



# WINCHESTER AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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## NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2012

### BOB's BIT

Seated in my apiary, watching the comings and goings, it occurred to me that in a season such as we are having, robbery is a distinct risk. My entrances are permanently small, but my protégée National has a full-width half-inch entrance. I have an entrance block for it, but with stories of mice with folding skulls, who can creep through minuscule opening, I have a cunning plan. I will bang in framing pins to stick down like a portcullis in the entrance. Bees can pass between them, but the mices will be impaled.

The late Sid Pullinger (former WDBKA President) declared that nothing came in after the middle of the month, but such is the season that my clearer boards have only just gone in. The crop is not going to cause me a hernia, the top supers came off empty.

Bad news at my colony in the wild flowers. An attempt at supersedure seems to have gone wrong, and they are heading downhill. They will have to come home and be amalgamated, and soon. I once did this by putting the queenless lot on top of a vigorous stock, and then went on my autumn stroll to Sancerre. On my return, the upper box was half full of ivy honey. Curses! This time the weak lot will go underneath, relying on the adage that bees never store beneath the brood nest.

All the good books (on bees) tell you, when inspecting, to move mankey frames to the outside of the nest, and replace them in autumn, when the brood has contracted. Well, it's autumn now, but have you got the good frames to replace them? Go and make them up now, before feeding time.

The increased public awareness of bees has brought sightings of "other" or non-honeybees. I have a vigorous colony of bumble bees in a nest-box, but the prize goes to some that I met who have their stripes running lengthwise! Is it a defence mechanism, or do

### **APIARY MEETING** **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September @ 2.30 p.m.**

**With Avril Burt and South Wonston Beekeepers,  
plus pollen identification, for a limited number of  
samples, in South Wonston Village Hall**

*Directions: Meet at 17 Downs Road. South Wonston is north of Winchester signposted off the A34 via Three Maids Hill (5<sup>th</sup> exit) on to Christmas Hill, up a 2<sup>nd</sup> hill and take 2<sup>nd</sup> turning right into Downs Road. No. 17 is on the left, opposite Orchard Road. Park on Avril's drive or in Orchard Road.*

*For pollen identification, bring a sample of your honey.*

they hope to deceive the owners of stores that they intend to steal? Or are they young hippie bees, flouting convention? Perhaps they are the bee worlds Big-endians, rejecting our Little-endians.

### **GOOD NEWS!** From Amanda Trigg

It's always a pleasure to pass on good news, so read on! A number of people showed an interest in the Basic Assessment this year but in the end it came down to seven keen candidates. The weather was against the process earlier in the season, and it was a struggle to timetable the assessments. One of our members is still awaiting his chance because of weather cancellation. The other six were luckier, so congratulations go to Helen Abbott, John Cleverley, Gerald Hill, Clarissa and George Lodge and Ros Medd for their success.

Thanks go to those people whose colonies were used in the assessments and to Hugh for checking that adequate 'Queen Right' colonies were available at Bunstead. Not an easy process this year.

Back in March Eddie Elms sat Modular exams and he was successful in passing Modules 1 (Honey Bee Management) and 2 (Honey Products and forage). He was also successful in passing the General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry in July. Well done Eddie! He is moving away to Swindon and we wish him well with his beekeeping in Wiltshire.

There are exams for Modules 1, 3 (Honey Bee Diseases Pests and Poisoning), 6 (Honey Bee Behaviour) and 8 (Honey Bee Management and History), in November this year. Applications need to be in by the end of September and come via me, so please get in touch a.s.a.p. if you intend to enter. All details are on the BBKA website or contact me, Amanda Trigg - [atrigg@waitrose.co](mailto:atrigg@waitrose.co)

## **WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL HARVEST FESTIVAL** 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October

Winchester Cathedral hosts the Hampshire Harvest Festival on the first weekend of October each year.

The Hampshire Farmers Market set up marquees in the inner and outer close and there will be displays from the NFU and Sparsholt College. Also wood turners, a mobile farm, horse and cart rides, children's activities and music and entertainment. The organizers want to add more educational content and have invited WDBKA to set up a display to inform the public on the importance of bees and beekeeping.

**Volunteers are needed** to set up and man our display. If you can spare an hour or two (or more) to help, please contact Angela Forder-Stent a.s.a.p, either by e-mail at: [forederstent@talktalk.net](mailto:forederstent@talktalk.net) or by telephone on 01962 712443.

## **MORE ABOUT HMF**

From Theresa Waterworth of Pipers Honey

Whilst HMF is not on my mind on a daily basis, the permitted EU levels of it in honey, are 40 parts per million for EU honey and 80 parts per million for honey derived from any tropical source. Heating honey increases the HMF, whether this be heating cappings on a pratley tray, heating honey to filter it or storing it in an outside shed where temperatures get a bit warm. In addition, just storing honey for long enough, even in ordinary inside temperatures makes the HMF rise, because HMF rises as honey ages.

Experience has shown that once honey is stored for 3 years, it becomes very close to the 40 parts per million figure. So the moral is, sell it, shift it, eat it, cook with

it, or mix old honey with new honey to lower any potential HMF problem. Galling really, when the law doesn't care about HMF in jam which can be much higher. The reason that the HMF legislation exists is because it acts as a flag for adulterated honey. Fake 'Honey' made from glucose syrup or corn syrup, coloured with a bit of caramel will all show high HMF readings because their production involves heating sugar of one sort or another.

There will be more advice on HMF from Theresa in next month's newsletter.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

**TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, INDOOR MEETING.**  
**7.30 p.m at Itchen Abbas Village Hall.**

This will be a Brains Trust event and our guest expert will be David Purchase, our former Seasonal Bee Inspector. In addition to David, the panel will comprise Angela Forder-Stent, and Bob Geary. Hugh Sykes will be away, so Russell Fairchild will be in the chair. Please e-mail any questions or issues on which you would like the panel's advice to Russell at: [russell.fairchild@virgin.net](mailto:russell.fairchild@virgin.net) a.s.a.p.

**HBA HONEY SHOW** – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October at Hillier's Arboretum. For details, contact: [debbiethedog@tiscalli.co.uk](mailto:debbiethedog@tiscalli.co.uk) Entries by 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**NATIONAL HONEY SHOW** - 25<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> October at St Georges College, Weybridge, Surrey. For details, see: [www.nathoneyshow.eventbrite.com](http://www.nathoneyshow.eventbrite.com)

## **NEW HOME(S) REQUIRED**

Ros Medd is moving house shortly and will not have room to accommodate the electric WDBKA extractor and an uncapping tray. If you could give a home to either of these items, please contact Ros, by e-mail: [ros@medd.org.uk](mailto:ros@medd.org.uk) or telephone on 01962 712463.

## **BEEKEEPERS QUARTERLY (BKQ)**

Membership of a BKQ group Quarterly Scheme now costs only £18 per year.. The normal subscription to The Beekeepers Quarterly is £28, so subscribers who are members of a group will save £10. If you would like to be part of a WDBKA group, please contact John Owen on 01730 264282 or by e-mail to: [revjohnowen@gmail.com](mailto:revjohnowen@gmail.com)