



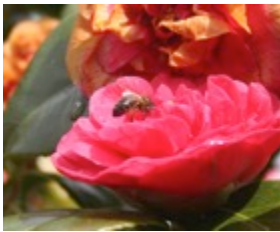
Wealden Apiarist

Newsletter of the High Weald Division of the Sussex Beekeeping Association

Secretary: John Preston T: 01892 862581 E: john_alan_preston@hotmail.com
Editor: John Lyte T: 01435 872559 E: jlyte@btinternet.com

May - June 2015

Features



Spring Forage

High Weald Beekeepers Events Diary

| Date | Event | Address |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Thursday 14th May | Bee Banter | Crow and Gate Crowborough |
| Tuesday 26th May | Bee Banter | Rose & Crown Mayfield |
| Thursday 11 th June | Bee Banter | Crow and Gate Crowborough |
| Saturday 16 th June | Bee Festival | Heathfield Community College |
| Tuesday 26 th June | Bee Banter | Rose & Crown Mayfield |
| | Any additional events during this period will be emailed to the membership | |

EDITORS BUZZ....

The beekeeping season is hotting up and as I monitor the varoa numbers I keep trying to decide on the best treatments to use. As a matter of course I apply 'Hive Clean' after each inspection. The bees don't seem to mind and it always results in sizeable drop the next day. I think it might be interesting if the membership could report on what treatments they use (not counting oxalic acid), they're effect on the bees and it's efficacy. Maq strips are being marketed quite vigorously, but I've heard reports that the bees react badly to this treatment. If you have any thoughts, drop me an email and perhaps we could put the results on the website.

John Lyte

Bee Festival

The Bee Festival is upon us again and full details are below. Two volunteers needed to help from 08.30 in addition to those helping on our stall

Please reply by Saturday night (25/4) with details of those you can help at and those that you are happy to lead.



HEATHFIELD 2015

SATURDAY 16th MAY 2015

Finding Heathfield Community College. Heathfield Community College is on the South side of the B2096 just to the east of

Heathfield. It is well signposted - but watch for the SBKA signs.

SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

SUSSEX FESTIVAL OF BEES Incorporating 41st Annual Bee Market

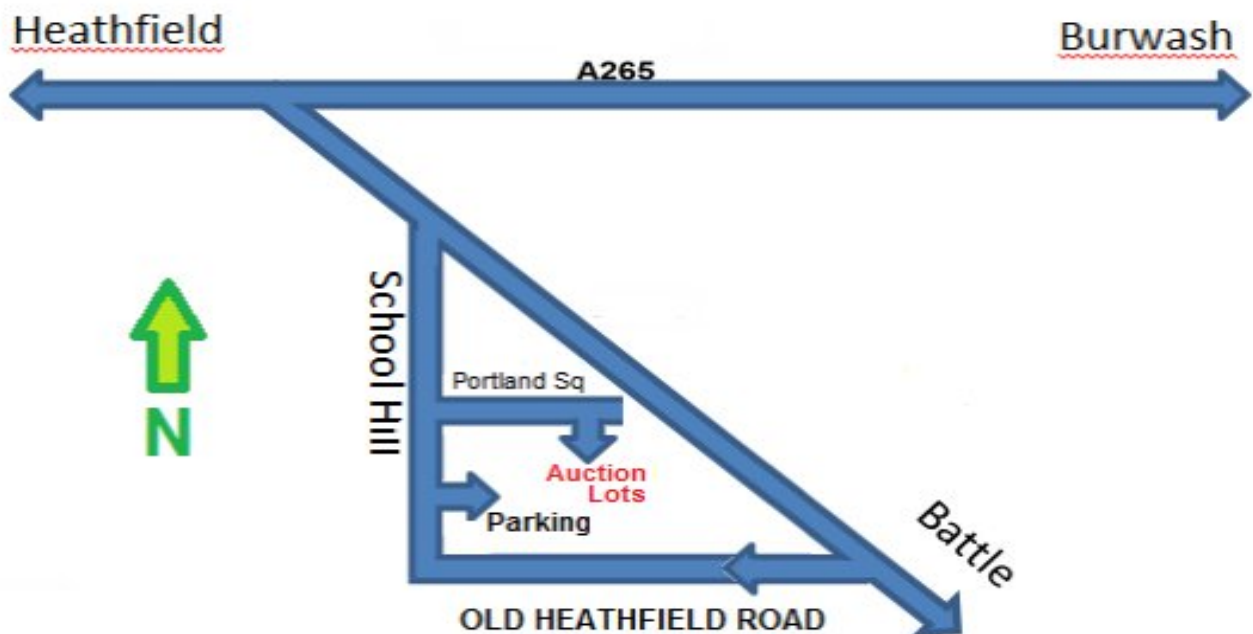
to be held at

HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cade Street, OLD HEATHFIELD, TN21 8RJ on

Free entry and Car Parking

The Sussex Beekeepers' Association wishes to thank and acknowledge assistance from all sources for the running of this event



PROGRAMME

08:30am Goods accepted for Auction 10:30am Stalls open for business
11:00am Bee Handling Demonstration 12:00noon Lecture - 'Planting a Perfect Pollinator Pantry' - Steve Alton
12:00noon Bee Workshop for Children only

1:30pm Auction of bees 2:00pm Auction of Equipment

Programme times subject to change.

