



Registered Charity No. 1121231

April 2021

Editors Gwyn Marsh and Dorothie Jones

Newsletter

David Evans Bait Hives for Pleasure and for Profit

Everything you needed to know about setting a bait hive and more. David's extensive talk took us through creating bait hives, the equipment needed (minimal) and how to deal with captured swarms. Absolutely fascinating and tremendously informative. I will certainly be trying his method, saves climbing up the apple tree the swarms normally settle in.

The swarms in my apple tree are apparently the 'bivouacs'. This is where the majority of bees gather whilst the scout bees decide where the swarm will eventually settle.

The scout bees are looking for sites which satisfy their criteria - space (an almost empty national brood box, 40 litres), smell of bees (old brood frame), small entrance (10 sq cm), a solid floor and a dash of lemon grass oil.

Setting bait hives in elevated positions - the commonly accepted placing, seems not to be necessary. As long as the hive has what the bees need, height appears to be irrelevant.

Filling the hive with drawn comb reduces the overall space, so the scout bees, who bounce around inside the hive to determine its capacity, decide it's not big enough. David gave us 2 methods of creating frames for instant comb drawing once the swarm has settled in the hive, which don't compromise capacity. There will be a run on tongue depressors and bamboo skewers whilst we build our bait hives. Who has a solid floor these days? Just cover a mesh floor.

Now is the time to be thinking about swarm control and therefore potentially bait hives. David certainly made the prospect of building a bait hive accessible. The density of beekeepers in our club area suggests that attracting a swarm is a real possibility for all of us.

On the other hand, if the provenance of swarm is unknown, it raises issues of disease monitoring and isolation.

David has lots of ideas and information relating to bait hives, and much more on his website:

<https://www.theapiarist.org>

Anyone interested in a follow up from the talk by David, Giles has found a couple of interesting and very readable websites where the current theories about making and placing bait hives can be found. He writes much of his article on a question raised by Katharine McIntosh: Do all swarms bivouac?

<https://www.theapiarist.org/quick-thinking-second-thoughts/>

https://twitter.com/The_Apiarist/status/1375468816369586178

Club Secretary Vacancy

We are still looking for someone to fill this important role on our committee.

The basic job involves;

- Preparation and sending out of minutes and agendas
- Attending and taking minutes of our monthly committee meetings (currently on Zoom)
- Dealing with any correspondence and liaising with other committee members.

Enthusiasm and willingness to devote your time is more important than being an experienced beekeeper. Extensive knowledge of bees is not required!

Currently all our committee and wider club management are fully occupied in their roles, so it would be really nice if someone out there would be prepared to take this on. Help and support will be given to ease you in to the role.

Please consider giving up a few hours a month to help your club. Help and support will be given. If you feel you could make this valuable contribution to the running of your club then please contact Gillian Jones: -

chairman@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

07773 366206

Gillian was previously club secretary and is now doing both jobs!

She will be happy to chat and fill you in on all the details of the role.

Videos of Club Meetings now Available on the Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society Website

Videos of some of our recent club meetings are now available on the society's website, including the excellent talk by Professor David Evans on bait hives.

These can all be found within the 'members only' area here:

<https://www.chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk/videos>

Please note that you will need to log in to view these videos, as some of our speakers have requested that recordings should be restricted to our membership group. If you don't already have a log in for the restricted area of our website, you can sign-up when accessing the 'members only' area for the first time.

Our intention is to publish video recordings from future meetings within 48 hours of the presentation.

We also have our own public YouTube channel where we will post any videos that don't have viewing restrictions. These can be watched and shared with people outside our society. You can access our channel here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxEUeHB4uypl_AGEb211c5w

Gillian Jones

A Timely Reminder and Bit of Silliness from Graham Burford



Check your kit before the seasons really starts. Veils, seams and Velcro fastenings!

Petition to Stop Importing Honeybees

From the BBKA

The problem is that at least one beekeeping business has said that they want to import bees to the UK through Northern Ireland. The bees they are sourcing come from southern Italy where a serious invasive species and parasite of bees, the Small Hive Beetle is established. The inspections on bees are extremely limited and we are fearful that a small, clubbed antenna, beetle will be able to evade their scrutiny and be imported to the mainland.



Petition: Stop the importation of honey bees into GB from the EU via Northern Ireland

The UK Government should ensure that people cannot circumvent restrictions on the movement of...

 Petitions

[Please Sign the parliamentary petition to stop this! CLICK HERE](#)



Additional note from the Anne Rowberry BBKA Chair

The BBKA is no longer allowing Bee Equipment (Bee Importers) to advertise in their magazine (after April) due to misinformation to the public about bees and derogatory comments made about the BBKA.

Flowering in the garden



Primrose



Fritillary



Violet



Dandelion



Borage



Celandine/Forget-me-not



Ribes



Cowslip



Rosemary



Blackthorn

The spring flora is all bursting into flower in abundance, hopefully providing some natural forage for the bees. We still need to keep a check on food levels in the hives because of the continuing cold weather.

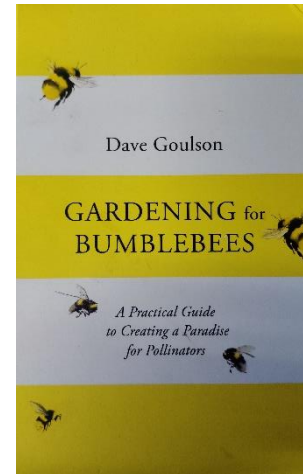
Gardening for Bumblebees by Dave Goulson

Sean Stephenson

The February issue of this Newsletter included a promotion by [Chiltern Book Shops](#) for a new book and talk by Dave Goulson. I must admit that I am a great fan of Dave's books, so with a birthday due in March I promptly forwarded the details of the event to my wife. Never having been to one of his talks, it was with great excitement that I duly received on my birthday the invitation to the event.

I first came across Dave Goulson several years ago when his book "A Sting in the Tail" was featured as the Radio 4 book of the week. He is currently Professor of Biology (Evolution, Behaviour and Environment) at the University of Sussex where he specialises in Bumblebees.

I read his second book "A Buzz in the Meadow" when I first started to investigate insects and specifically pollinators. The book describes his attempts to create a wildlife sanctuary on a rural farm he acquired in France. Each chapter covers a different insect/animal in an easy-to-understand manner. You may have seen Dave on Gardeners World at the end of March where he was talking about his pollinator friendly garden.



Every day is a school day, is a particularly applicable statement for beekeeping and understanding pollinators in general. The talk on 1st April was no exception and the take home statement I have already started to use is "a Bumblebee is never more than 40 minutes away from starvation".

The signed copy of the book arrived last week and to my delight I discovered it is more than just a book on Bumblebees, it covers pollinators in general and will become my new reference for local plants beneficial to pollinators.

A big thank you to Gwyn for including the advert in the February Newsletter.



Happy Birthday Sean!

Hive Stands

Everyone appears to have their own idea of an ideal stand. Taller, shorter, wider, narrower, breeze blocks, milk crates, you name it I'll bet it's been used as a hive stand.

What's important is that it is able to take the weight of the hive plus supers and is stable in a wind. We all know the numbers but have you actually added up the weight of a full brood box and 3 supers whilst looking at your hive stand? Gaffer Tape has its limitations!!

Stability is another issue; I place mine on a level paving slab. I also have a loop of wire laid under the slab so I can slip a strap through it if I need to tie the hive down.

Height of the stand is a personal issue; stooping could lead to 'Beekeepers Back' but too tall and there may be difficulty in getting that 3rd super on.

It's always useful to have a spare stand and now is a good time to check it over, tighten screws or replace any sections showing sign of weather deterioration. It's also a good idea to apply a lick of preservative or paint.

Bill Fisher gave me a brilliant tip, turn the stand over and drill a screw into the bottom of each of the 4 legs with just the head of the screw sitting proud. With the stand now turned over on the paving slab, the screw heads stop the legs from touching the wet slab and will not rot.

I always change the hive stand along with the floor, brood box and crown board at the start of a new season.

There's enough to think about over the Spring and Summer without worrying about hive stands.

Jim Liness

Screw heads



Wasp and Hornet Attractant

Just a heads up for those of you who still have supplies of hornet attractant waiting to be used this year.

After the 3rd queen wasp visited me in the bathroom (for some reason they always appear here first!!), I decided it was time to put out the hornet traps. If the wasps are emerging from hibernation, the hornets will not be far behind.

So, I made the syrup as per instructions and added a sachet. Eager to squeeze every drop out (I am a beekeeper!!) I dunked the sachet in the solution to swill it out. To my amazement the liquid that came out was dark brown. The next batch, I decided to shake the sachet vigorously before adding to the syrup. This time the initial liquid was somewhat darker and on rinsing no darker liquid came out.

I can only surmise the sachets contents have some heavier material that settles out in storage. I don't know if the darker material is an important element of the attractant, but it must be part of the whole. My sachets still have lots of time to run on bbf date and have been in a cool cupboard since last year, so should be in good condition. So, give a good shake to stored sachets before you use them!

Comments welcome.

Gwyn

Talk by Ged Marshal for Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Beekeepers' Society (SWMBKS)

I don't know how many of you tuned in to the talk by Bee Farmer. Ged Marshall, but I hope it has been recorded somewhere. Though the talk was about a year in the life of a bee farmer, he continually dropped in hints and tips on all aspects of beekeeping, from queen rearing to bait hives as well as how he deals with monumental amounts of honey and its extraction. Interestingly he sets a bait hive in all of his apiaries and monitors them for scout bees, indicating whether a hive in the apiary is about to swarm. This is so similar to a last month's talk by David Evans, even down to the construction of the bait hive. It is now beginning to seem obvious that a bait hive can be an indication of potential swarming (check your hives) or a receptacle for other beekeepers' swarms! Why don't we all have one in our apiaries!!

New Rules Coming Very Soon?

This is copied off the Government website. As most of us check and treat varroa in our hives, and are registered on BeeBase this shouldn't be too onerous.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2021 No. 420

BEE DISEASES, ENGLAND

The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) (Amendment) Order 2021

Made

29th March 2021

Laid before Parliament

30th March 2021

Coming into force

21st April 2021

The Secretary of State makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by section 1 of the Bees Act 1980(1).

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) (Amendment) Order 2021 and comes into force on 21st April 2021.

Amendment to the Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) Order 2006

2. In the Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) Order 2006(2), after article 3 insert—

“Reporting of Varroa mite (Varroosis)

3A.—(1) An owner or person in charge of a hive who knows that any species of the Varroa mite (Varroosis) is present within that hive must give notice of that fact to the Secretary of State as soon as is practicable.

(2) Any other person who discovers in the course of his occupation the presence of the Varroa mite (Varroosis) in a hive, must give notice of that fact to the Secretary of State as soon as is practicable.

(3) A person who gives notice under this article in respect of a hive is not required to give further notices in respect of other hives at the same location.”.

Gardiner of Kimble

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

29th March 2021

NBU has put out a brief statement about the above on Beebase here: -

<https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/public/News/news.cfm#275>

The message from the club committee is to keep checking here as this is a changing situation, The NBU are in discussions with DEFRA on how this will affect individual beekeepers and the practicalities. Watch this space!

Committee News

Honey Sales

We often get requests from members of the public or independent shops asking if we have honey for sale. This could be anything from a few jars to a larger amount. Obviously, members have not been able to sell their honey at fetes and fairs this last couple of years and so if you have honey to sell, please get in touch and we will put you on our contact list.

