

# Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association January 2017 Newsletter

## Bucks County BKA Spring Seminar

The Bucks County Beekeepers Spring Seminar 2017 will be held on February 11th, 10:30-16:00 at Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Rd, HP22 6HF. The County Committee have done an exceptional job in securing three outstanding speakers for this year's Seminar. Between them there is over 140 years of beekeeping experience. Clive de Bruyn, author of Practical Beekeeping will be talking about "The Importance of Pollen" whilst Gerry Collins, a regular contributor to BBKA News, will give a talk entitled "What's Going On in My Hive?" and John Whitaker, a member of the BBKA Examination Board, will present "Beekeeping with a Bandsaw". A detailed profile of each speaker can be found [here](#).



Tickets can be purchased online in advance [here](#) at a reduced rate of £15 for Bucks beekeepers, otherwise £18 on the door or for non-county members online. Lunch is included in the cost.

The stalls at the event include; Northern Bee Books, Bees Abroad, National Bee Unit, Second Hand Beekeeping Equipment, Bucks, Berks, Oxfordshire Wildlife

Trust and the National Honey Show.

If you have beekeeping related items you would like to sell on the Second Hand Stall please bring them along in good time before the first talk, marked with the price and your name. Collect unsold items and cash after the event. Optional sellers donation (10%) to County Association's named charity. Any queries [paul.hurley@hwbka.co.uk](mailto:paul.hurley@hwbka.co.uk) phone 01628 524214.

The event is usually well supported with about 100 attendees making it a great opportunity to meet other beekeepers from across the county.



## Annual MBBKA Quiz

As announced in the December Newsletter our next meeting on 18th January 2017 will be the MBBKA annual quiz night. It is a fun evening and we promise not to ask too many Honeybee related questions!

If you wish to join in and have not already done so please contact Liz with your food order. The cost of the evening is £7 per head including Cod or Chicken and Chips. Details for the evening are attached to this Newsletter. Liz can be contacted at [secretary@mbbka.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mbbka.org.uk).

## Ken Gorman

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you that one of our members, Ken Gorman, passed away over Christmas. Throughout my time as Chairman Ken has always been very supportive. Ken was due to give a talk at our February meeting and wrote in November saying he was recovering from an illness but would be unable to present. On behalf of the Association I have passed on our condolences to his family.

## Programme of Events

Church of the Good Shepherd  
**18th January 2017**  
**MBBKA Annual Quiz**  
7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd  
**11th February 2017**

**Bucks County Spring Seminar**  
10:00am

Memorial Hall, Wendover  
**15th February 2017**  
**The World of Insects**  
John Tyler  
7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd  
**20th February 2017**

**New Beekeepers Course Starts**  
Church of the Good Shepherd  
**22nd March 2017**  
**Tree Bumblebees**  
Clive Hill  
7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd  
**7th-9th April 2017**  
**BBKA Spring Convention**  
Harper Adams University



Mahonia, in flower now and source of forage.

## Asian Hornet Monitoring Traps

With the discovery and destruction of an Asian Hornet nest in Tetbury late in 2016 what should we be doing in Buckinghamshire in 2017? According to the National Bee Unit [website](#) we should be putting out traps to monitor for the arrival of the Asian Hornet. You will see from the adjacent image that the life cycle of the Asian Hornet differs from that of the wasp which as beekeepers we usually set out traps for in the Autumn. The hibernating queens can emerge as early as February. The queen will build an initial small nest possibly close to the ground. Later in the season this nest may develop into a larger nest or the colony moves to establish the larger nest. This means that monitoring traps should be in place by February. Because the early season traps should be set up to catch queens the bait should be sweet as she is looking build up her energy for nest building and rearing young.

During the summer months the bait in the traps should be changed to being meat or fish based. During this period the traps are set to catch workers who will predate honeybees as well as other insects. Like wasps, late in the season when the new queens have mated the nests are abandoned so the traps should again be set with sweet bait to attract the newly mated queens before they hibernate.

The problem with putting out traps is that they can also attract other insects such as early bumblebees. The traps therefore need to be checked regularly and innocent insects released.

