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| logoSURREY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION WEYBRIDGE DIVISION NEWSLETTER: February 2018[**www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com**](http://www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com/) |

***Editorial***

We attempt to organise the information that you send in to the newsletter, in the most convenient and understandable form that we can. We usually make a summary of the articles, etc from outside sources with the full text included as an attachment. If such articles not treated this way the newsletter would be too long. There is, however, a recurring difficulty: that is the form in which links appear in various magazines, emails and flyers, etc. If these are just ‘lifted in’ to the newsletter, the information can usually be raised by simply clicking directly on that link in the newsletter. However, this does not always work. In some cases there is no problem if the link is copied directly into the search engine, e.g. Google.IT experts probably know the reason for all of this. Hopefully you are always able to gain access somehow to the material quoted. If you do have trouble of this kind (or any other), do get in touch with the editor. We do want you to have access to all of the information in the newsletter with minimum hassle. All the original material is kept for a reasonable time after publication.

I had a bright spark in this dismal month of January. Today (25th), on a bright midday I had the pleasure of seeing many bees foraging on the heather bed in our front garden. They were gone within about an hour, giving some evidence for the generally held belief that their foraging times are limited to certain periods of day, depending on the type of forage.

**Potential Beekeeping Centre in Pleasant Place, Hersham: Update 12**

**IMPORTANT UPDATE  and RESIDENTS’ MEETING**

So the detailed work has started, with much effort being put in by our members Lou Gilpin and Paul Bunclark around site layout, traffic plans, etc.   We have also carried out a tree assessment on site along with looking at utilities.  All of this and more is needed to enable us to submit the pre-planning application by the end of February. As part of the planning process we have arranged a residents’ engagement meeting on **February 9th at 7.30pm. DETAILS under EVENTS IN FEBRUARY heading on page 2.**

The purpose of the meeting is to give local residents information about our proposals for the site at 77a and to address any concerns they may have before we apply to the Council for Planning Permission. Several local Councillors will be there, as well as the Weybridge members who are involved in the project. All members had the opportunity to see the proposals at our AGM, but are invited to attend for interest and to show their support, but it is emphasised that this particular meeting is for local residents.

Financials:  The project team want to make it clear to members that no ongoing financial commitment has been made, and will not be made until an EGM is held and Weybridge Beekeepers have a chance to explore the project fully, provide input and vote.  All costs going forward until this time will be met from the legacy that had funds specifically left for this project and that can only be used for this.  This covers the whole planning process.  Members will have the opportunity at the EGM to ask any detailed questions as by then we will also be able to present full costs and plans.

A couple of grant applications with early closing dates have already been made, these are:

Elmbridge Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): £20k

Elmbridge Annual Grant: £4k

Any funds awarded but not then used if the project was halted at the EGM would be returned, but most grants will only be applied for post the EGM.

Outline timings are thus:

Jan/Feb                                    Detailed plans drawn up for costing and planning application

Feb/Mar                                    Surrey Beekeepers Trustees approve Heads of Terms (HOT) for lease

Jan/Feb/March/April                Planning application process

  Start fundraising

March                                       EGM WBK Meeting for approval

Jan – Sept                                Complete fundraising and select contractor

Nov – Feb                                 Carry out work

Jan 2019                                   Move bees in

Feb                                          Move in

April 2019                                 First practical course run

As ever, if you can support in any way please shout; do you know any local companies that might be willing to support us, with anything from £100 to £1,000 to £10,000?  Many companies have Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) budgets and/or local community support budgets – we fit both of these criteria.  Please get in touch if you believe it might be worth us talking to a company (or individual) you work for or know.

Thank you, David Parker, Project Lead, davidparker@polymathconsulting.com

**REPORTS**

**Weybridge Division’s presence at Weybridge Business Group Market, Saturday, 2nd December**

We had the opportunity to take a stall at the Weybridge Business Group's Christmas Market on Baker Street. We set up with honey, candles and some Bee Inspired cosmetics, as well as leaflets about the WBKA and our courses. After asking around, I failed to come up with a gazebo, but a garden parasol did good duty. Fortunately the weather was (almost) dry and calm, although very nippy. We had a steady flow of custom, with several inquiries about beekeeping. A sequence of lovely volunteers turned up as promised and stayed longer than they had contracted for, which made for a very nice atmosphere and helped us connect with the passers-by. My great thanks to Peter, Sue, Joan, Anne, Marcin, Marion Malcher and Jackie. I spoke for a couple of minutes to the Brooklands Radio interviewer. The programme should be available on podcast shortly.