People usually want very local honey, so give your location and we can match you up with any requests. Please contact Gillian: chairman@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Please make sure your jars are correctly labelled. Info here: -

https://www.freemanharding.co.uk/xipblog/post/9_honey-labelling-regulations-in-the-uk.html?page_type=post

Equipment for Sale

If you have any equipment, clothing or general kit to sell, this can now be advertised on our website in the members only area. Just go to the drop-down menu/Items for Sale. for further information and instructions on how to add your items.

No bees or queens are to be advertised here. However, if you do have nucs or queens for sale, or a request for nucs or queens, please contact: -

Helen: - membership@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

who will arrange for them to be advertised to club members.

Club Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/177933745556905>

What3Words

Do you keep your bees at an out apiary where you work with them on your own?
Do you keep bees at home, but often work with them when no-one else is home?
Have you thought about what you would do if you had a serious allergic reaction?
Or another kind of accident or were taken ill suddenly?

How would you, or anyone with you, summon help to your location? Particularly at an out apiary where a postcode is not relevant.

Ambulance trusts are increasingly relying on the system of What3Words to accurately pinpoint a casualty's exact location. We have discovered that this is how our local ambulance trusts are now operating.

Some of you may already be aware of this app, but for those that don't, it works on the premise that every 3-metre square of the world has been given a unique combination of three words. Used for e-commerce and delivery, navigation, emergencies and more.

We use this for both our club apiaries now and encourage members to have this information readily to hand wherever you are keeping your bees, in case you need to summon emergency services.

To find out the unique 3-word code for the exact location of your apiary and more info, go to the website: - <https://what3words.com/about>

New Webmaster

After serving on our club committee since the beginning of 2020, first as assistant then as webmaster, Varsha Kirkby, is sadly standing down. We will be sorry to see her go.

Varsha has spent many years working in the IT sector and in her retirement, wants to spend her time following other interests which involve more interaction with humans! This we completely understand. She will remain a beekeeper and be on hand to help the club in other ways.

We would like to thank Varsha for all the hard work she has done during her time on the committee. Particularly with regard to our website which she has been responsible for updating to its present form. We are very proud of our website which has drawn many admiring comments from other associations, and we have Varsha to thank for this. We wish her well.

The position will be taken by Giles Kenwright from the end of this month. We welcome Giles to the committee, where he will be a co-opted member until the next AGM

Please continue to use the same email address in this letter and on the website for any web queries.

County News

Sean Stephenson Practical Skills Training. May/June. £50.
Information here: -

<https://www.buckscountybeekeepers.co.uk/practical-skills-21/>

Sean Stephenson Live Hive Inspections Programme. Starts next week, Free to view here: -

<https://www.buckscountybeekeepers.co.uk/events/>

Bucks County Show in August, where we usually have a presence, is cancelled.

BBKA Spring Convention

Well, I've got square eyes! I thought there would only be a few talks of interest in the convention, but decided to have look at those I didn't think were for me. What a surprise! Extremely interesting talks by very accomplished and engaging speakers, plus demonstrations. What a triumph for the BBKA.

If you have missed the conference or any talks you might have been interested in, because the weather has been so temptingly lovely, they will be available on the site for the next 6 weeks.

Thoroughly recommend a visit to view or catch up.

Future Club Meetings

April 27 th	Dr Julia Hoggard	Bee Stings
May 25 th .	Keith Pierce	Apideas
June 22 nd	TBA	

Contacts

President Edward Townsend
president@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Treasurer Jonathan Lee
treasurer@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Membership Helen Cave
membership@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Events Dorothe Jones
events@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Library Jonathan Jones
library@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Newsletter Gwyn Marsh
newsletter@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Chairman Gillian Jones
chairman@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Secretary (Vacant)
secretary@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Trading Mike Walters
trading@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Web Master Varsha Kirkby
webmaster@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Honey Show Nick Grey
honeyshow@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Education Steve Troll
education1@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Apiaries

Chesham Bois Alan Roberts
apiarych@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Beginners Apiary Jim Liness
apiary@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Bucks Bee Health Mentor
Deborah Campbell 07752539145
deborahcampbelluk@hotmail.co.uk