



Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association June 2014 Newsletter



Can you name this mite?

Queen Rearing

The queen rearing system described by Mike Brown from the NBU on the [BeeBase](#) website has been set up at my apiary. The system employs a single double brood colony which takes a set of grafts every 10 days or so. I hope to run the system through to August and would welcome any members who would like to get involved. This is a very good way of learning and gaining experience in queen rearing. We will be following a cycle from setting up the colony, grafting larvae from breeding stock and finally setting up mini-nucs for the mating of the queens.

The numbers will be restricted to 4 members per cycle so that we can ensure everyone gets the opportunity for hands on experience.

If you are interested in being involved in this programme please email chairman@mbbka.org.uk and I will let you know the available dates and some more details on the activities.

Nuclei and Colonies for Sale

Steve Morgan has nuclei for sale his email is lasder99@yahoo.co.uk. Ken Gorman also has nuclei through to full brood colonies for sale, for further details contact: special@kennethgorman.plus.com

National Hive for Sale

Gill Peacock, as part of her down sizing is selling a complete National Hive including roof, crownboard, two supers, queen excluder, brood box and open mesh floor for £170. For further details email gillstitch@gmail.com

How to find a queen in an aggressive colony

Searching for a queen in strong and unfriendly colony is not a pleasant experience. A good approach is, on a warm and sunny day move the colony several metres away from its stand. Place an empty hive on the stand, leave for an hour. The flying bees will return to the empty hive leaving fewer bees in the original hive, who are younger and less likely to sting. Once you have completed your manipulation return the hive to its stand and shake the foragers into the hive.

Observation Hives



We now have two Observation Hives populated and ready for use. One hive is being employed on our school visits as can be seen in the photo above taken at a recent visit to Aldbury School. In the coming weeks we will be visiting Whitchurch, Holmer Green and John Colet, Wendover. The second hive is based at the Association Apiary and available for use by members when giving talks such as the visit to a scout troop by Bryan Garson-Pilbeam last week. If you would like to make use of this hive please contact Andrew Smith at apiary@mbbka.org.uk.

Starter Pack for Sale

Janet and Murphy (Tel. 01494 791915) are moving away from the area and have the following items for sale, ideally as a single lot: One recycled WBC hive with new frames and foundation, medium and large bee suit, smoker, hive tool etc.

Programme of Events

18th June

Summer Apiary Meeting
6:30pm Association Apiary

16th July

Summer Apiary Meeting
6:30pm Association Apiary

20th August

Summer Apiary Meeting
6:30pm Association Apiary

28th August

Bucks County Show
10:00am—5:00pm
Bucks County Showground

17th September

Apitherapy
7:30pm Church of the Good Shepherd

New Seasonal Bee Inspector

Congratulations go to Karen Smith who has been offered the role of our new Seasonal Bee Inspector. Karen as the Association's Education Officer has played a key role in the development of our education programme over the last few years. The position of Seasonal Bee Inspector has been one she has aspired to for some years. On behalf of the Association may we wish you good luck in your new role.

Honeybee sub-species

Over the last few months you may have noticed I have included photos of different sub-species of honeybee on the first page of the Newsletter. The majority of us have good old British mongrels, which is the result of years of breeding and importation of bees from across the world. If one had the choice of a pure bred honeybee, which would you choose? For your interest I have posted on blog.mbbka.org.uk a table summarising the characteristics and traits of the different bees within Europe.

Volunteers Required

We have been invited by the Wendover Garden Centre to promote beekeeping on 5th/6th July. We would like to put up our stand and man it for the weekend.

28th August we will be promoting beekeeping again at the Bucks Show in the Home and Garden Marquee. This is our busiest event of the year and therefore need volunteers to help out. If you are available for either of these events, be it for only a short period please contact Liz at secretary@mbbka.org.uk.



Beekeepers of Yesteryear at Wendover Celebrates

A big **Thank You** to everyone who helped out in the preparation and running of the stand at Wendover Celebrates. As you can see from the photo above our members dressed for the occasion! Those who attended the event were most complimentary, there are more photos on the Wendover News [Facebook page](#).

Association outing to Ken Gorman's Apiary 17th May

The Association visit to Ken Gorman's apiary last month was a great success, so much so no one remembered to take any photo's. Below is an account of a very full and informative day, thank you Ken for hosting the day.

A party of about a dozen members arrived on a warm, sunny day. The Milton Keynes Museum occupies a site of a few acres in the Wolverton area of North Milton Keynes. It is well maintained, yet has a restful, informal character once inside.

The bees are at the far end of the site on the last patch of undeveloped, rough ground. This area is soon to be developed into a new section, dealing with modern Milton Keynes. The layout of the site at present has a mainly Victorian aspect; hence the use predominately of WBC hives. A dummy apiary of skeps, WBC and Cottager hives is set up in full view across the main lawned area: no bees there though, for safety reasons.

The Wolverton area is wonderful for bees, with many established lime trees, bramble, gardens, modern planting-Cotoneaster, for example and road verges which are no longer sprayed with herbicides and offer a splendid display of clover. The colonies regularly turn in crops of 100lbs of honey.

Firstly the members were given some background information on how the colonies are managed and handled, were shown pieces of adapted equipment-varroa floors, for example, and were given a sheet of paper outlining the status of each numbered colony and what to look for during the inspections. Two of Ken's beekeeping friends, Sue Bird and Stephan Kinsey, were on hand as support whilst the members inspected some colonies.

Members commented on the gentle nature of the bees: it was a warm day, there was a nectar flow in progress, and the older, flying bees were out in the field. The bees are derived from two easily handled Carnica lines, bred in Germany. The colonies were large-double brood boxes with several supers on each. There were also developing nuclei and colonies resulting from artificial swarming procedures, so there was a lot to see and do.

Members seemed to enjoy the day: here is part of the comment from one: " I just wanted to thank you.....for letting us loose on your bees. There is so much to learn and it is so much easier to learn by example while in the apiary."