



# Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association January 2018 Newsletter

## Just a Change of Editor??

Welcome to the January 2018 edition of the MBBKA Newsletter

Having 'volunteered' to edit the newsletter you may sense a little of the apprehension I am experiencing as I write this for the first time. I volunteered when I realised the large number of tasks Sean was undertaking as Chairman. I thought it could be a good idea to spread some of them around the Association membership.

I think a few changes might be welcome and therefore I hope this is the first and last editorial that I shall write. I want you, the club members, to make a contribution to the newsletter.

We have circa 200 members and if you each contributed a small article or report every 5 years we would easily fill our pages.

Therefore, in 2018 and onwards if you have a good or bad beekeeping experience, give a talk, make a beekeeping related visit find something of interest please pass on an article to me. ( [brian.bush@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.bush@btinternet.com) )

## Asian Hornet—Are You Eagerly Awaiting its Arrival?

Don't miss the next Association meeting on the 17th January

We have a talk by Alan Roberts entitled '**The Asian Hornet**'

Church of the Good Shepherd at 7.30 pm



There have been confirmed sightings of this invasive insect in 2016 and 2017. The NBU have dealt with these outbreaks promptly but we must all be aware of the potential issues Asian Hornets will create if they become established in the UK.

In the summer I met, by pure chance, a fellow beekeeper from Jersey. He was supposed to be attending his daughter's wedding but parking his car at my house. he preferred to talk about my bees and his fears as the Asian Hornet became established in the Channel Islands.

## Winter 2018 Programme of Events

**17th January 2018**

**Association Meeting**

Alan Roberts, Asian Hornet  
7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd

**21st February 2018**

**Association Meeting**

Dr. Michael Keith-Lucas, Pollination  
7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd

**21st March 2018**

**Association Meeting**

Ian Judge, Products of the Hive  
7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd

**18th April 2018**

**Association Meeting**

Members 15 minute talks  
7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd

## A Beekeeping Fool?

Otto von Bismarck said 'Only a fool learns from his own mistakes. The wise man learns from the mistakes of others'. I admit to being a bit of a fool all my life, I have made plenty of mistakes, I have learned from some of them, but I strongly believe we can learn from the experiences of others.

Where do we get our day to day learning from as beekeepers? I always find that just meeting a fellow beekeeper and having a chat can place an issue in perspective. I also read widely, and hopefully, some of you have received a beekeeping book from Santa that you would like to recommend to other club members.

I read a number of beekeeping journals. I have the 'BBKA News', 'The Beekeepers Quarterly' and The International Bee Research Association publication 'Bee World' as printed copies. I take 'Bee Craft', and 2 American Publications, 'The American Bee Journal' and 'Bee Culture' as digital copies.

Bee Culture is edited by Kim Flottam, who some of you may have heard speak at this year's National Honey Show. I get daily articles from Bee Culture that the editorial team glean from around the world. Many of them are of little interest to us in the UK but important points of interest often occur.

I also subscribe to several beekeeping forums. I find the BBKA forum to be heavily 'censored' in some ways. There is much useful information there but in the past posts that could be deemed to be critical of the BBKA have been censored. I believe we are all entitled to a polite opinion and tend to use the Beekeeping Forum, ([www.beekeepingforum.co.uk](http://www.beekeepingforum.co.uk)). Not all opinion on the site is polite but you soon learn who the wise heads are and who it is not wise to antagonise.

Based on my recent experiences and by reading and listening to others I offer the following snippets:

- Check your hives for stores. I found several of mine unexpectedly short of food before Christmas.
- Have you treated for Varroa? Conditions were ideal before the holidays but it is still not too late. If you vaped Oxalic Acid do a check on mite fall. There are well founded reports out there that vaping may not be very successful if the bees are too tightly clustered. The vapour does not penetrate the cluster.
- If when you opened your hives you thought all your bees were dead don't be too dismayed. A few years ago I opened two hives to treat with OA in very cold weather. The bees appeared to be dead. A couple of weeks later I went to collect the frames to clean the hives, without any protection, and I was 'warmly greeted!'

On a forum this week I have been reading of the state of torpor bees can adopt in very cold weather. This explains my 'foolish mistakes' and has made me reconsider the couple of hives I thought had perished this year. If anyone doubts the ability of bees to withstand the cold they should speak to Caroline Luxford. Caroline tried to humanely kill a brood box of particularly nasty bees by placing it in the freezer. After 3 weeks at minus 15 Caroline was going to recover the honey. The bees had survived this 'cold spell'!!!

## Out Apiaries

We continue to receive offers from members of the public with potential apiary sites. The latest being in Addlington to the north of the county. We now have a total of 13 available sites across the whole area that Mid Bucks covers. John Dadswell, our President, is the custodian of the list of potential sites. John can be contacted at [john.dadswell@gmx.com](mailto:john.dadswell@gmx.com). It would be good if as an Association we could take advantage of these offers from the public.

**Editors Note:** I have a number, (5 and growing), out apiaries. I would like to add an article in the next newsletter giving their virtues and pitfalls. Any member with experience of out apiaries please feel welcome to contribute

## New Members

I was going to entitle this article 'Untrained Beekeepers' but felt I should be more circumspect. Every year I come across some beekeeper who has taken up the past-time without any knowledge whatsoever. Their lack of basic knowledge sometimes puts the public and themselves in danger.

As you all probably know we will be running our courses for new beekeepers in early spring with practical sessions through the summer. Please try and promote our course to interested parties. Please encourage people to sign up and volunteer to help if you can.

