



# SEHBKA Newsletter



May 2016

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## Contact Us

### Website:

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[sehbka@Outlook.com](mailto:sehbka@Outlook.com)

## Dates for the Diary

- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
2.30pm. Visit to the Association Apiary
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May.  
Healthy Bee Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> May  
Herts County Show, Redbourn

See [www.SEHBKA.co.uk](http://www.SEHBKA.co.uk)  
For more details

## May in the Apiary.

With the warmer weather now with us, the bees have switched in to overdrive. Colonies are building up really quickly so make sure there is plenty of space in the hive by putting on supers. Remember it is better to put a super on a little early than run the risk of losing half of your colony.



The oil seed rape is in full bloom and the bees will be all over it. Remember oil seed rape honey sets in the comb really quickly so keep an eye on it as it is difficult to extract once it has set. Sometimes extraction has to take place before the honey has been capped but you are looking for the water content to be below 19%. This can be measured by a refractometer or by undertaking a simple gentle shake test.

## May Apiary Visit

There has been a change to the apiary visit planned for May. We will now be visiting the **Association Apiary at Bayford** on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**. Please meet outside the church at 2:30pm where there is adequate parking and from where we will make our way down to Bayford Hall. Roy Cropley will take us through the colonies on the site, with particular attention to correct technique for beginners.

This is always a special place to visit and hopefully the weather will stay warm for us and make it an very enjoyable afternoon.

## Introduction to Beekeeping Course

The SEHBKA Introduction to Beekeeping Course took place over 6 weekends starting at the end of February. Over 20 people attended this year's course reflecting both the growing interest in beekeeping and, from the feedback, the quality of the course we are offering.

This was our first year away from Pinewood School and the modern facilities at the Methodist Church Hall at Hoddesdon provided us with an excellent replacement venue.

As ever, the weather played it's part and we had to juggle the apiary based sessions as the cold weather persisted well in to April. We have already had enquiries for the 2017 course and as a result have created a reservation list.



PHOTOS: Derek demonstrates the use of a cover cloth to students as the temperatures were lower than ideal at the time of the visit. Frame showing healthy brood pattern

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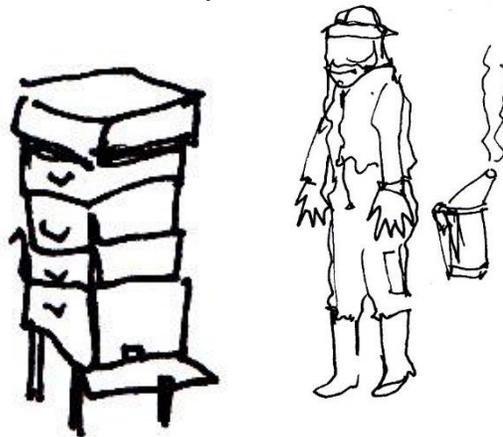
## SEHBKA Apiary Visit 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Derek Driver kindly hosted a visit to his apiary on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. Those who attended saw Derek creating a couple of nucs which he decided to do after finding numerous queen cells. Towards the end of the afternoon, the temperature dropped quite quickly and hot cups of coffee and cakes were well received.

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## Doodles from the AGM

One of our members clearly has a talent for art as well as beekeeping. This little sketch was on a discarded copy of the minutes from the AGM. Could it be Banksy?



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## Healthy Bee Day

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May SEHBKA are hosting a Bee Health event in conjunction with the University of Hertfordshire on behalf of Herts BKA.

The event is free of charge to all our members.

The regional bee inspector (Keith Morgan) and his team of seasonal inspectors will be providing information on and demonstrating effective apiary hygiene techniques. They will also show how to spot various problems, including showing samples of American and European foul broods.

The event will take place at the University of Hertfordshire's Bayfordbury campus where we will be making use of the lecture room, laboratory and on site research apiary.

If you would like to join us, please let David Canham know by emailing [SEHBKA@outlook.com](mailto:SEHBKA@outlook.com) Places are limited so reserve you place as soon as possible.

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## Keeping Informed

Keeping in touch with what is going on in your area regarding bee disease or crop spraying can provide you with vital information to help protect your colonies.

**BeeBase** [www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com)

The website provides a wide range of apicultural information for beekeepers, to help keep colonies healthy and productive. It provides a wide range of beekeeping information, such as the activities of the NBU, honey bee related legislation, pests and diseases information which includes recognition and control, publications, advisory leaflets and key contacts.

Signing up to Beebase allows the Regional Bee Inspector and his team to keep you informed of any disease in your area and, where necessary to undertake an inspection to confirm if you have any problems.

SEHBKA advises making use of this facility.

## BeeConnected

BeeConnected, is supported by the Voluntary Initiative ([www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk)) and is being piloted in the coming weeks in Hertfordshire. You are invited to participate in testing the system ahead of a nationwide launch later in the year. The website is specifically developed to provide a more efficient and effective way of farmers informing beekeepers of their intention to apply an insecticide.

Email [wendy@cropprotection.org.uk](mailto:wendy@cropprotection.org.uk) with your name and postcode if you would like to participate.

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## Recipe of the Month

### HONEY ICECREAM



- 600ml thickened cream
- 1/3 cup honey
- 4 egg yolks
- 1/3 cup caster sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

#### Step 1

Combine cream and honey in a saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until mixture simmers. Remove from heat.

#### Step 2

Using an electric mixer, beat egg yolks, sugar and vanilla in a bowl for 5 to 6 minutes or until thick and creamy. Gradually beat in cream mixture until combined. Strain mixture into a clean saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring, for 10 to 15 minutes or until mixture coats the back of a spoon. Pour into a shallow rectangular cake pan. Cover. Freeze for 3 hours or until just firm.

#### Step 3

Transfer to a bowl. Using an electric mixer, beat until smooth. Pour into a 5 cup-capacity loaf pan. Cover. Freeze for 6 hours or until firm. Serve.

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### Notices

The June SEHBKA Apiary meeting will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June at All Nations College near Stanstead Abbots.

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