



Shenmore harvest by: Belinda Dale

September 2016

**WVBKA Charity Registration
Number: 517008**



Kington show

This great one-day agricultural and country events show is on Saturday 10th September. WVBKA has an outside tent stand, right beside one of the major marquees so lots of people will stop to chat and see what we're doing. It really is a good day out and there is plenty to see. If you are attending the show please stop by and say 'hello'.

Rosie Bashford



Diary Dates

September 9th

- Apiary meeting 6:30pm

September 10th

- Kington Show

September 21st

- Committee meeting

September 23rd

- Apiary meeting 6:30pm

October 9th

- Honey Show

November 16th

- Planning meeting

December 3rd

- Christmas lunch

**Queen Colour of the Year 2016
is: WHITE**

Honey Show and Harvest Lunch October 9th

This year we are going to Poston Mill restaurant at Poston Mill Caravan Park, just outside Peterchurch. The judging will be open this year so that we can learn about the judging process and pick up some tips of how to improve our entries.

If your bees have been productive this year you only need to bring along two jars of honey to enter the show. We will be publishing the Honey Show schedule in the next few weeks with full details of the categories that can be entered. It doesn't have to be just honey; 'Bake Off' enthusiasts can have a go at the honey cake and other recipes.

Remember it is important to present your entry in the right containers and to read through the rules to avoid disappointment on the day.

Anyone in possession of a cup or trophy from last year's show then please return them to June Williams before this year's event – do make sure you give them a polish so they look good for the new holders.

The Harvest Lunch form is attached to this newsletter so send them to June in good time

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Craft afternoon

Hereford BKA has arranged a craft afternoon on the 3rd September from 2.30pm until 4.30pm to be held at Bartestree Village Hall, HR1 4BY.

Cheryl Cracknell is coming to demonstrate encaustic art (painting with wax) and you should be able to make a wax picture to take home. We will also show how to prepare wax for candle making, and will demonstrate how to make dipped, moulded and rolled candles.

There will be a small charge for participants (£5) payable on the day, to cover the cost of materials.

Partners and children (with adult supervision) are welcome. Places are limited so please let Mary Walter (01568 614577) sandmwalter@btinternet.com know if you can attend, so we can prepare enough wax for everyone to have a go.

This will be a fun afternoon away from the bees, beeswax is a valuable product of the hive and its unique properties make it very satisfying to work with.

Steve and Mary Walter

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Apiary meetings

Our series of meetings at the apiary are continuing with one more meeting planned in September. This has been the first year we have tried this format and judging by the attendance it seems to have gone down well with members. We will be stopping meetings over the winter but may have an occasional meeting to cover specific topics.

Although the winter is a down time for beekeeping it is a time when you have an opportunity to do a bit of studying and preparation for the next season. The committee will be developing the calendar for next year starting with a planning meeting in November. Developing a framework for the apiary meetings will be part of this and we would appreciate any ideas you would like included in the programme.

Our idea of apiary meetings is to have practical meetings covering topics relevant to the time of year to give members an opportunity to pick up a few tips to help improve their enjoyment of keeping bees, to socialise with other beekeepers and to have a bit of fun. Thanks to the work of the *Two Dave's* we should have more colonies of bees at the apiary next year and more hands on sessions will be possible.

If any members want to study beekeeping in more depth through the BBKA basic exam and then some of the modules then we can plan support sessions to help with this.

Please let us have some feedback on this so we can put together a good programme for next year which will attract members to attend on a regular basis.

Peter Woodward



Autumn feeding – syrup supplies

Two of our members have made bulk purchases of syrup and are offering this to WVBKA members at discount prices compared to the major suppliers. Whilst we are not promoting either of them, these products are from reputable sources, they are suitable for feeding to your colonies and you should find the prices attractive:

- Cliff Rose has Ambrosia Bienenfutter which is formulated as a strong solution of inverted sugars (72.7%) it is suited to autumn feeding of honeybee colonies. “Having ordered in bulk I have some available on a first come first served basis at £20 per 12.5Kg container”. If interested contact Cliff on 01981 251844.
- David Williams has Belgosuc Invertbee purchased in bulk which is a similar mix of a strong solution of invert sugars (72.7%). If you have your own containers David will fill them for £1.20 per kg or can supply 12.5kg containers at £17. Call or text him on 07875 426089.

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Varroa mite on honey bee from: freestockphoto.biz