## MBBKA Membership Renewals

MBBKA membership renewals were due on 1st January and to date only around one third of members have responded to the e-mail reminder that went out in early December. Would all members who have yet to respond please take a moment to reply either by e-mail or by completing the renewal form that was attached to the reminder and returning it by post to the Membership Secretary. If you cannot locate the renewal form, it is available here:

<https://mbbka.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/MBBKA-membership-form-2018-final.pdf>

and has all the details needed to renew your membership. While we hope that members do choose to renew, we do understand that this is not always appropriate and so if you will not be renewing it would be very helpful if you could let Jonathan Palmer know by e-mail at [membership@mbbka.org.uk](mailto:membership@mbbka.org.uk).

## Are You Registered?

Registering your hives on BeeBase is free. You will be automatically informed of disease outbreaks. The Bee Inspectorate may include you in their testing surveys which can be most helpful. Subsidy from the EU, which helps pay for the NBU, is based on the number of hives registered nationally. ( <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com> )

Position	
Chairman	Sean Stephenson
Vice-Chairman	Helen Palmer
Secretary	Liz Tice
Treasurer	Andrew Smith
Membership Secretary	Jonathan Palmer
Apiary Manager	Kevin Crangles
Programme Secretary	Sarah Turner
Librarian	Jon Theobald
Honey Show Secretary	Helen Palmer
Education Officer	Jonathan Matthews
Novice Beekeeper	Dahud Khan
Committee Member	Caroline Windley
Committee Member	Godfrey Clements
Committee Member	Dorrie Tutton

**Who are the  
Committee?**

## Upcoming events!!!

Improve your skills?  
Expand your knowledge?  
Meet Fellow Enthusiasts?

Throughout 2018 there will be opportunities to meet fellow beekeepers in formal and informal settings.

The Bucks County Beekeepers Association, working with our own chairman, Sean, are offering training courses in:

Microscopy Study Group 2018

Practical Skills Training 2018

They also organise a **Spring Seminar**, held in Wendover on 10th. February 2018. It is an excellent event and I recommend you try and attend.

I have also included at the end of the newsletter some information about the **Beetradex** being held at NAEC Stoneleigh on Saturday 3rd. March 2018

### Microscopy Study Group 2018

For more information please contact Sean Stephenson

By e-mail

[sean@wendover.co.uk](mailto:sean@wendover.co.uk)

Telephone

01296 623318

Full details can be found here:

<https://mbbka.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Bucks-County-Microscopy-Study-Group-Flyer-2018.pdf>

### Practical Skills Training 2018

For more information please contact Sean Stephenson

By e-mail

[sean@wendover.co.uk](mailto:sean@wendover.co.uk)

Telephone

01296 623318

Apply early

This is a popular course. The deadline for the receipt of applications is February 28th.

Full details can be found here:

<https://mbbka.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Bucks-County-Practical-Skills-Training-2018.pdf>

## Bucks County BKA Spring Seminar 2018

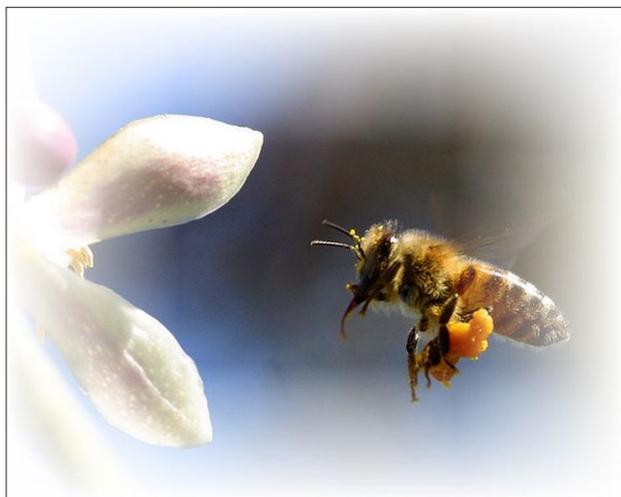
The 22nd annual spring seminar hosted by Bucks County Beekeepers will take place at the Wendover Memorial Hall on Saturday 10th February 2018. starting 10:30. The seminar is followed by the county AGM. As well as the usual stalls and a ploughman's lunch, this year there will be three speakers;

**Professor Steve Martin**, Chair of Entomology at Salford University, will be talking about deformed wing virus, a disease that poses the biggest threat to the survival of our colonies

**Keith Pierce**, County Dublin Beekeepers Association, will be talking to us about maintaining strong colonies throughout the season

**Mark Patterson**, London Beekeepers Association, will be talking about forage specifically for the nutrition of honey bees.

There will also be a variety of interesting stalls.



Lunch is included so please register so that we can cater for everyone. The cost for the event is £15

Registration is via Eventbrite - please follow this link to access the site

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bucks-county-beekeepers-spring-seminar-2018-tickets-41417289227>

## Beetradex Saturday March 3rd 2018 at Hall H3, NAEC, Stoneleigh CV8 2LG

Come to the biggest beekeeping show in 2018. Visit over 40 traders selling everything at special show prices. The show starts at 9:00am and finishes at 4:30pm. There is undercover parking available next to the hall.

**New for 2018 - A special event run in conjunction with Bee Craft - 'Ask a Beekeeper'** -

This is an informal area where Associations will be available to answer the questions that new and aspiring beekeepers are struggling with. This is designed for people who want to start beekeeping in 2018 or having started are still a bit confused as to what is happening. So bring your novice and aspiring beekeepers with you so they can find out more about the fascinating insects we work with.

Lectures this year will include an update in the Asian Hornet threat from the Bee Unit. Further details and to book at [www.beetradex.co.uk](http://www.beetradex.co.uk)