Jane Hunter

*My apologies to all concerned for omitting this item from the January Newsletter. Participation in public events like this must be very, very beneficicial to the Division, as they will help to support and publicise the other major development that we are currently undertaking. Many thanks to Jane for this report. – Ed.*

**EVENTS IN FEBRUARY**

**Public Meeting** **for Pleasant Place residents**

**Friday February 9th, 7.30 pm, St Peter’s Church Hall, Burwood Road, Hersham KT12 4AA**

Please see the first paragraph of Update 12. on page 1 for details of this important meeting.

**Winter Meeting, Hersham Village Society Hall, Burhill Road, Hersham KT12 4BJ**

**February Meeting, Tuesday, February 13th**

This will be the customary evening when some of our own members will give short presentations:

Andrew Halstead (our Chairman) will give a talk entitled “Bee mimics - other insects that resemble bees”

Chris Edgely (past student of our Beginners’ Course) will follow, with “Adventures in beekeeping”

Edwina Wardle (our Education Coordinator) will give ideas on “How to improve your beekeeping”

and Tim Hutchinson (one of our members and a Bee Farmer) will give us a flavour of beekeeping on a different scale, with “A Bee Farmer’s (possible) Day in Brief.

This promises to be a varied and interesting meeting – **do come**!

**Beekeepers question time, Monday 5th February, 7.15 for 7.30 pm**

At Jacobs Well Village Hall organised by Guildford Beekeepers. See attached flyer.

**"Making good use of your beeswax" Fri 9th, Sat 10th and Sun 11th** **February 2018**

See details on Page 4 of the November Newsletter or contact the chairman of West Sussex Beekeepers:Graham - Chairman WGBKA (grahammt@sky.com)

**WSBKA Annual Convention – Saturday 24th February 2018 Lodge Hill Centre, Watersfield, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 1LZ**

Full details can be found here: [www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/convention.html](http://www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/convention.html)

**Central Association of Bee-Keepers Spring Meeting – Saturday 24th February, 10.30 – 4..30 pm**

See attachment for details.

**Wisborough Green Division BKA Beekeeping Course, Saturday 3rd March, 9.00 – approx. 5.00 pm**

See attached flyer for details.

**Winter Meetings at Hersham Village Society Hall, Burhill Road, Hersham KT12 4BJ**

March Meeting: Monday, 5th March Combined with the Bee Diseases session of the Beginners’ Course, with David Rudland as the speaker.

April Meeting: Nosema Clinic

Full details of these meetings will be provided nearer the time.

Marion Cooper

**ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

*Here is an email sent to me from our Chairman:*

I noticed in the Feb edition of  *''Gardeners World''* magazine and ad for something called a ''Gardeners Beehive''.  See their website and weep!

<https://www.gardenersbeehive.com/>    Andrew Halstead

*When I read the information on this website (an appalling source of ‘information’ on how to spread disease, and pretty much the opposite of how we emphasise to our students and others that beekeeping should be approached), my emotional reaction went far beyond weeping. The following is an extract from their advert (complete with their spelling errors):*

‘Is the  "Gardeners Beehive" for you? My dream is to make it for you. So now every one can help HoneyBee's With:  No FAFING, No Stuff, No Training, No Hassel’

*The magazine in question is, astonishingly, a BBC publication - though maybe not so surprising following Martha Kearney’s*‎ *recent bee series on BBC Television. A further source of weeping, etc. is the apparently poor quality and high price of the equipment being offered; it appears to be quite unfit for purpose.*

Can I suggest that you join me in emailing the Editor of *Gardeners World* expressing your thoughts on seeing such an advertisment in a BBC publication. There are several contacts, but the following seems to be the most appropriate: editorial-complaints@immediate.co.uk

