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

***Editorial***

I was reminded recently that in the past, after a car journey, the windscreen and front of the vehicle were usually spattered with the remains of dead insects. This no longer seems to happen here, though I have been told that it still happens in Canada. I also remember as a child the large number of houseflies and the suspended sticky flypapers that caught them by the hundred; these were later replaced with DDT- impregnated flypapers (not sticky). So in our own lifetimes we ourselves have seen a very significant decrease in the number of insects in our environment. Marion recently showed me a section in a book that she has on loan from Martin Major, *(The secret life of flies* by *Erica McAlister)* which named small biting midges in the *Forcipomyia* genus of the Ceratopogonidae family as the **only** pollinators of cacao, the plant that produces cocoa beans; this insect is in decline which is a worry to the industry and consumers. I wonder what other insects important to us, but of which we may have no knowledege even of their existence, are similarly in trouble or already extinct. Perhaps we are not missing houseflies or even some of those insects that stuck fast to our cars, but surely the possible loss of chocolates and chocolate cakes raises our concern for damage to the environment to an unprecedented level, does it not?

**Potential Beekeeping Centre in Pleasant Place, Hersham: Update 16**

As I mentioned last month the result of possible legal complications regarding the access track to the site has meant that the council need more time to investigate matters and thus we are not likely to get final clearance for a few months.

**Grants**

However, we have had great news in that SC Johnson (manufacturer of household products) has given us a grant of £8,000 towards the new Apiary; this brings our confirmed grant and legacy money already up to over £40,000; a good start certainly.

David Parker

**Swarm Collectors**

Last month, and attached again to this newsletter is a letter for swarm collectors.  This can be used to raise funds in that if individuals who wish can make a donation, or can be asked if they would like a copy of the letter.  It offers a number of ways members of the public can make donations.  I personally have used it and just handed it over as I left, so no sales or pressure, just saying if they are interested, here is a letter.  Please do hand them out as they also help create awareness of what we are doing.

Thanks.

David Parker

**GDPR – changes to Data Protection**

Peter Webb, our Membership Secretary, is STILL waiting for responses from some members to his request, sent in numerous emails and mentioned in the May Newsletter, stating that it is necessary for members to opt-in if they wish to continue to receive information from The Weybridge Division of the Surrey Beekeepers’ Association. Please make urgent contact with Peter (peterwebb@btinternet.com) who will send you the relevant attachments.

**REPORTS**

**Special Extra Summer Meeting, Saturday 5th May: Removing a colony from a tree trunk**

What a beautiful day for a bee meeting!  We have all waited so long for some sunshine and this day was lovely.  We all agreed the new location for the Teaching Apiary in Ottershaw was perfect, driving through the Christmas tree fields was enchanting.

The plan of the day was to witness the removal of a wild bee colony from an old oak tree.  This tree had been felled due to disease and in doing so this colony had been discovered by Elmbridge Council.  Edwina Wardle had been the first beekeeper to respond, then Arran retrieved the main part of the trunk containing the colony, David gave it a temporary home and it was now resting on the back of Arran’s truck.  We were all geared up and ready to witness this rare event.  Great team work with David, Arran and a couple of chain saws successfully and skilfully splitting the trunk into two halves when the colony was revealed.  David swiftly inspected for diseases and signs of brood in all stages, fortunately this colony was disease free and had capped brood.

Meanwhile Arran searched patiently and diligently for the Queen and of course he found her, it’s amazing that he never fails to find her!  Expertly the Queen was entrapped in a Clip Queen Catcher. I had not seen one before, it looked more like a hair clip.

The rest of the comb was transferred onto new frames adapted with a series of strong elastic bands.  The Queen was then double marked by David, his successful practise of double marking was very interesting and fascinating to watch.  David firstly painted the Queen with the usual dot of paint then with his expensive (we all want one) magnetic Queen marking kit and catcher expertly stuck a ‘Badge’ on the feral Queen.  The reason for this is that sometimes the numbered markers fall off for one reason or another, and if this happens your Queen is still marked.  Both Queen and bees on adapted frames were reunited for quarantine in a nuc box.  The meeting ended with a chat, a cup of refreshment and some sweet treats. Everyone complimented Debbiebee on her delicious home made pistachio and lemon cake .

