



Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1121231

September 2021

Editors Gwyn Marsh and Dorothe Jones

Main Meeting Beekeepers Question Time 26 September 7.30pm

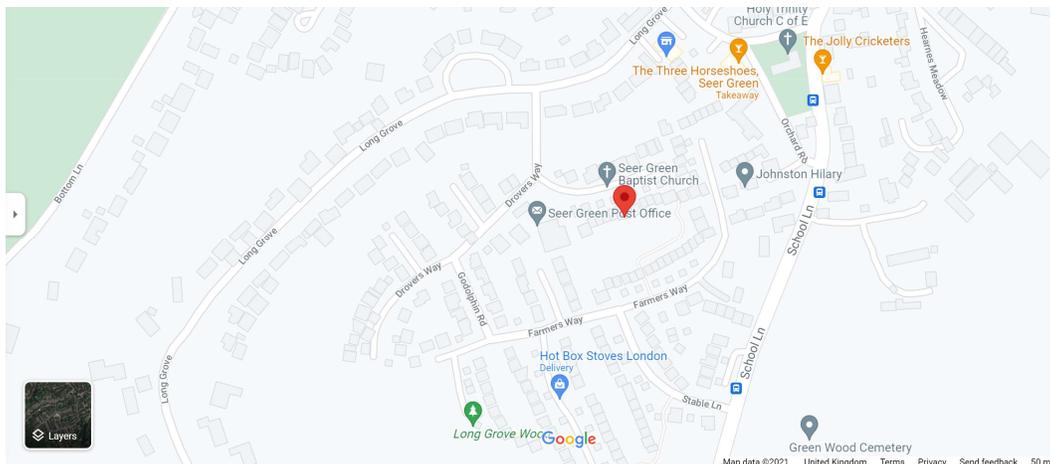
This will be the first face-to-face meeting for a very long time. A great opportunity to meet the Zoom faces in person! This session will be a question-and-answer session with 3 experienced members.

Sean Stephenson, Alistair Dunbar and Fiona Matheson.

Questions can be submitted in advance to Helen Cave on

membership@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Please note we have a new venue, in Seer Green, for this meeting
Seer Green Baptist Church
Wood Pond Close
Seer Green
Beaconsfield
HP9 2XG



Covid Precautions

There are currently no government restrictions in place for meeting indoors. However, we want to try to keep our members as safe as possible: -

- Sanitiser will be available.
- Masks are not compulsory but please feel free to wear one should you wish to.
- The venue is light, airy and spacious but windows and doors will be open.
- Chairs will be spaced out.

We look forward to meeting you all after the session, but we have decided for this first time out, not to provide refreshments. Please feel free to bring your own hot or cold drinks to consume when chatting with friends afterwards.

We will be keeping an eye on 'Plan B' so watch this space!

For those who still do not wish to meet in person, we hope to also live stream the event on Zoom. An email link will be sent nearer the time.

Varroa Treatments

As the beekeeping year comes to an end, we should be thinking about treating hives for Varroa mites. It is now recommended that we should vary the types of treatments we use each year.

The most commonly used treatments are Apiguard, Apivar and Maqs strips. Apiguard takes four weeks to complete the treatment and its effectiveness is dependent on a minimum daytime temperature of 15°C. Apivar is not temperature dependent and can therefore be used at any time of the year. Maqs is also temperature sensitive but with a range of 10 - 29°C has more flexibility.

Mike sells Apiguard and Maqs treatments. Maqs and Apiguard packs are available as single hive treatments. Apivar is available from Thornes and Simon the Beekeeper (simonthebeekeeper.co.uk). Apivar is only available in packs of five strips and has to be used within a limited time of opening. As it is quite expensive to buy, might be an idea to get together with other beekeepers to share unwanted strips, rather than waste them. Alternatively, use the Forum - Bee Health - in the Members Area of the Club Website.

Education Update

Steve Troll

Modules:

As you have hopefully seen we have study groups for Modules 5 (Honeybee biology) and 7 (Selection and breeding of honeybees) both starting in September, if you want to join either please contact

Deborah Campbell at deborahcampbelluk@hotmail.com for 5.

Mary Chris at holycrosssamson@yahoo.com for 7.

Fiona Matheson is also planning to run Module 6, (Honeybee behaviour) starting in November and if you wish to join that please contact

Fiona at fiona.matheson.fm@gmail.com

All of these study groups are intended to prepare candidates who wish to take the BBKA exams in March 2022.

Volunteer? It would be good to run other module study groups throughout autumn and winter so if any experienced and qualified members wish to take one on, please let me know at education1@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

For anyone wanting to take the BBKA exams running this year in November please let me know and I will arrange for an application form to be sent to you, the closing date for applications is 30th September but you should request it from me before that date to allow for the administration time.

Results:

During 2021 many members have taken exams and assessments and the following applies.

Amelie Upton was successful in passing her Junior Assessment.

The following were successful in gaining their Basic Assessment.

Alison Thorpe, Howie Richardson, Patsie Costello, Sharon Kassemzadah, Leo Dipol, Katharine McIntosh, David Merritt, Steve Troll and Julian Keenlyside.

The following were successful with their module exams.

Module 2. Alison Thorpe and Susan Williams

Module 5. Mike Tucker and Jonathan Lee

Module 8 Derek Parsons.

And lastly Derek Parsons also gained his Advanced Theory.

Many congratulations to everyone.

Club Activities

Dorothie Jones and Jim Liness

Chenies Manor Plant Fair

This was our only event this year, and indeed the only event the club has attended since September 2019!

So, we dusted off the stall and managed to remember how to put it together! Many thanks to all who came along to help with the setup.

We managed to have enough donations of member's honey, wax and other hive products to put on a good display and sales were steady through the day.

