



Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association April 2016 Newsletter



Honeybees on Oil Seed Rape. The Rape is already in flower across the county!

Summer Events

As well as our summer Association meetings, school visits and training sessions at the Apiary, we will be attending several public events throughout the summer. At each event we will run a stand showcasing Beekeeping and in particular our Association. There is also the opportunity for beekeepers local to the event to sell their honey.

If you would like to help out at one or more of the events please contact the organiser.

Event	Date	Organiser
Linden Gate Spring Fair, Wendover	16th April	John Dadswell
Wendover Celebrates	1st May	Liz Tice
Weston Turville Village Fete	18th June	TBA
Lee Flower Show	16th July	Sarah Turner
Monks Risborough Horticultural Society Fair	6th August	TBA
Bucks County Show	1st September	Sean Stephenson

Bee Safari

Karen Smith will be running a Bee Safari on Sunday 15th May. The plan is to visit one apiary in the morning and two apiaries following lunch.

We hope to visit apiaries in the Quanton area. If you would like to attend the safari or offer your apiary as one of the locations please contact [Sarah Turner](#).

BBKA for the Future The Survey Results

Late last year the BBKA carried out a survey of its membership in order to help it develop its future strategy for supporting the membership.

The results of the survey have been published and can be found [here](#).

Beekeeping It's a Knockout

There seems to have been an issue with the link in the last Newsletter concerning our last meeting of the winter programme on 20th April. I apologise if I have not replied to emails on the matter as they seem to have gone into a black hole. I hope to see you on 20th April for what should be a fun evening of Beekeeping related activities for all levels of experience.

Programme of Events

10th April 2016

Apiary Opening

11:00 am

Association Apiary

16th April 2016

Woodwork Day

from 9:30 am

Drywick

20th April 2016

Association Meeting

Beekeeping It's a Knockout

7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd

4th May 2016

County Museum Resource Centre

Tour

11:00am and 2:00pm

Organiser [Sarah Turner](#)

15th May 2016

Bee Safari

11:00am

Start Apiary to be announced

Organiser [Sarah Turner](#)

18th May 2016

Association Meeting

Swarm Prevention and Control

6:30pm

Association Apiary

15th June 2016

Association Meeting

Making Increase

7:00pm

Association Apiary

Shook Swarm

It is good practice to replace brood comb every two to three years and the Shook swarm is an effective way of achieving this in a single manipulation. The Shook swarm can also be used on strong colonies (over 6 frames of bees) with high varroa count, suspected Nosema and is employed by the Bee Inspector when mild case of European Foulbrood has been detected.

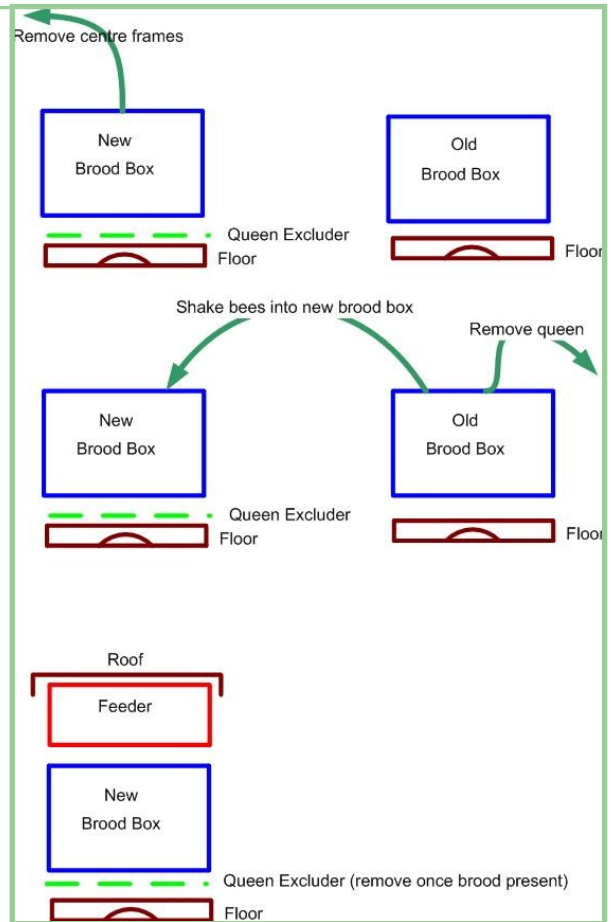
Method:

- Move the hive to one side
- Place a new hive with frames of fresh foundation on the original stand, with entrance facing the same way and a queen excluder between the floor and brood box
- Remove the centre 4 frames
- Find the queen in the original hive and put her in a safe place
- Starting with the outer frames shake all the bees from the original hive into the new hive
- Carefully replace the 4 frames
- Release the queen into the new hive
- Feed the colony with "heavy syrup" 600 ml water to 1kg white sugar
- Dispose of old comb
- Remove bottom queen excluder once larvae present

The Shook swarm can be carried out from April through till July, too early and it may be too cold for the bees to draw fresh comb, too late there may not be enough brood to carry the colony through winter.

An adaption for varroa control is to place a frame of open brood in the centre of the new hive, this will attract the varroa residing on the bees. Once the cells on the frame have been sealed remove and destroy it.

A good National Bee Unit document describing the Shook swarm can be found [here](#).



Woodwork Day

The woodwork day will be held on 16th April starting at 9:30am at Drywick. Come along at any time that suits, we plan to pack up at midday. The purpose of the session is to introduce new Beekeepers to frame making and building complete hives from the flat pack provided by suppliers. We hope to construct on the day 2 hives from scratch. Experienced beekeepers are welcome to come along and help. For further information please drop me a line at chairman@mbbka.org.uk.

Frames and Foundation Prices

Foundation, per 10 sheets:

14x12 wired	£14.50
Deep National wired	£ 8.50
Shallow national wired	£ 5.50
Shallow National thin unwired	£ 4.00

Frames, per 10:

14x12	£11.00
DN4/5	£ 7.50
SN1	£ 6.75

School Visits

6 local schools have confirmed they would like us visit them during the summer term, a list of schools and dates is given below.

A school visit generally involves Vanessa giving a short talk to a year group as a whole followed by groups of up to 15 students visiting 3 or 4 stands manned by our members displaying aspects of beekeeping.

Each visit is slightly different and very rewarding. If you would like to help out on one or more of the visits please contact Vanessa at

Var@fairholme.me.uk

Holmer Green First School	17th May
Tring School	10th June
Broughton Infant School	23rd June
Aldbury Primary School	30th June
Aston Clinton Combined School	14th July
Bearbrook Combined School	19th July