\_0079 and IMG\_0109; they give some indication of the space there, including hard standing for parking. The hard-hat, hi-vis jacket man in the second picture is Andrew. –Marion C.*

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| **Dates for your diary** |
| Saturday | 3rd September | All day | SBKA Training Day | p. 3 and attachment |
| Saturday | 10th September | 5.30-8pm | End-of-season social (BBQ), Hersham Community Centre | p. 3 |
| Thurs - Sat | 27-29 October | All day | National Honey Show, Esher | pp. 4 & 5 and NHS website |
| Sunday | 6th November | 2.30-5pm | Weybridge Division AGM, Cobham | p. 1 |
| Thursday | 10th November | 7.15pm | Ron Hoskins: The Swindon Bee (grooms Varroa)*.* Botley, Hampshire | p. 3 |
| Friday-Sunday | 18-20 November | Times as stated on attached flyer | Central Association of Bee-Keepers Autumn Conference, Kenilworth | p. 3 and attachment |

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