Varroa treatments and feeding bees

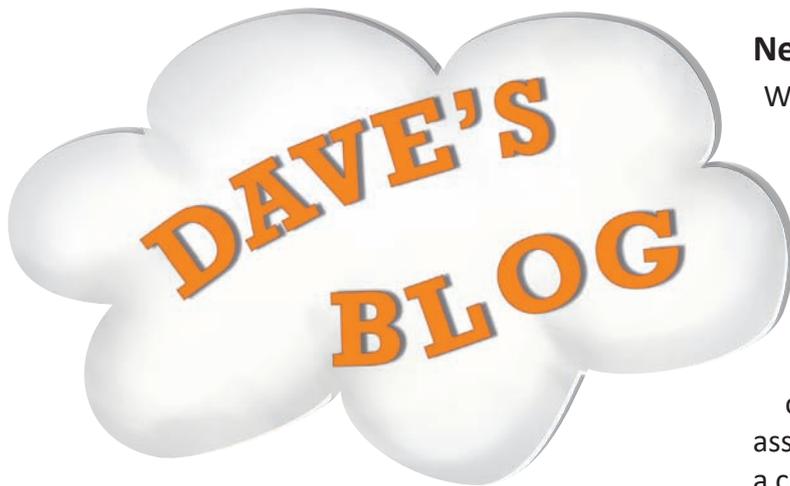
Now is the time to make sure your bees are in good condition and well fed coming into winter. The NBU has good guidance leaflets available on the Beebase website

Have a look at the following link for Varroa treatments <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/downloadDocument.cfm?id=745>

and this one for advice on feeding sugar

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/downloadDocument.cfm?id=741>

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September notes

By now most hobbyist beekeepers should have taken their main crop and commenced feeding and any treatment necessary should have been administered and entrance blocks should be reduced. Giving the bees time to settle for winter is most important for satisfactory wintering. Apart from the foregoing there should be no need to do much more this season. Now is the time to take stock of your requirements for next year while it is fresh in your mind, work on the basis of replacing three or four frames in the brood nest every year. This should keep the brood nest in good order with reasonably new comb. Remember if we have a very cold snap with snow this is when the woodpeckers will take advantage, be ready. I find the netting which is used to bind the big round bales will give some protection against them. It has worked for me in the past.

The apiary has had a revamp, an injection of new hives and material and we are planning the next stage at the moment. We had thought there would be no honey this year because of the splits which we produced. However, we are in a comfortable position in that we have managed to produce several supers of honey. We don't know exactly how much but we will let you know in due course. Remember that these bees belong to you, the members. David and I are doing our best at the moment to make them self-supporting, one idea for next year is to produce a few nucs for sale which will augment our funds. We will try to produce a balance sheet at the end of this year to show where the money has been spent, what we have left in stock etc. This is only the beginning and much more will be planned during the winter for next year.

Next year

We plan to hold a series of practical demonstrations which will run throughout the season. The programme will include topics such as; spring inspections, examining for disease, splitting or producing nuclei, possibly queen raising, adding supers and general husbandry. The success of all of this is in your hands. If you do not turn up then you will actually be losing out on some of the benefits of belonging to our association. So far we have done our best to create a convivial atmosphere for you to enjoy and partake in the experience.

Dave

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WVBKA Articles

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER SO PLEASE
CONTRIBUTE TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

We need your photographs, articles, crossword puzzles, seasonal advice, recipes - anything relevant will do.

Just one article a year from each member will provide enough content to keep the newsletter interesting and varied.

You can email articles to the Chairman, Peter Woodward at: wvbkachairman@gmail.com

The deadline for articles is the 22nd of the month

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WVBKA Officers for 2016-17

Chairman:

Peter Woodward

peter_woodward@tesco.net

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Vice Chairman:

David Williams 07875 426089

General and Honey Show Secretary:

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- TBC

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Committee:

- David Bannister
- Geoff Dutson
- Jane Matthews
- Andy Strangeway
- June Williams
- Suzanne Wenczek

Catering Committee:

- Rosemary Bashford
- June Williams

Mentoring Team:

- Geoff Dutson 01981 500491
- Cliff Rose 01981 251844
- David Williams 07875 426089
- Peter Woodward 01981 240280

Technical Advisers:

- Gareth Baker 01600 714323
- Dave Williams 01981 550320
- John Howarth 01981 550733

Website Editor:

Greg Fisk

Honorary Auditor:

Mike Price

Honey extraction equipment for hire

For any of you doing a late season extraction the WVBKA has a honey extractor available for hire, as well as an electric uncapping knife.

A deposit of £50 plus a hiring fee of £10 is required for the extractor. For each subsequent hiring in the same season, a fee of £5 is chargeable. The knife is hired out at £10. Deposit for both the extractor and the knife is £50. To check if the equipment is available for hire, you can contact June on 01981 550320.

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BBKA Basic Assessment

The BBKA run a series of training modules designed to increase the knowledge of beekeeping. This training is open to all members of the BBKA. Before you can start on the modules it is necessary to pass the BBKA Basic Assessment. To take the Basic Assessment you should have managed at least one colony of bees for a minimum of 12 months.

The assessment is both practical and oral and takes place mainly at the hive in a local apiary.

If anyone is interested in taking this test then WVBKA will provide additional training to make sure the candidates are prepared.

For more information contact [Sue Quigley](#) or [Peter Woodward](#) or go to the [BBKA website](#).

Equipment for sale

As a result of poor health Ian Hydes has passed on to me some of his equipment to sell, please let me know if you are interested.

Peter Woodward 01981 240280

There are:

- Four National hives each consisting of a solid floor, a brood box, super and a roof. These appear to be cedar and still have a few years life in them.
- Thorne's table top extractor – Four frame
- Small solar wax separator.

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