Thank you to Marion, Geoff, Arran and David for your time, sharing your knowledge and giving advice.

Jessica Kazimierczak

*It has to be said that the turnout of both students and members to this very interesting and infrequent beekeeping activity was, to say the least, very disappointing. Has anyone a photo of the split log, please? Ed.*

*Many thanks Jessica for your report. We look forward to more from you.*

**A working party in the Teaching Apiary at Foxhills Road, Chertsey KT16 0ES**

On the same day as the tree trunk exercise above, there was a major cleaning session of frames from the Teaching Apiary, but only half a dozen people were there to help.

**Cell Punching Training Course 10th May**

Nine members of Weybridge and Guildford divisions attended a Cell Punching training course run by Roger Patterson at Paul and Helen Bunclark’s amazing apiary (thanks to them for hosting).  Roger brought along his cell punches and two other members also brought along their own home made version as no system is currently commercially available.  Everyone agreed after being shown how to do it how easy it was, the key was to take larvae that were in age 4 - 5 days after the egg had been laid so that the larvae were 1 - 2 days old. At this point they are 1 - 2mm across and the segments are hardly visible.  Roger explained the process of cell punching, folding or cutting away excess wax, and how by using a clip system, the punches could be placed in a queenless colony.

Roger estimated that 6 - 8 cells per 10 cell bar are drawn, and that up to 50% of these may get mated.  He believes that once the bar with the punches is placed into the hive, if you look around two hours later, then any that have larvae removed or dried out could just be replaced, and that way you get a greater number drawn/accepted.  For beginners he recommends making a colony queenless and then coming back 6 - 7 days later to remove all emergency queen cells, prior to inserting the bar with the punched cells. The first picture (attached) shows everyone at the workshop, and the second the minimum and maximum sizes of larvae that should be punched.  Our thanks go out to Roger Patterson for coming across from West Sussex Beekeepers to show us all the system he uses. Roger produces around a hundred queens a year.

David Parker

**Summer Meeting at Painshill Park Apiary, Cobham, Saturday 19th May**

Geoff and Marion hosted 18 members at their Painshill apiary on the most sublime, late spring, afternoon. The main theme for the afternoon was swarm control and after Geoff’s initial introduction we headed to the apiary where they have 10 Colonies, on mainly 14 x 12 hives**.**  Geoff started with a simple demonstration of the natural bee instinct to return to the exact site of their colony.  Soon after having moved a colony a short distance, the bees returned to their original site and filled a newly placed box, and it was this natural instinct to which Geoff would later refer during the Pagden demonstration.  For most swarm-control methods, finding the queen is key, and so a few minutes were spent overviewing techniques for locating the queen. One particular method of interest utilised a queen excluder taped to the front of the hive and emptying the bees onto an inclined sheet in front of the entrance. The bees returned to the hive leaving the queen ‘locked out’ by the excluder - clever.

Outside the apiary Geoff demonstrated the Pagden method of swarm control. Once queen cells have been found the method essentially involves separating the queen from the other components of a colony (either the brood or the flying bees) and thereby attempts to fool the colony into believing they have already swarmed.

A sugar fest picnic of cakes, brownies and biscuits all washed down with copious cups of tea concluded the afternoon. Thanks to Geoff and Marion for hosting a delightful and informative afternoon.

Lou Gilpin

*Thank you Lou for this succinct yet comprehesive report.*

**EVENTS IN JUNE**

**Summer meeting with Arran Taylor, Saturday 9th June, 2.30 pm**

This meeting will cover queen harvesting, including the use of different designs of Mini (Mating) Nucs comparing these with a full-size nuc. Those who have not been to Arran’s house before will have the pleasure of seeing for the first time his extracting room with its excellent equipment.

Address for meeting in Arran’s back garden:

 9 Gaveston Close

 Byfleet

 Surrey

 KT14 7HE

Please park wherever you can, but try not to block neighbours’ drives.

