



SEHBKA Newsletter

March 2015

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The 68th AGM

At the AGM on Thursday 19th February 2015 our Treasurer, Tom Dawson and Secretary, Maggie Balls stepped down as did committee member John Mumford. Nancy Brennan was voted in as our new Treasurer and I, (Tina Rawlings), was voted in as Secretary. Dave Canham is still on the Committee but has decided to step down as Chairman and the new Committee will nominate a new Chairperson when it next meets on Tuesday 17th March.

Members elected to the Committee are : David Canham, Peter Cairns, Maggie Balls, Suleyman Gursoy and Roy Copley.

The minutes of the AGM will be available on the website shortly.

Subscriptions



For those who have yet to pay your subscriptions, please do so as soon as possible. The forms are available on the website and don't forget to complete the Gift Aid Form if you are eligible to do so. We need to have the original signed copy of this form for it to be acceptable to HMRC so please send it to the Tom Dawson (who is collecting this year's subscriptions before handing over to Nancy).

SEHBKA Spring Meeting

Get an insight on how to rear your own Queens so that you can deal with that emergency loss, treat various brood problems or look after the temperament of your colonies. Derek Driver will be giving a talk on Queen Rearing at Pinewood school starting at 7pm on Thursday 12th March. See you there !

"Life in a beehive is established with extraordinary wisdom behind it.... You would be able to gain a correct and true understanding of life within the beehive if you were to allow for the fact that everything in the environment that surrounds the earth in all directions has an extremely strong influence on what goes on in the beehive." Rudolf Steiner

This month in the Apiary



It's been quite cold with some bright days and on one of those bright afternoons, I watched some of our bees take cleansing flights into what was a vastly altered landscape. The college have removed most of the brambles and vegetation fronting the hives at Stanstead Abbots, and although the undergrowth will undoubtedly spring

up again, our hives have been left exposed, like wooden sculptures. I found myself wondering what effect the noise and vibrations of a digger has had upon the colonies inside and the bees' orientation? The quote from Rudolf Steiner reminded me of how wild and extremely responsive to **everything in the environment** our bees are and how there are so many varying factors that contribute to our bee's health. Here are some tips for this month;

- Keep monitoring hive entrances for build- up of dead bees and remove, therefore eliminating any blockage. A blunt pair of tweezers may come in handy to gently tease away the dead if required!
- Check regularly for any damage or wind / weather getting in. Ensure the roof is secure; bricks, blocks and/or a strap will do the job.
- Check the weight/stores of your bees by gently hefting (lifting) the hive as many will be getting light and may need to be fed. It's not worth losing your bees for the sake of a feed! If light, put a block of fondant over the crown board feedhole, and check regularly to see if it is being consumed.
- Later in the month/early March some consider giving syrup in a jar feeder, (made by adding 2lbs sugar to one pint of hand-hot water), instead of fondant if you wish to continue feeding, because food is short or if you want to try to stimulate the colony into early growth.
- If you discover a hive where the colony has died over the winter, then remove them back at home where you can empty and clean them for the forthcoming season. Wax can either be melted down or given to Roy Cropley.
- Plan what you want to do in your apiary in the coming year. Buy your stock of new frames, foundation and hive parts.
- If appropriate clear away any brambles or encroaching vegetation, to ensure a clear and level access around each hive – **maybe quietly by hand!!** Tina Rawlings