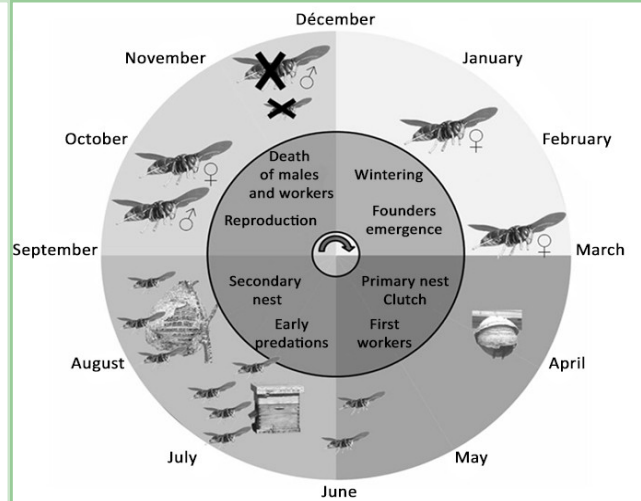


Image copied from [www.veto-pharma.com](http://www.veto-pharma.com)

## Which Hornet Trap?

There seem's to be a plethora of traps appearing on the market, Thorne's are promoting the [veto-pharma](#) trap which includes attractant. The NBU has an instruction sheet for a [DIY trap](#) which looks very much like a classic wasp trap. The BBKA has a reusable [wasp trap](#). Vita are marketing a floor [unit](#) which does not require bait as the colony itself is the attractant.

The key seems to be to have a trap that can be checked easily and regularly. The bait should be easy to regularly change. From recycling to tens of pounds the choice is yours, but please use your trap sensibly and release non-invasive insects.

## Upgrading website

You may have noticed that this month's Newsletter arrived via MailChimp. As part of some significant changes to our website and membership communications we are trialling the use of MailChimp to deliver broadcast emails to our membership.

The benefits of using an email broadcast system such as MailChimp include more secure email transfer, reporting on effectiveness of the emails and in the longer term being able to deliver more interactive communication. In December we moved the hosting provider for our website and Association email. Once the move has bedded in we hope to launch a new website.

## Oxalic Acid

After the cold start to the year this week would be an ideal time if you are considering carrying out Oxalic Acid Treatment on your colonies.

## Membership Renewal

Our new membership year started on 1st January 2017, if you have not already renewed your membership could you please do so at your earliest convenience. Payment is via cheque or BACS transfer. The renewal form can be found [here](#). Please remember when completing your renewal form to select the Gift Aid option. As a Charity the Gift Aid we receive from the HMRC is a vital part of our Association's income and has helped us maintain the subscriptions at last year's level.

## Practical Beekeeping Course

There are still places available on the Bucks County Practical Beekeeping Course. The course is open to members who have passed their BBKA Basic Assessment. It comprises a classroom day on 22nd April and two days in the apiary on 3rd/4th June.

The Classroom day covers a wide spectrum of topics from bee disease, manipulations through to making creamed honey.

The apiary weekend includes queen rearing, disease inspections and a plethora of manipulations. The course costs £35. For further details please contact [chairman@mbbka.org.uk](mailto:chairman@mbbka.org.uk).

# Quiz Night

Wednesday 18th January 2017

7:30 pm in The Church of the Good Shepherd

For the Quiz Night we have made arrangements with the local fish and chip shop to provide either fish and chips or chicken and chips.

You don't have to order food if neither option is to your taste but we must place the orders with the shop earlier in the day. We need to have numbers by **6 pm on Tuesday 17th January at the latest.**

Please order for me:

\_\_\_\_\_ portions of Cod and Chips & £7.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ portions of Chicken and Chips & £7.00 each

Total:

Name:

Phone Number:

To save us having to handle lots of small cheques, could you please pay cash on the night. **PLEASE** let us know in advance if you cannot come and need to cancel your order as all food will have to be paid for in advance.

Teas and coffees will be provided on the night, feel free to bring along your own beverages (alcohol is permitted).

There will be a raffle on the night, donations of prizes are welcome.

You can place your order by email or phone

to: Liz Tice

Tel: **01296 612618**

email: [liztice@hotmail.com](mailto:liztice@hotmail.com)

If you order by email and do not receive an acknowledgement from Liz, please try again. Liz will confirm receipt of all food orders.