



SEHBKA Newsletter



March
2016

WWW.SEHBKA.CO.UK

March/April in the Apiary

Hopefully since last season and during the cold months, members have had time to clean and burn off older hive equipment, such as replacement brood boxes and supers, make up the eternal supply of frames and order in any new supplies for the spring. It is still much too cold to open up colonies for their first spring inspection. We have a talk on NEW SEASON PREPARATION on March 30th at 7.30 p.m. at The Methodist Church Hall, Middlefield Road, Hoddesdon EN11 9ED. Inspections can only be done when temperatures reach a minimum of 15 degrees, which from the forecast won't be a possibility for several weeks at least!

As the weather warms the mouse guards and woodpecker wire screen can be removed. And you may sit back and enjoy seeing your lovely bees flying again if hopefully all colonies have survived this winter. I have three colonies one of which, despite careful feeding and preparation over autumn seems very, very quiet and when putting my ear to the outside of the brood box I could not detect any sounds?

During March continue to monitor the Hive entrance for damage by weather or attack, Animal or Woodpecker? Pay close attention to weight of the hive if weather is warming up the colony should be growing quickly and food consumption will increase considerably at a time when stores in the colony will be low. Replace Fondant Candy block if consumed. Later on consider giving a weak Syrup (weather dependent). The colony should be growing very quickly in April so food supply will need to be maintained if the hive is light.

Varroa Mite drop can be monitored by replacing the inspection board under hive in mesh Varroa floor and counted over a week. Change the Floor for a clean one prepared during winter. If there is a heavy infestation, necessary action may be taken. Later in April the new MAQS strips can be used BUT only if the colony is large enough and this can't be known until the first inspection. Although allow plenty of ventilation through each colony when treating, with either two empty supers or an empty brood box on top of the brood, and always apply with STRICT ADHERENCE to all instructions. Insert Varroa treatment for 42 Days only (2 Brood Cycles).

Later in April as necessary remove the syrup feeders and put on a Queen Excluder and a Super(s) if required to give space for the growing numbers of bees. Be vigilant Swarming can begin in late April! Consider one or more 'Bait hives' in the Apiary to catch Swarms?

This can be an exciting or disappointing time of year for beekeepers as we discover how the colonies have fared over the winter. New members may be preparing for the receipt of a nucleus of new bees and to begin this wonderful hobby, having completed the introductory course over winter! All the very best of luck for the Spring and it will be wonderful to see members and swap stories at our upcoming meetings!

Diary of Events

Two Apiary visits are planned for those who have attended the Introduction to Beekeeping course – They will be contacted with details as these are weather dependent!

NEW SEASON PREPARATION TALK
30th March 7.30pm at Methodist Church Hall, Middlefield Road, Hoddesdon EN11 9ED

SPRING CONVENTION & AGM Hertfordshire Beekeepers Association
Saturday 2nd April 1pm onwards, at Christchurch Hall, 110 Parkway Welwyn, AL8 6HN

Trade stands, wax exchange, bring and buy, honey tasting, demonstrations and much more. Presentation from Doug Brown, past Chairman of the BBKA

(Please at end of newsletter below)

BBKA SPRING CONVENTION April 8-9th
Harper Adams University

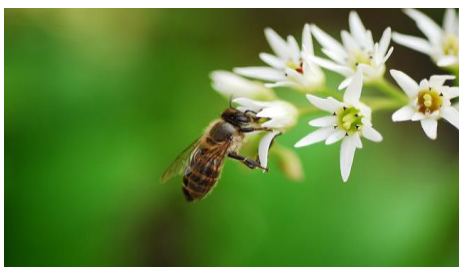
APIARY VISIT – DEREK DRIVER –
Saturday 30th April at 2.30pm Spring Walk, Broxbourne, EN10 7PX

SEHBKA AGM 10th February 2016, 7.30pm Methodist Church, Middlefield Road Hoddesdon

🐝 The AGM was well attended on this cold night and the following committee members appointed: Peter Cairns – Chair, Nancy Brennan – Treasurer, Tina Rawlings - Secretary, Janet Doyle (a newly elected committee member, Roy Cropley –Disease Liaison Officer and Association Apiary Manager , Suleyman Gursoy – Swarm Secretary, Dave Canham, Peter Cairns – HBKA executives, Richard Mode – Librarian, Dave Canham - Communications/Website, Tina Rawlings Communications/Newsletter. 🐝

Minutes of this meeting will be posted onto our SEHBKA website 🐝

'BEE' INVOLVED



Please...we urge members to help as much as they can at shows/events over our short summer season. Just an hour or two is so much fun and I always learn a lot from chatting to other bee keepers or interested members of the public! Teas and coffees are always welcome so if you can help at indoor meetings that would also be brilliant! Do read the events page, on the website, mark the dates and attend as many as possible you will always be welcomed!

Please consider offering your apiaries for meetings even if you only have 2 hives! Contact any of the committee



KIND OFFER FROM DEREK

DRIVER

If anyone wishes to join Derek when he attends his apiary this season would be happy to show how he works with his bees, and give advice plus tuition. This offer would help many of our more recent members to increase their experience and knowledge.

Just give him a call on 01992 466649

NANCY BRENNAN TRESURER

New Contact details :

07866 699188

bee.treasurer@hotmail.com

RECIPE FOR

MARCH



Honey Ice Cream

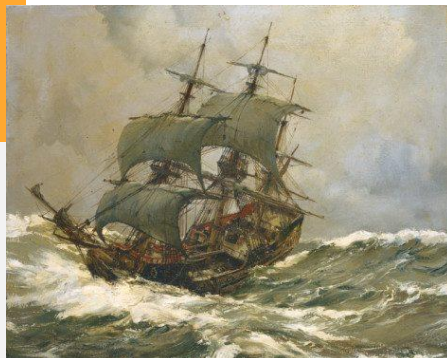
Ingredients: 8ozs fruit puree (Strawberry, Raspberry), ¼ pint of double cream,

1 small carton of plain yoghurt, 10 level tablespoons of clear light honey, 2 tbsps. of lemon juice, salt, whites of 4 eggs.

Mix all together, except the egg whites, and freeze. Remove from freezer and beat well

until smooth. Fold in the stiffly beaten egg whites and refreeze.

News from Derek Driver.....



One of my hobbies is tracing the family tree and in the process I found the following:

In 1845 a William Aylett was convicted of stealing two hives of bees from Buckney wood near Thunderidge. The judge sentenced him to 7 years transportation to Australia but because he was a "kind" judge and because William was 16 years old, the judge delayed the transportation until William was 18! There is no information on whether William ever came back.

Derek Driver

2016.

REQUESTS, REMOVAL OF OLD HIVES. 🐝

I recently had a request to remove an old WBC hive from a local garden. When I lifted the roof off, a rat ran out from its nest above the cover board and the frames were so full of woodworm, they fell to dust when touched. I asked Roy to give me a hand as a swarm had built wild comb between the outer lifts and the inner boxes. We started to cut away the comb and using raffia tied these combs into empty frames before putting them into a nuc box. Roy has now burnt the WBC and with luck and good management the bees should build up nicely. Only one sting occurred from this process and the bees chose Roy!

Derek Driver.

2016 March.

HERTS SPRING CONVENTION NOTICE

Saturday 2nd

April 12.30-5pm,
Christchurch Hall, 110
Parkway Welwyn, AL8 6HN

from John Palombo

Hi Everyone,

We've got the Spring Convention coming up in a few weeks' time, so it's time to get going with the final organisation and there are a number of things I'd like some help with.

First a recap of who is doing what.

- We have 4 commercial vendors attending – Agri-Nova, Peter Folge, Peter Dalby and LE Services (Jen Ellison)
- Roy Cropley will be selling foundation.
- I have invited Northern Bee Books, but not sure if they will be able to make it.
- The Bumblebee Conservation Trust are sending someone along.
- Our speakers are all lined up.
- Anne Wingate and St. Albans are running the Honey Competition.
- David Canham and SE Herts are running the Bring and Buy.
- Peter Mathews is doing a Microscopy demonstration.
- Gary Hammond and North Herts are doing a Hive making demonstration.
- Tamara Leslie and Welwyn are organising the refreshments.

- Paul Cooper has created a web page and advertising material for us.
- Mike Goodhew has organised the hall (and got us a great discount!)

Thank you everyone for your efforts so far.

The things I need help with now are as follows.

- The details are all on the website here: <http://hertsbees.blogspot.co.uk/2016/02/a-hertfordshire-event-not-to-be-missed.html> and it should be a great afternoon.
- Like last year, I want to have a slide show running on the main screen in the hall between presentations that covers some of the things that went on across the county last year.
- I'm looking for volunteers to help with "front of house". We need a few people to help people sign-in when they arrive and to direct them where to park, etc. Please can any committee members that are not involved in one of the stalls lend a helping hand during the afternoon?
- I'm also looking for an MC to introduce the speakers and to keep the presentations moving along.
- Finally, we need home-made cakes for the cake stand, honey for the honey competition and equipment for the Bring and Buy.

The event runs from 12.30 until 5.00, but we'll be setting-up from 10.30am onwards, so hope to see you all there.

Thanks,

John

GOOD LUCK FOR
THE COMING
SPRING to all
SEHBKA existing
members and to
new ones and
especially to the
bees themselves!



Please don't forget
to renew
subscriptions if you
haven't already –
details and forms
are on our website!

Thank you!

Please follow this link for a short
video which has some lovely bee
photography

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zo6fK1yKcAA>

['Dance of the Honeybee', uploaded
by Peter Nelson, on YouTube]