Visit our website www.sussexbeefestival.org.uk

Auction Conditions

Items for auction must be delivered to the college between 4:30pm and 6:30pm on the day prior to the event or between 8:30am and 10:30am on the day.

All items of equipment for sale by Auction must be of reasonable quality. All hives of bees must be accompanied by a description - a form is available to download from the website or on request to treasurer@sussexbee.org.uk - bees will not be released on site and the vendor must provide a travel screen and a hive strap if appropriate.

All equipment will be inspected before being entered for sale. **The Committee will exclude from auction any items not reaching the desired standard.** [Drawn comb, rusty tin-wear and non- beekeeping items will **NOT** be accepted.]

A commission of 10% will be deducted from the selling price. Payment will be by cheque which will be posted to your address within a week of the Auction. The vendor may fix a reserve price when booking in the goods. Once an item has been accepted for Auction and the booking completed, it cannot be withdrawn from sale. A non-returnable entry fee of **50p per lot** will be charged for auction items. Starting bids will not be less than £2-00.

If you wish to bid in the auction you must register with the Treasurer and obtain a bidding card. Items become the property of the purchaser only after payment. Goods will only be released on production of a receipt issued by the Treasurer.

All Auction lots **including bees** must be cleared from the College by **5pm** on the day of the sale. Unsold goods and money should be collected from the relevant stalls, unless a steward or the stallholder has been informed differently.

Stalls

Second-hand Equipment Plants and Garden Produce Honey

Members from all divisions are invited to bring items for sale on these Stalls. The Stallholder should be informed of the selling price required. A commission of 10% will be deducted from the selling price.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day at competitive prices.

Trade Stalls

Paynes Southdown Bee Farms Ben and Maggi Pratt Beekeeping Supplies Mantel Farm

Exhibition Stalls

Observation Hive Flowerscapes The Monday Group

Raffle

Brighton and Lewes Division

Important Notes: 1. All electrical goods must have been PAT tested. 2. If you wish to sell live Bees in the Auction you should contact the Treasurer on 01424 838302 or by email to treasurer@sussexbee.org.uk to request a copy of the additional conditions related to the sale of Live Bees. Confirmation of the entry of the Bees must be with the Treasurer no later than 12noon on the day before the auction. 3.

All Equipment must be sterilised before it may be accepted for Auction. It is strongly recommended that all second-hand equipment be sterilised before use, by blowlamp or washing soda, to eliminate the spread of Bee Disease.

Vendors entering items will be deemed to have accepted the conditions of the Auction as above.

SBKA Members are invited to donate suitable prizes for the raffle

Public address system supplied by Doug Edworthy

Visit our website www.sussexbeefestival.org.uk

Spring Forage

The last week or so has seen a burst of flowers and blossom. The bees, of all sorts and pollinating insects in general are having a very busy time. Just wandering around I thought I'd see if I could catch a few at work. Honey bees seem to be especially camera shy, but I got few.



Homing in on some erica



Head down in the Camelia



Enjoying the Berberis



Homing in on the willow



To show I'm not prejudiced, bumblebees were putting on a good show

Swarming

Malcolm Wilkie wrote a very useful circular on swarming for the improvers group and as we're very much in the season I think this is worth reproducing here for those that missed it.

The swarming season is upon us. Helen Hadley has already found queen cells in some of her colonies. Here are a few ideas to try and hold back your colonies. Please remember that when I'm talking about frames of bees I am talking about 14x12 brood boxes. If you're on nationals, or WBC's, multiply the number of frames I am talking about.

1. Make sure you create space in the brood nest for the queen to lay eggs. You have a choice here. Have a look at the size of the brood nest and place a frame of drawn frame next to the outermost frame of larvae/eggs. If you don't have drawn comb then use a frame of foundation. However, be sure not to put the foundation inside the brood nest. It must be at the edge of the brood nest while the colonies are building up. Continue doing this at your weekly inspection.
Small colonies can be prevented from building up by using a frame of stores. With a small colony you will no doubt have a frame of empty drawn comb in the box. Take that and place it next to the brood nest, in extremis it will have to be foundation. However, if your bees are only on two frames, feed a weak syrup to stimulate the queen. This would be 1lb sugar to 1 pint of water and is best given in a contact or frame feeder. Even with three frames of bees it's worth considering stimulative feeding.
2. If you have a very strong colony (I have one with 11 frames of brood), remove a frame of stores, or even 2 frames of stores from the edge of the colony (freeze this for later use) and place a 1 or 2 frames of foundation next to the brood nest (one on each side). Don't place the foundation in the same position as the frame of stores you've removed, they are unlikely to draw that out.
3. Put supers on now. Helen's bees have already filled up supers with honey. Better too much space than not enough. Do this especially if you work during the week or have an out apiary so you are not able to keep a close eye on things.
4. If you have not made up spare boxes, do so now. Think of placing your spare box next to the colony to save time if you have to do a split.
5. If you are really keen to get home do what Paynes do. Find your queen and remove her to another box with two frames of brood and a frame of stores. Shake a further two frames of bees into the new box. These bees need to be from brood frames to ensure that they are young bees. The original box will make queen cells. You will need to select one open queen cell after 5 days and remove all the others. This means shaking all the bees off all brood frames and digging the cells out. The exception will be the frame with the selected queen cell. This must not be shaken and handled with tender loving care. However, you will need to gently brush the bees aside to check they have not hidden another small queen cell somewhere on that frame. Then leave well alone. The bees will have nothing else to do but collect honey until the virgin queen is mated and starts to lay.