Tea / coffee will be supplied, but please bring a contribution of food to share for the picnic, as usual.

**Bees & Honey Show at the South of England Show, Ardingly, 7-9th June**

The full details of this event were given in the March Newsletter, page 4.

We have had a reminder of this event from the organiser which includes the following:

The 2018 South of England Show at Ardingly during the 7th, 8th & 9th June is now less than a couple of weeks away. Preparations are nearing completion and we are very grateful for the willing  support being provided by many members of Associations and Divisions throughout the south east of England who have enrolled as Stewards in the Bees & Honey marquee.

Your members are warmly invited to enter into the Honey Show Competition Classes ...

We provide the perfect opportunity for visitors to the Bees & Honey marquee at the South of England Show to learn a little about beekeeping and a lot about where they can find out more about Associations, Divisions and Training opportunities near to where they live.

The Bees & Honey Show includes our Honey Sales stall. Could your Division/Association or your members provide stock to be offered for sale?

The very full details can provided by the editor should anyone request them.

**David and Celia Rudland of East Surrey Bees are running a Disease on Day Saturday 30th June**

A practical day including demonstrating how to look for disease in a colony and tackling varroa, chalk brood and nosema. We have a licence to handle live frames of notifiable disease and will be looking at these to develop recognition skills. The day starts at 10am and finishes around 4pm and include a ploughmans lunch.

For details see http://www.eastsurreybees.co.uk/ or phone: Office 01883 622788 Mobile 07798 915480

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**Weybridge Summer Meetings**

PLEASE REFER TO THE **EFB** PARAGRAPH AT THE TOP OF PAGE 2 OF THE MAY ISSUE IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE MEETINGS.

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|  | **Hosts** | **Date** | **Main Subject** | **Secondary Subject** |
|  | Arran Taylor | 9th June, 2.30 pm | Queen Harvesting, Mini Nuc mating test | Different Mating nucs, Apidea, Kieler, Abelo, v. full sized nuc. |
|  | Chris Burnett | July 21st,2.30 pm | Top bar hives – how they work. Seen in action.  | How to make up Sections, tricks e.g. waxing wood, etc.  Problems using them |
|  |  TBA | Aug |  | How to prepare cut comb |
|  |  TBA | Sept | End of Season Social | 20 min Lecture/Presentation  |

**Special request for the July Meeting**

Chris Burnett will be hosting our garden meeting on 21st July.  He keeps his bees in top bar hives, so this will be interesting for those of us who have never used them.  They are often suggested as an alternative when heavy lifting is a problem.

He would like to demonstrate adding bees from a 'conventional' nucleus hive to a top bar hive, while keeping all the equipment intact.  As he has no National hives, he is asking if anyone could supply a nuc of bees with a good temperament, in advance of the meeting; a swarm would be good.  The procedure has to be done a few weeks before the meeting to allow the bees to relocate into the top bar hive combs.  The nuc box and frames will be returned when the bees have settled in.  The set up process can be observed when the bees are brought.

Please contact him before 10th June if you are able to let him have some bees in a National nuc box.

Email: chrismburnett@hotmail.com

Looking forward to seeing the results! Jane Hunter

**ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST**

**Honey Extractor hire**

Weybridge Division owns and lends out two honey extractors, so if you would like to borrow one, please contact one of the following:

Anne Miller (Hersham) anne\_r\_miller@hotmail.com (Anne also has a ripener available)

Rob Allan (West Byfleet) roballen82@virginmedia.com

The hire charge is £5 per day, with a maximum of 3 days. A deposit of £10 is also required, this being repaid when the equipment is returned without damage.

**Surrey Honey Show results**

Weybridge members were among the prizewinners again this year, as follows:

Dark Honey Edwina Wardle First

Honey Biscuits Jane Hunter First

Candle David Parker First

Wax, 3 blocks Jane Hunter First

Gift Honey, clear Edwina Wardle First

 Andrew Halstead Third

Gift Honey, set Andrew Halstead Third

Cut comb David Parker Second

Frame of honey David Parker First

Mead, dry Jane Hunter First

Novice Edwina Wardle First and The Golder Memorial Trophy

 Chris Ford Third

Photo Jane Hunter Fourth

Many congratulations to all!