Sadly, it was decided not to have the observation hive this time. Despite being in a shady spot this year, it was still deemed far too hot to transport the bees and keep them shut in for a whole day. This was a disappointment, especially for the children, but better for the bees. A demonstration of frame making was organised instead, thanks to Bill Fisher.

This year was held as a ticket only event, so numbers attending were down by about half. Nevertheless, our stall drew a lot of interest from the public about bees and beekeeping and a reasonable amount of honey etc was sold.

Thanks go to all our helpers, and we look forward to seeing you all next year, hopefully in more 'normal' times.



Restore Hope – The Big Family Gathering

Restore Hope is a charity, based in Latimer near Chesham, supporting children, families and young people who are facing challenging situations.

They ran an extravaganza event called The Big Family Gathering in August which we attended on two days. They provided lots of organised fun, bouncy castles and even a beach.

On our stand, we offered the children and families, candle rolling, picture crayoning, honey tasting, the virtual and observation hives. It was good fun; the children had a great time, and we all enjoyed a great event.

A great big thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time to help make this a successful event.



Honey Extraction

At Seer Green Baptist Church on Saturday 21st we ran a demonstration of honey processing, from the super to the labelled jar, for Beginners and new beekeepers.



'The Team' ready to go

It was hard work and fortunately it wasn't a hot day, so we weren't plagued by wasps and bees. We managed to extract the majority of the honey from the Beaconsfield Apiary

The initial welcome was given by our Chair, Gillian. Then we talked about food safety, Environmental Health, honey regulations and labelling before setting up two processing lines which had different types of uncapping tools, a manual radial extractor and an electric tangential one.



The supers are now back on the hives being cleaned and repaired by the bees. Thank you to everyone who came along to help.

Beaconsfield Apiary

We continue to keep the hives in the training apiary in good condition and have re-queened a number of them.

We also demonstrated a process for dealing with an 'unruly' colony. We will be treating the colonies to reduce the Varroa Mite populations and start preparing each colony for winter which may involve uniting some of the Nuc boxes.



Re-queening the top bar hive



All members are welcome to attend the apiary, we meet on a Wednesday and Saturday morning, please contact me at apiary@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk to book a slot.

Jim Liness

Chesham Bois

Alan Roberts

- The Chesham Apiary is concluding its active year in good order. Varroa treatments are being completed and feeding being administered.
- I have put new Emergency Contact signs up at the apiary, these also include the What3Words location feature for smart phones.
- The Apiary will have one last tidy-up strim before the season fully closes.

The four double brood colonies are still active with ample amounts of brood and eggs – the weather is still very warm at the moment. A couple of the colonies have a few remaining Drones, but these will be gone in the coming week or so.

Flowering Now



Oregano



Mint



Red Clover



Knapweed



Ragweed



Rocket



Geranium!!!



Yarrow

As might be expected, there are fewer plants flowering now. The rocket and sprouting broccoli in my garden are flowering – the bees seem to love it – not sure whether it will enhance the taste of the honey?!! Ragweed and knapweed are popular with other pollinators. The ivy is flowering, and a few blackberry bushes are still in bloom and that is virtually it until next Spring!

Apiary Site Wanted Urgently

One of our members, Liz Jones, needs to relocate her two hives by early October as the current landowner wants them moved. She is happy either for a temporary winter location with a view to moving them again before spring, or for a new permanent home.

They need to be 3 miles from their current location which is near the road between Amersham and Chalfont St Giles. If anyone can offer a place or knows of anywhere, please get in touch with Liz on lizjoneshr@aol.com

Also, if any members know of any suitable sites currently vacant, please let us know on info@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk so that we can put them on our register as we are always being asked for new places to put hives.

Honey Sales

We know it has been a poor year for some members with regard to honey harvest.

However, we regularly get requests from members of the public wanting to buy local honey. If you do have a surplus, you can add your name to the list of members with honey for sale.

Let us know your contact details, location of hives and what products you have for sale. No prices are required.

Email us on honeysales@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

If we get any enquiries for your location, we will pass on your email address and the customer can deal with you directly.

**And it's good-bye from me.
Cheers
Gwyn**

Diary Dates

26 September Bucks County Honey Show

The show will be hosted by North Bucks at Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre, Tingewick Road, Buckingham, MK18 4 AE. Details of honey show entries, classes and rules can be found at: -

<http://www.nbbka.org/honey/honeyshow/>

There are two talks: -

11am - Chris Day from Buckingham Garden will talk about the importance of bees and pollinating insects to our gardens. This is aimed more at the general public than beekeepers.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pollinating-insects-and-gardening-tickets-169841862583>

1pm - Ron Hunter will give a Mead making talk.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mead-making-talk-by-ron-hunter-tickets-169841228687>

Please pre-book a seat – there is no charge.

Any questions and Entry forms should be directed to Sue Lang

bedfordshirehoney@hotmail.co.uk

28 September, 7.30pm Monthly Meeting Question and Answer Session

Seer Green Baptist Church,
Wood Pond Close, Seer Green, Beaconsfield HP9 2XG, UK.

21 October – 23 October The National Honey Show

Sandown Racecourse, Esher, Surrey

Check the NHS website for updates and announcements.

<https://www.honeyshow.co.uk>

Contacts

President Edward Townsend
president@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Chairman Gillian Jones
chairman@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Treasurer Jonathan Lee
treasurer@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Secretary
secretary@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Membership Helen Cave
membership@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Trading Mike Walters
trading@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Events Dorothe Jones
events@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Web Master Giles Kenwright
webmaster@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Library Jonathan Jones
library@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Honey Show Nick Grey
honeyshow@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Newsletter
newsletter@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
beehealth@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk