



SEHBKA Newsletter

May 2015

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Contact Us

Website:

<http://www.SEHBKA.co.uk>

email:

sehbka@Outlook.com

Dates for the Diary

- Apiary Meeting
17th May 2:30pm
- Honey Bee Health Awareness Day
30th May 9:30am
- Apiary meetings;
21st June,
26th July,
23rd August

In the Apiary

April has seen some warmer weather and for those of you with colonies that made it through the winter and early part of the season, there has been plenty of opportunity for the bees to collect nectar and pollen, especially for those that have access to the oil seed rape which is already in full flower. Stronger colonies may already have one or two supers on whilst others will have built up a healthy number of frames full of brood.



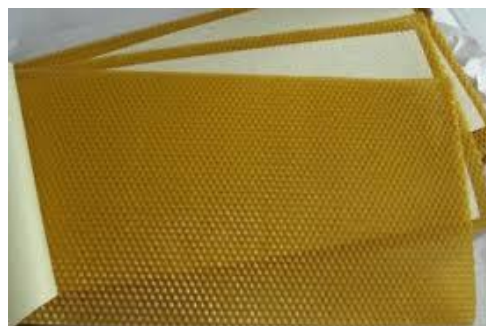
Remember that brood will soon hatch so make sure you have a super ready to put on otherwise the bees may swarm and you could lose half of your colony.

There is no doubting that oil seed rape (OSR) is a great source of nectar for the bees but it does present the beekeeper with its own challenges.

It has tendency to crystallise in the comb so it is important to extract the honey before this happens otherwise it becomes almost impossible to remove without melting the comb down. To safeguard against this, it can mean removing the honey before it is all capped with the challenge being to remove it before it crystallises but after the water content has dropped to 19%. This water content level minimizes the risk of honey fermenting. If you would like to test the water content of your honey you can borrow the Association refractometer free of charge by contacting David Canham at sehbka@outlook.com

