

the Petersfield Beekeeper

DIARY

Apiary Openings (Sundays from 2pm, Wednesdays from 12 noon)
Some Sundays (tbc) the Bee Shed "Make It" sessions are available

This is the time when we call for members to help pitch and strike the Association's show tent and to help out during the show answering questions from the general public. An observation hive will be present in the show tent and candle rolling (making candles). If you have honey to sell, bring it to the show tent on the day. If you can give an hour or two of your time, it all helps with running the show.

SHOWS AND EVENTS	Day	Date
Holme Primary School PTA. Summer Fair	Friday	15/07/2022
Petersfield Eco Fair (Petersfield Heath)	Sunday	17/07/2022
Bordon Fun Day	Sunday	06/08/2022
South Downs Show	Saturday, Sunday	13&14/08/22
Hambledon Village Show	Saturday	27/08/2022
Honey Show	Saturday	10/09/2022
Hampshire Country Sports Day	Sunday	11/09/2022
Headley Village Fete	Saturday	17/09/2022
Blackmoor Apple Day	Saturday	22/10/2022

Petersfield Beekeepers is part of the HBA, our county umbrella organisation. The HBA Honey Show which you are all entitled to enter as members of Petersfield will be held at The Great Hall, Winchester on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd October. The HBA Autumn Convention, which is a great educational and informative day, is scheduled for 19th November from 9am to 4pm at Sparsholt College, near Winchester.

A date for your diaries, on Sunday 14th August, we will be holding a honey extraction workshop with Richard Williams and Graham Rowden. They will demonstrate different methods of obtaining honey out of the combs and using different uncapping tools and the 2 types of centrifuge extractors plus looking at jarring and labelling. Remember there are strict regulations for jarring and labelling honey if it is to be sold. The Apiary's honey will be extracted as there are several supers to process.

The workshop will be held at the Petersfield Community Centre at 2pm.

CHAIR AND APIARY REPORT

It has been a busy few weeks at the Apiary on top of the usual hive inspections for swarming and disease checks.

Dean Gregory has been doing a super job of strimming and keeping the bracken under control in the Apiary. Neil and the Custodians have worked hard to keep the hives progressing and building up for the bee assessments which took place at the end of June.



Neil set a queen rearing programme using the Miller method and there was a good attendance and interest in the sessions. Neil demonstrated how to set up a cell raiser colony (queenless colony) and make it congested to enhance the queen raising instincts. However, once the eggs in the Miller frame were placed in the queenless (cell raiser) hive, the colony decided to tear the developing queen cells down. A probable explanation is the honey flow stopped as the weather turned colder and bees couldn't get enough food to bring back to the hive. Raising queen cells and brood takes a lot of resources.

On a positive note, the Apiary removed about 40lbs of spring honey which has been extracted and soon to be jarred. Some of these jars of honey will be sold at forthcoming summer events where Petersfield Beekeepers stage a show tent.



The Top Bar Hive is now being used in the Apiary. Peter Reader and Neil Mariner installed a swarm in the TBH and this is progressing well into triangular shaped comb. Every Sunday the TBH will be inspected. It offers a more natural way of keeping bees, similar to how bees live in a tree trunk although the bees are still encouraged to produce comb on removable frames. Come and join Peter on his weekly inspection of the TBH, you may be surprised at the natural colour of wax comb.

Isaac, the Government Bee Inspector came to inspect our bees; it was also an opportunity for our Bee Health candidates to follow the Inspector around and watch him to carry out a disease check on each hive. I'm glad to say all the hives received a clean bill of health.



The Summer flow will be underway once the weather stabilises and the Apiary is well prepared with supers on hives of which some are filling up with summer honey. It is proposed to hold a honey extraction workshop to demonstrate honey extraction techniques such as uncapping, using the centrifuge and filtering.

Don't forget our very own Honey Show is on Saturday 10th September at Sky Park Farm, so bring your honey and wax candles to be judged by a National Honey and Wax Judge. Details and guidelines of the show are included in this newsletter. There will be a rolling slide and video show at this event and we would like any photos of your beekeeping, bees, honey, flowers etc, please submit to: petersfieldapiary@gmail.com

Hilary

Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus

I spotted CBPV in my strongest colony. Symptoms are an abnormal trembling of the body and wings, crawling on the ground due to the inability to fly, bloated abdomens, and dislocated wings. It is also identified by the presence of hairless, shiny, and black-appearing bees that are attacked and rejected from returning to the colonies at the entrance of the hives by guard bees. It is spread by bee to bee contact so overcrowded colonies are most susceptible. Unfortunately, the NBU site doesn't give any clues to remedial action, and often colonies sort it out themselves, but sometimes not, as one of our most experienced beekeepers can attest having lost 7 colonies.