It is particularly pleasing that The Golder Memorial Trophy is back in Weybridge, as Albert Golder, in whose memory the cup was donated, was a highly respected beekeeper and mentor in this area for many years. The trophy is given to an exhibitor who gains their first, First Prize in a Honey Show.

**Help needed for promotion of our association – Prudential Ride**

Weybridge Town Business Group is again offering a stall at their market on Sunday, 29th July, the day of the Prudential Cycle Ride.  Last year we were outside the Ship Inn. If anyone can help out for an hour or two please contact Jane Hunter (details at the end of the newsletter) so that we can arrange a schedule.  Please also get in touch if you want to bring honey, up to 10 jars per member, which we will sell for a set price, reserving 10% for the WBKA.  Beeswax or other hive products are also welcome, although we found they were slower to sell. This is a great opportunity to raise our profile locally, and spread the word about bees and beekeeping.

Jane Hunter

**Swarms Sometimes Can be Worth it.**

Anyone who collects swarms knows that they can often be more trouble than they are worth.  I received a call and went out to pick up a good sized swarm on Friday 18th May and after collecting at the location put it in a Nuc box with a queen excluder on the front as is my style.  I could not go back that night to pick it up as I had to pick my wife up from the airport, but asked the owner to keep an umbrella over the box so it was in shade and said I would pick it up Saturday night.  I got a text Saturday, telling me that the bees had been happy until about 3pm, but the owner had then gone out, so had not been able to move the umbrella and the bees had got hot and gone back into the tree.  So on the Sunday morning I went over early and took my own umbrella for shade, collected them again but this time gave them a double height Nuc, in effect 10 frames but left the Queen Excluder off.  That evening I went and picked it up and placed it in my apiary, still with no Queen Excluder on it.  Five days later – 25th, I inspected and as is usual had planned to give them some feed to help them draw the comb.  Well, having given them no feed, nearly all ten frames had been drawn from foundation, and there were eggs over at least 5 frames – yes, I’m going back to give them more room!

David Parker

**ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

**COLOSS (COLony LOSS) English survey**

As the COLOSS English survey coordinator for 2018, I am asking for your help in completing the Spring Hive Losses Survey for this year.  I am writing to your local association to help to mobilise a number of bee keepers for your region.

COLOSS would like to invite all English bee keepers to complete the hive loss survey for 2018; in particular we would like to get better handle on data for the Weybridge region.  I would like to share the COLOSS open letter inviting you and your members to complete the survey.   I enclose some instructions for completing the survey should you chose to complete it (attached).

Alison Gray and Magnus Peterson will be shortly coordinating the Scottish effort separately; annually they have in the order of 500 responses.  I hope we can match their efforts.  For the last several years English data has not been shared with COLOSS at a European level which is why I have volunteered my services.

A summary of COLOSS hive losses survey work over the last 8 years can be found on the International Bee Research Association face book link.

[https://www.facebook.com/IBRAssociation/posts/1275974155838967:0](https://www.facebook.com/IBRAssociation/posts/1275974155838967%3A0)

If you have any questions at all please don’t hesitate to get in touch; mailto:anthony.williams@dmu.ac.uk

**Beekeepers Stung by their Rivals as Profits Soar**

A friend sent me this screenshot of a Times article about bee hive thefts in Spain reaching record levels.

I found the article on the Times online - and here's the link <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/spanish-beekeepers-stung-by-their-rivals-as-honey-profits-soar-tbspnp7mv> - but unless one subscribes, it's not possible to view the whole article via the link. Hence why I sent the screenshot (attached).