*Our response could well do their magazine editors a service, as they appear not to have any idea of the seriousness of the results of this (mis)information, which is not good for anyone, certainly not for knowledgeable beekeepers trying to promote their craft on sound lines or for well-meaning non-beekeepers who may buy these boxes .*

*Thanks to Andrew for alerting us to this advertisement. – Ed.*

**A chance to win a beekeepers’ draw every month (the January prize was a complete National Hive)**

This is to remind you of the prize draw run every month by the charity *Bees For Development* about whichJane notified you recently. This is an organisation well-worth supporting. The contact is repeated below:

[www.beesfordevelopment.org/giveaway/index.html](http://www.beesfordevelopment.org/giveaway/index.html)

**An opportunity to help with honeybee and environmental research**

Honey produced by bees can tell us about the health of the countryside - including what flowers bees are feeding on, the pesticides they are exposed to, and even what diseases they may have.

The National Honey Monitoring Scheme is a new long-term programme being set up in 2018 that will use advanced analytical techniques to identify plant DNA and measure environmental contaminants, such as pesticide residues, in honey produced from across the UK.

This monitoring will provide early-warning of new environmental threats affecting honeybees between different regions. Indeed a [**recent pilot study identified widespread residues of neonicotinoid pesticides in honey samples collected from across the UK**](http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0189681).  In the long-term, we will be able to assess how these threats change over time and vary in different regions. Together this information will help scientists, apiarists, land-owners and policy-makers make evidence-based management and policy decisions.

The scheme forms part of the commitment of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) to long-term environmental monitoring along with their [**Predatory Bird**](http://pbms.ceh.ac.uk/), [**Fish Tissue**](https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/national-fish-tissue-archive), [**Butterfly**](http://www.ukbms.org/) and [**Pollinator monitoring**](https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/pollinator-monitoring) schemes.

**What the monitoring scheme will aim to do:**

* State-of-the-art analysis - DNA metabarcoding & high precision mass spectrometry of honey samples
* Sample archive - for future research developing new analytics, such as disease detection
* Provide feedback to participating beekeepers
* Generate robust scientific data to inform future policy decisions

How can you get involved:

We are asking professional and amateur beekeepers to register their interest in taking part by emailing us at honey@ceh.ac.uk Full information can be found on the following:

[ww.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/national-honey-monitoring-scheme](http://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/national-honey-monitoring-scheme).

*Thanks to David Parker for this information; he and I have already registered.*

*As I read it, it seems that you get free analysis of your honey. The whole project seems to be good for all.*

**British Beekeepers Association website launch on Monday 15th January**

*We are delighted to announce that our new website will go live on Monday 15th January!*

Take your time to have a look around and hopefully you will find things have been included a lot more intuitively. As we said in the last Newsletter, the Events page will now direct visitors to your own websites so please make sure they are up to date.

The website URL [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk/) will remain, and the new site will be accessible through it as soon as the change over takes place.  claire.hartry@bbka.org.uk

**Honey, honeybees and the adulteration of honey**

**Do you subscribe to Netflix?**  If so, take a look at **"Rotten", Season 1 Episode1 ‘Lawyers, Guns and Honey’**.  This first episode is all about honey, honeybees and the adulteration of honey. They also cover China’s arrival into the international honey market.  If you’re not on Netflix you can get a month free to see if you like it and watch this series as well as other quality films.

Wendy and the *Bee Craft* team

**Bee pollen as a medical aid / nutritional supplement**

This article (attached) was published in the newsletter of the Natural Dispensary for Professional Nutritional Practitioners. I thought it might be of interest to some members and in particular the references at the end.

David Parker

**A cure for dermatitis?**

2 parts beeswax

1 part baby oil

Presumably these to be mixed to make an ointment and applied to the infected area.

*This information was given to me by a visitor who wanted some beeswax for his vintage motor car repair business. Has anyone else heard of this use of beeswax (for skin or cars…?).*

**FOR SALE**

**Second hand (but nearly new) beekeeping equipment for sale**

For the sale of my remaining bee kit, please see the attached list.