One suggestion is to take the colony 50m away and shake the bees into the air (not the ground) and only healthy flyers will make it back. But what about nurse bees who have never flown, and drifting into other hives?

Since the virus is spread by contact, the mortuary bees are constantly infecting other bees and they have a lot of work (see photo below), so I went with another suggestion. I added more space and I took the floor away and raised the hive 2 feet off the ground – far enough for the ground to be considered “outside” the hive. In the first few days the pile of dead bees was alarming, but after 10 days or so the death rate was back to normal and no more shaking or greasy looking bees. Eight weeks later our friendly Bee Inspector confirmed there

was no evidence of it – Hurrah 😊

Peter Reader



Peter celebrating his bees' clean bill of health.

Education update July 2022

We have passed the summer solstice and the Beginners are now novices!

I hope you have been attending the Sunday or Wednesday Association apiary sessions as that is where nearly all the action happens..... but in case you missed some of them, here is what we have been doing:

22nd May At Apiary: Demonstration of Pagden artificial swarm and Demaree swarm prevention.

Last of the Beginners' Sunday training sessions – now novices!

Ongoing BBKA Bee Basic assessment training led by Brad.

26th May Liss infant school – talk to 40 4–5-year-olds. I talked about bees and other hymenoptera + flies, with photos. Derek talked about the bees in the observation hive.

We got out alive and Derek said he was looking forward to the next time.....

16th June BBKA Bee Health assessment revision led by David Parkinson

24th June Bee Basic assessment took place at the Association apiary

Martin Smyth 10.15 am

Derek Beesley 11.30 am

Gareth Cornelius 1pm

Robbie MacIntosh 2.15pm

25th June Bee Health Assessments took place at the Association apiary

Dean Gregory 10.15 am

Chris Clark 12.00 pm

Richard Williams 2.00 pm

The Association's training consists of a yearly beginners' course of five Sunday afternoon sessions on the basic theory of beekeeping and 6 weekly practical sessions that give practical, hands-on experience at the apiary. At the end of the course, you are a novice. The novices start learning seriously about how to keep bees, how to handle them, observe them and the steps that need to be taken at each stage of the season by attending the Association apiary sessions. That is when novices begin to understand why it is important to know how long it takes from egg to worker bee, drone or queen bee. At the apiary, you learn to recognize the difference between drone brood and a queen cell, how to mark a queen so that you can see her on the day that you open up and find all those charged queen cells! You learn what to do next rather than panic and cut them all down! You can ask lots of questions and you may even get cake.....

I hope to see you all, whether experienced or novices, on Sundays.

Anne-Chantal

Offers of Apiary Sites.

PDBKA occasionally receives offers of sites for beehives. If you are looking for a site, please contact me to be sent the current list (if any) for you to contact the landlord yourself. No checks have been made on the offers and there is no guarantee of suitability given. If you know of an available site you can also send details of approx. location, name and contact information and a brief description to be added to the list.

Ian Neilson - treasurerpetersfieldbees@gmail.com

Members Facebook Group

There is a hidden private Facebook Group for members of PDBKA recently set up to assist communication and provide a place for Petersfield & District Beekeeping Association members to share information and opinions on all things related to their beekeeping experience. Open to all current PDBKA members. If you would like to join, please email PDBKA@BeeDavis.co.uk for an invite link

Solar Wax Extractor

Yesterday at the Apiary, in an effort to jinx the weather for the rest of the summer, Jonathan Wade demonstrated different types of solar wax extractors he had made out of a few basic items. He variously used a black plastic box, a polystyrene box and tin foil trays and he also made an extractor from celotex insulation material. For the covers, he used glass, perspex or a correx sheet.

Apart from the black box type he painted the interiors of the other types of boxes black to maximise absorption of the sun's rays.





Many thanks to everybody who contributed to this Newsletter. If you have any pictures, ideas for content, accounts of your own beekeeping adventures – please send them to me! My contact details are at the end of the Newsletter.

A swarm in the Editor's apiary on 2nd July

PDBKA HONEY EXTRACTION EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

Electric nine frame radial spinner. £10 / Manual four frame tangential spinner. £5

No charge for:

Double strainer / Electric uncapping tray / Settling tank / Uncapping tools / Heather press

All equipment to be returned fully cleaned and ready for use.

Contact: Richard Williams / 01730 821286 / frogshole@gmail.com

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APIARY CUSTODIANS	
Neil Mariner	Head Custodian
Ali Holingbery	
Dean Gregory	
Peter Reader	
Derek Beesley	
Phil Gurney	
James Crawford	

Swarm Coordinator: Rowan Roberts 07531 901767

Newsletter Editor: Helen de Peyrecave depeyrecave@gmail.com