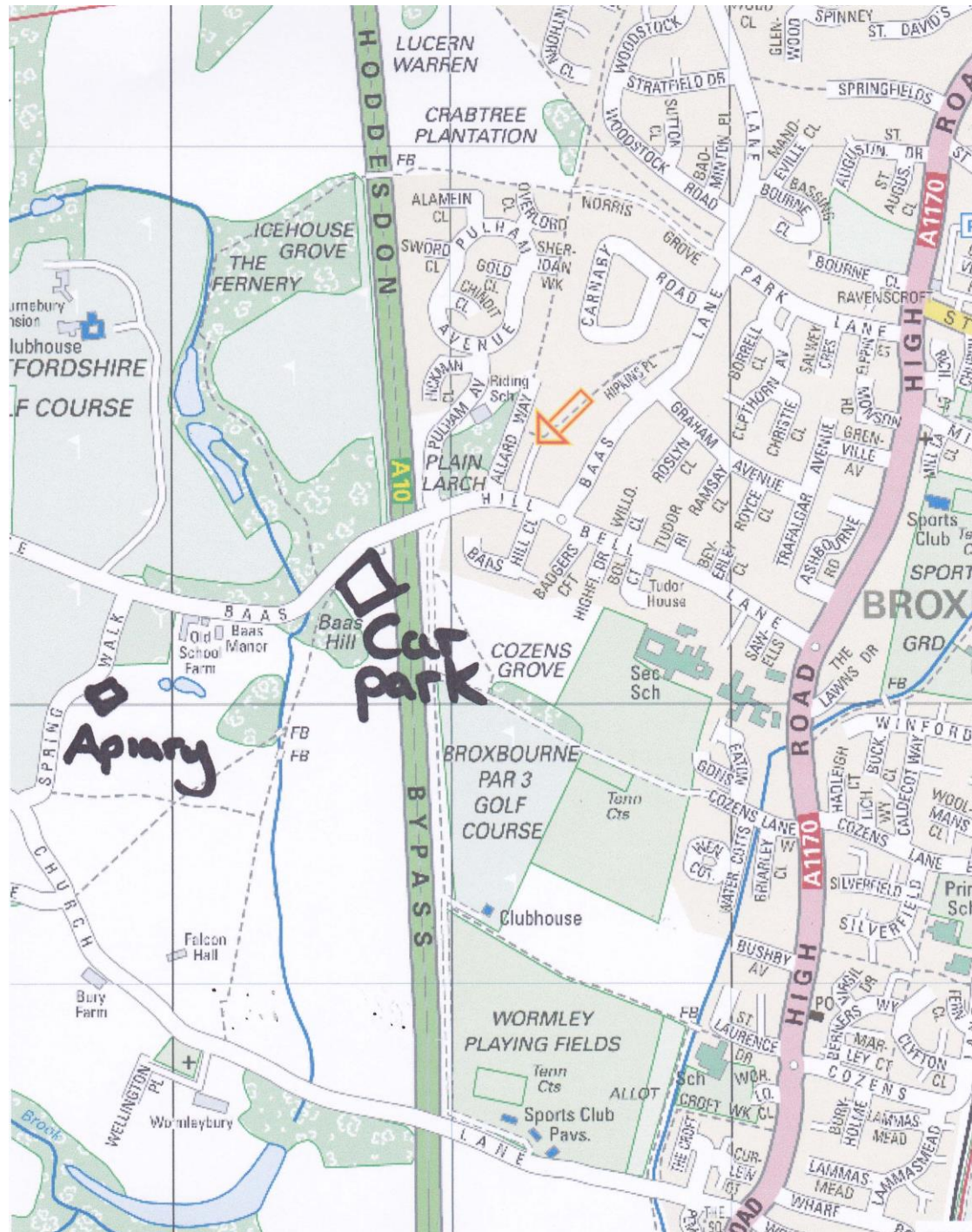
Wax Foundation

Roy Cropley has just taken delivery of a new batch of excellent quality foundation which he will sell to members at competitive prices. He stocks a variety of sizes so if you require any foundation then give Roy a call on 01992 626668.



May 17th Apiary Meeting

Derek Driver will be hosting our first association apiary visit of the season. This will take place on Sunday 17th May at 2:30pm. As there is very limited parking at the apiary which will be occupied by Derek's car, we are asking you to park at the car park just up the road in Baas Lane (shown on the map below) and we will ferry people in. Hope to see you all there.



Honey Bee Health Awareness Day

Following on from the success of last year's Bee Health Awareness day, Herts. BKA are running this day event again this year. Hosted by the North Herts. division, the event will be held at Trinity Church Hall in Knebworth on Saturday 30th May starting at 09:30

Keith Morgan, the Eastern Regional Bee Inspector will be leading the day with the help of 3 Seasonal Bee Inspectors.

This event is funded by HBKA and is free of charge to participants.



Places are limited to a total of 9 for South East Herts. Places per division having been allocated on the basis of numbers of members.

If you would like to attend this meeting then please pass your name to David Canham at multi.speed@ntlworld.com who will be allocating places on a first come first served basis. Whilst not compulsory, one thing we would ask is that you share your new found knowledge from the day with the rest of our membership, possibly through writing a short article for our newsletter or giving a short presentation at one of our Association meetings.



Venue details are as follows:-

Trinity Church Hall, Park Lane, Knebworth SG3 6PD
(please do not confuse this with Knebworth Church Hall which is next door)
Registration is at 09:30 and the day will end at 16:30
Tea/Coffee and squash is available but participants should bring a packed lunch.

Parking is limited so please arrange to car share wherever possible.
Trinity Church Hall is 20m up the hill from Knebworth Station

An agenda for the day will be circulated to participants once available.

RSPB Rye Meads Nature Reserve Fun Day

SEHBKA along with the Bishop Stortford Group put on a professional display at the Rye Meads Nature Fun day hosted by the RSPB. Primarily an educational event, our team of volunteers endured bracing weather conditions to explain about beekeeping, honey extraction and what people can do to help our bee population. The displays included bee hives, a honey extractor, bee suits for trying on, microscopy, computer based displays and provision of leaflets for people to take away. For the kids, the candle rolling stall proved extremely popular with the stall busy throughout the event. A big thank you to Tansy Rothwell for organising the event and to the volunteers from both SEHBKA and Bishop Stortford for making the event a success.



SEHBKA members Chrissie Peters and Trevor Bale run the outdoor pitch with John Palombo of Bishop Stortford



Tansy Rothwell and Tina Rawlings keep the children entertained with some candle rolling.

Volunteers needed!

Events that SEHBKA attend, such as the Fun Day above, take a lot of organizing and are fun! If you as a member can spare just an hour or two please consider participating? Even if you are a beginner beekeeper please come along as your enthusiasm is infectious and we help raise awareness and educate people who've maybe never previously considered the essential life of the honey bee! We therefore help the bees! We can sell some of our produce and we've even had the offer of a site for honey bee colonies at one of these events last year!

So.... PLEASE contact Tansy Rothwell - tansyrothwell@hotmail.com if you can give a little time on these dates:

Broxbourne Community Open Day – Saturday 4th July 2015 – 2pm-5pm

Hertford Heath Village Fete – Sunday 12th July 2015

Introduction to Beekeeping Course 2015

The South East Herts Introduction to Beekeeping Course has concluded for another year. There were 18 students who took part in a series of classroom sessions and 2 apiary visits. This year we struggled to find suitable apiaries to take the students to inspect the bees as so many of our members had lost bees or colonies were very weak and hence there wasn't a lot to see.

Fortunately we were helped out by Danny at Harlow and John Mumford offered his help at short notice to see us through. Pictures can be found in the Members Gallery on the web site www.sehbka.co.uk



NOTICES

Rent a Hive Scheme

Our association has run a successful 'RENT A HIVE SCHEME' open to students and new members for the past few years. This is a great way to start your beekeeping. Hives can be rented over your first year and it's a great way to see if you like beekeeping without a huge initial investment! A hive can be rented for your first year and then more of your own equipment can be acquired later. It is run by **Derek Driver** and **Tom Dawson**, so if you are interested please contact **Derek** in the first instance on **01992 466649**

New Apiary Site urgently needed.

One of our members, **Sarah Evans** has been asked to vacate her current site by July this year due to new ownership. So please if anyone knows of an available site, would they contact her on sevens767@googlemail.com
Thank you