



# Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association July 2017 Newsletter

## Bucks County Show 31st August

Each year the Bucks County Beekeepers Association takes a stand at the County Show promoting beekeeping and in particular celebrating beekeeping across Buckinghamshire. Members from each of the county Associations lend a hand with candle rolling, managing the observation hives, selling products of the hive, supporting Bees Abroad and answering questions from the public on beekeeping. We need volunteers from our Association to help out on the stand. Helpers enjoy free access to the event and will not be required to be on the stand for more than two hours. For further information on the event and how you can help please drop me an email [chairman@mbbka.org.uk](mailto:chairman@mbbka.org.uk).



## Last Summer Meeting 7pm 16th August 2017



Thank you to everyone who has attended the Summer Association meetings at the Association Apiary. I am not sure how it works but we do seem to have picked the coldest and most gloomy evenings for the meetings! This has not deterred those who have attended, it has been great to see so many members supporting the meetings. Our last Summer meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th August starting at 7pm. The theme for the evening will be disease inspection and preparing the colonies for winter. Following a demonstration we would like the attendees to carry out a disease inspection on the colonies in the Association Apiary.

## Swarm Collectors

Thank you to all our members who have supported Brian this year with the collection of swarms. We will find out at the AGM in October how "swarmy" a year it has been. We all have our favourite stories of the easiest and hardest swarm ever collected. Please follow this [link](#) to read about Roy Brunswick still collecting swarms at 92. This article was written by Roy's apprentice earlier this year.

## Rosebay Willowherb

With forage running out for our bees the Rosebay Willowherb shown to the left is an excellent source of nectar. The flower is protandry in that the anther (pollen producer) matures before the stigma (pollen receiver). As the flowers open progressively up the stem the lower flowers with their distinctive mature stigmas produce greater volumes of nectar encouraging the honeybee to visit and hopefully pollinate it. The protandry nature of the flower helps in cross pollination.



## Programme of Events

**5th August 2017**

**Monks Risborough Horticultural Show**

Live Bees Demonstration

1pm—4:30pm

Peters Lane, Monks Risborough

**16th August 2017**

**Association Meeting**

Disease Inspection

7:00pm

Association Apiary

**31st August 2017**

**Bucks Show**

All Day

Bucks Show Ground Hardwick

**20th September 2017**

**Association Meeting**

Norman Carreck, The work of IBRA

7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd

**18th October 2017**

**AGM and Honey Show**

7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd

## Association Extraction Equipment Available to Members

Thanks to the generosity of one of our members we now have three honey extractors available to loan to members. In addition we have available an uncapping tray, filters and honey tubs for use whilst extracting. The uncapping tray is particularly useful for extracting granulated honey.

The largest extractor is the 9 frame electric radial extractor, this device is ideal if one has a significant volume of honey to extract. The machine works best with SN1 frames and if the instructions are followed will extract the maximum amount of honey in a timely and relatively effort free manner. This extractor is £5 to hire.

There are two tangential four frame manual extractors, these are ideal for smaller volumes of extraction, say one or two supers. I personally prefer the manual extractor and it only takes about 15 minutes to extract a complete super. Our newest extractor includes a built in settling tank and filter which means the honey can be decanted directly to the jar or storage bucket.

We have recently added a thermostatic control to the uncapping tray which ensures that the honey is not overheated during processing.

To borrow any of the extracting equipment, email me in advance in order to reserve your preferred item, [chairman@mbbka.org.uk](mailto:chairman@mbbka.org.uk).



## MBBKA Winter Programme

Sarah Turner has been working hard to organise the speakers for this year's winter meetings.

The meetings start on September 20th with a talk by Norman Carreck titled 'The Work of the International Bee Research Association'. MBBKA in recent years has made an annual donation to IBRA so it will be good for us to understand more about how the organisation operates.

The complete programme for the winter of 2017/18 is:

**18th October** AGM and Honey Show

**15th November** Chris Parkes, Skep Beekeeping past and present

**17th January 2018** Alan Roberts, Asian Hornet

**21st February** Dr Michael Keith-Lucas, Pollination

**21st March** Ian Judge, Products of the Hive

**18th April** Members 15 minute talks

## New Association Apiary Site

With the likely development of the new housing around the current Association Apiary the MBBKA Committee have been considering the future of the site as it is likely we will have to relocate.

We are currently developing a document that details the aspirations and requirements for a new apiary. We are also keen to identify possible locations, if you know of a possible location or know of someone who might be able help in our search for a location please email me at: [chairman@mbbka.org.uk](mailto:chairman@mbbka.org.uk).

## Preparing for Winter

As the season begins to draw to a close thoughts must turn to preparing our colonies for winter. In the words of Monty Don, "here are some jobs you can be getting on with..."

**Varroa Treatment;** The colony needs to be strong with healthy winter bees before the cold sets in so treat for varroa in August to allow time for the colony to build up. Remember to complete your **veterinary record card**.

**Winter stores;** The colony needs at least 20kg of stores to see it through the winter. The colony is less likely to draw comb for stores the later into the year it is, so start early in building up stores.

**Protect against pests;** Make sure you have mouse guards ready and have plans for how to protect against woodpeckers, badgers and particularly just now wasps! The annoying wasp season has already started in my apiary.

**Strength of colonies;** Make sure the colonies going into winter are strong and have sufficient bees, consider uniting healthy smaller colonies.

**Queen status;** Are all your colonies queen right? Should you be thinking of replacing the queen with a younger model? Key to a successful season is a colony that builds up quickly in the Spring and a young queen can only help with this.

The **NBU Fact Sheet** on preparing for winter can be downloaded from [here](#).