Thank you, Gil Bray. (gil@braysmail.com)

**Bees for sale**

**A number of ESTABLISHED OVERWINTERED COLONIES with 2017 Queen (National Standard brood frames)**

The colonies were treated with Apivar for Varroa in late summer/autumn 2017. They have a gentle temperament and are good foragers. All queens are locally reared from our gentle breeding stock.

Price of each colony: £180 (excluding hive) .  These colonies are available in early spring as soon as the weather allows. For more information, please contact me – details below.

**NUCS (available to pre-order now – see** Special Offer **below)  (We do not overwinter nucs)**

**- 6 Frame Nucs** (National standard frames) with 2018 mated queen (marked red).   Supplied in 6 frame Poly Nuc. £150 + £30 nuc deposit which is refundable on return.

 **- 5 Frame Nucs** (National standard frames) with 2018 mated queen (marked red).   Supplied in 5 frame Correx Travelling Box. Price: £155.

The nucs will have a mated 2018 Queen, locally reared from our gentle breeding stock, together with a combination of her brood in various stages and stores.   These nucs will be available from mid June onwards depending on the weather.

**Special Offer**: We offer a £5 discount for nuc orders received by 30th April.

**Contact: Astrid Bowers-Veenman** **(Hog's Back Bees and Bee Products)**

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**

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

**STOP PRESS**

Two items from last night’s Committee Meeting:

**1. Social media volunteer request**

To complement the Division’s website, the committee would like to know if we have any enthusiastic members who would like to volunteer to help shape, develop and implement a basic social media communication strategy to help raise awareness of the Division and engage with new and existing members via other online mediums such as  Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, and indeed any other form of text/audio/video (PodCast, vlogging, blogging) means, etc.

Please contact richard\_d\_hignett@hotmail.com if this is something you would like to help the committee put into action.

Richard Hignett

**2. Two volunteers invited to a Resuscitation Course, Saturday 10th March, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm**

Reigate Division have organised this very important course to be run by hospital medical staff and paramedics and are kindly inviting 2 members from each SBKA Division to join them at their Apiary at Henfold Copse, Beare Green, Dorking.

The cost of £2 per person will be paid by Weybridge Division. Full details are in the attached flyer.

Please indicate your interest asap as places have to be booked and will be given to the first two applicants.

Thank you, Marion Cooper (coopergm56@btinternet.com)

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| **Dates for your diary** |
| Monday | February 5th | 7.15pm | Jacobs Well Village Hall  | p. 3  |
| Friday | February 9th | 7.30 pm | Public Meeting on Beekeeping Centre Project | pp. 1 and 3 |
| Friday, Saturday, Sunday  | February 9th, 10th, or 11th | 10.00 am – 4.30-5.00 pm | Uses of Wax Day, Tim Ryan, Petworth, W. Sussex | p. 3 |
| Tuesday | February 13th | 7.30 pm | Winter Meeting – Members’ Presentations  | p. 3 |
| Saturday | February 24th | 9.00 am - pm | West Sussex BKA Convention, Pulborough | p. 3  |
| Saturday | March 3rd | 9.30 am – 5 pm |  |  |
| Monday | March 5th | 7.30 pm | Winter Meeting, Bee Diseases, David Rudland | p. 3 |
|  | April | 7.30 pm | Nosema Clinic | Details later |
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| Beekeeping Refresher Course / BBKA BasicTim & Sally Hutchinsonemail: info@beehappyproducts.co.uk  | Membership SecretaryPeter Webbemail: peterwebb@btinternet.com  |
| Education CoordinatorEdwina Wardle – 01932 702887 email: Wardle\_1@ntlworld.com | Beekeepers Beginners’ Course - AdminSue Lawesslawes@hotmail.co.uk  |
| **Regional Bee Inspector**Sandra Gray – 07775 119430sandra.gray@apha.gsi.gov.uk  | Seasonal Bee InspectorHilary Hayward - 07900 167409Email: Hilary.Hayward@apha.gsi.gov.uk |
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