Richard Hignett

*Thanks for this contribution, Richard.*

**Something mysterious and nasty looking in a queen cell**

I recently opened a sealed queen cell on one of my colonies to find a rather nasty looking black sac inside.  Not being quite sure what it was I asked the seasonal bee inspector (sending her the two pictures attached to this newsletter).  She responded:

‘It is called Black Queen Cell Virus and is related to Nosema. It means the colony has suffered from Nosema at some stage. If it is *Nosema apis*, the colony will recover as weather warms up. If is *Nosema ceranae* the colony will dwindle. It has meant that your colony was short of nutrition over winter, but with the protracted winter, bees are a month behind and hopefully forage coming in and warmth will help. If it occurs regularly in a particular colony then you need to re-queen’.

David Parker

*Interesting. Some of us have heard of this, but how many could identify it? Certainly not me. Thanks for passing this on, David.*

**Neonicotinoids ban**

More news on the neonicotinoids ban from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-44151728>

*From David Parker*

**A message from *Friends of the Earth: The great British Bee Count***

Until the end of June you can use our Great British Bee Count smartphone app to identify and recordourprecious pollinators wherever you are. Our app has everything you need to get started – including a bee identification guide and survey, a guide to bee-friendly plants and tips for creating habitats for pollinators. Download the free Apple or Android app.

*Brought to our notice by Peter Webb*

**Cuckoo bee species 'hiding in plain sight'**

This refers to scientists discovering 15 new species of cuckoo bees hidden in North American museum collections and in an ancient thesis. For full details see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-44045331> *Contributed by David Parker*

**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.

**Bees for sale**

Unfortunately, due to the time commitments of my young family and two stings last season that put me in hospital,  I've made the very hard decision to stop keeping bees.

I have two hives. Both marked (but not clipped) 2017 queens on double national brood who have over-wintered well and are now building up nicely. They're super calm and friendly. Selling with complete cedar hives (mesh floor, 2 brood boxes, queen excluder, 2 supers, crown board w/ 2 porter escapes, 6" flat roof), Thornes/Caddon. Looking for £250 per complete hive including bees.

I also have some other equipment, a third complete but empty hive.

Frier Farrel <farrelfrier@gmail.com>

*We’re sorry to lose Frier, but it seems there are some nice bees for somebody.*

**Bees for sale**

 A number of ESTABLISHED COLONIES with either a 2017 or 2018 Queen (National Standard brood frames) (subject to availability).  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: from £180 (excluding hive)   For more information, please contact me – details below.   NUCS  6 Frame Nucs (National standard frames) with 2018 mated queen (marked red). Supplied in 6 frame Poly Nuc. £150 + £35 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.  Nucs will probably be available from mid-June onwards depending on the weather.

**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**

We have just received details of two workshops to be run at Sussex University, Brighton, by LASI (Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects):

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi/newsandevents/events/plantsforbees> July 28, Bee plants

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi/newsandevents/events/ivmworkshop> September 7-8, Varroa management

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| **Dates for your diary** |
| Saturday | June 9th | 2.30 pm  | Summer Meeting. Arran Taylor | p. 3 |
| Wednesday - Friday | June 7th-9th | All day | South of England Show | p. 3  |
| Saturday | June 30th | 10 am - 4 pm | Disease Day East Surrey Bees | p. 4 |
| Saturday | July 14th | 5.30 pm | SBKA Summer BBQHenfield Copse | May p. 5 + attachment  |
| Saturday | July 21st | 2.30 pm | Summer Meeting. Chris Burnett. Top bar hives | See p. 4 |
| Sunday | July 29th | 10 am - 3 pm | Weybridge Market, Prudential Ride | p. 5 |
| Thursday-Saturday | October 25th – 27th | All day | National Honey Show, Sandown Park, Esher | Details in *Beecraft* |
| Saturday | December 1st | 11 am - 7 pm | Weybridge Christmas Market | April p. 4 |
| CONTACT DETAILS |
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| LOCAL BEE ADVISORS |
| Rob Chisholm - 01483 715779 | Geoff Cooper - 01932 242179 |
| Paul Hildersley – 07827 916186 |  |

**We are pleased to acknowledge the following as sponsors of our Beekeeping Centre Project:**