Cambridge Weekend Course

Weekend course: “Bees, flies and flowers: the ecology of pollination and why it matters”

26-28th June 2015.

Are you worried about the plight of wild bees and other pollinators? These insects provide a crucial service pollinating crops and wildflowers. Yet there is widespread concern about their decline. This course will teach you how to identify and monitor common pollinators such as bumblebees and hoverflies, how to measure their importance to flowers and how you can contribute to pollinator conservation. You will learn to assess your own garden for its value to pollinators. You will try out practical techniques used in pollination ecology, including preparing a pollen sample for microscopic examination and measuring insect behaviour. Expect to go home with an entirely different view of flowerbeds and road verges. The course is taught by Dr Lynn Dicks, Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge Department on Zoology. Lynn has a PhD in the ecology of pollinating insects, awarded from Cambridge in 2002 and has continued to work as a science writer and broadcaster for 10 years. She is keen that as many people as possible notice and enjoy the diversity of wild pollinators that busy themselves around us every summer.

This weekend course takes place at the Cambridge University of Continuing Education’s home, Madingley Hall, over the weekend of the 26 – 28 June. The course costs £250.00, which includes lunch and dinner over the weekend, refreshments and tuition. It is also possible to stay at Madingley Hall’s B&B over the weekend at an additional cost starting from £50 per night, subject to availability. If you would like to sign up or would like more information about the course, please

Visit www.ice.cam.ac.uk/bees

Kind regards

Joshua Hatley

Communications and Marketing Assistant
Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge
Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge CB23 8AQ

T: +44 (0)1223 746421

E: joshua.hatley@ice.cam.ac.uk

W: www.ice.cam.ac.uk

Flow Hive

There’s been quite a lot of talk about the ‘flow hive’, a mechanical method of extracting honey direct from the hive. As well as scepticism, there have been concerns raised regarding maintaining hygiene.

If you don’t know about them the link below may be interesting.

<http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/245083>

Equipment for Sale

Beekeeping Equipment for Sale
All National hive parts, most from Thornes
Wax from Kemble

| | | |
|--|------|----------|
| Brood boxes | | £25 |
| Supers | | £20 |
| Open Mesh Floor & entrance Block | | £20 |
| Queen excluder | | £12 |
| Crown Board | | £10 |
| Roofs | | £25 |
| Porter Bee Escapes | | 0.50p |
| Table top extractor 4frame , used 4times | | £160 |
| Honey storage buckets 15lb /30lb | | £2.50/£3 |
| Rapid Feeders | each | £2.50 |
| 2 Contact Feeders | each | £2 |
| 2 Frame Feeders | each | £3 |
| Dummy Boards | each | £2 |
| Ekes | each | £2 |
| Mouse guards | | 0.50p |
| 3 Tidy trays | each | £8 |
| 1Super (flat pack), unopened | | £20 |
| 2 Packs of 10 DN4 frame parts ,unopened | each | £8 |
| Pack of 10 SN1 frame parts, unopened | | £6 |
| 3 packs of 10 wired super wax | each | £4.50 |
| Box of Bakers Fondant 12.5kg,(unopened) | | £10 |
| Travelling Screens | | £10 |
| 40+Gold Tamper Jar Labels | | £1 |
| 2 Circular Bee escapes | | £2 |
| Chinese grafting tool | | £2 |
| Hoffman Converter Clips, about 50 | | £3 |
| Queen Plastic cell cups + holder | | £4 |
| Spring queen cell protectors | | 0.70p |
| Queen Introduction cages | | 0.25p |
| Press in Cage | | £3 |

Buyers to collect, cash sales only.

For further information please contact Pam or Bill Foulkes on
01580 860310 (Etchingam), please leave a message if not available.

This was circulated to the membership last month, but for those who missed it I include it below.

My name is Wally Thrale and I am the secretary for Bedfordshire BKA although I am sending this email as an individual beekeeper.

Last week I set up a petition for a ban on imports of queens and bees from Italy due to the presence of Small Hive Beetle (SHB). Although bees will be inspected in Italy and given a Health Certificate there is the possibility of human error allowing a beetle to come into the country.

If SHB reaches our shores it will be almost impossible to eradicate it. Surely the advent of varroa has taught us that we should strive to keep out other exotic pests from our country. We are an island and we can protect our bees in ways beekeepers on the continent cannot.

If you would like to sign the petition please follow the link:

<http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/ban-importation-of-honeybees-from-italy>

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS!
Please send them to the Editor jlyte@btinternet.com
Next newsletter out at the end of August
